



e'Pap Children's Feeding Project Newsflash May 2014

AT LAST AN E'PAP VOLUNTEER!!



I am still Annie - the e'Pap secretary - thanking donors and volunteers for the wonderful work they are doing - but AT LAST – after 8 years of full time Hospice work and never having time to take on a school - I am now Annie – a real volunteer, visiting real schools with real children! YAY!

I now have 3 schools to regularly visit! Shouts of ‘Tannie e’Pap’ at one school – ‘Gogo e’Pap’ at another and the boisterous, very precious group ‘leg hugs’ that almost knock me over – are such a joy in my life. I always try to go at ‘e’Pap feeding time’ to enjoy the whole scenario of cooks whisking e’pap, expectant little faces waiting for their bowl, hands folded in prayerful thanks and invariably beginning or ending with amazing voices united in praising God or singing our National Anthem –with crossed hands over grateful little hearts!

Every visit is engaging – with life stories from teachers and cooks of their own personal journeys or that of the children. Sometimes the stories are hard – they are stories of struggle or poverty, loss in the family or just plain hunger. But there are so many stories of hope – of individual children whose lives have been turned around with a single, nourishing, daily meal. It’s indeed God’s work - brought together by a common thread – that of eating e’Pap. It’s the vision of just a few - who gathered around them an ever growing number of cheerful volunteers - and continue to inspire, motivate and humbly nurture the dedication of many other locals - impacting the lives of well over 4,500 children!

I leave each school with a ‘sharp sharp’ connection of clambering little sticky thumbs – knowing that I have engaged with the most PRECIOUS of ‘little people’, met with their inspiring teachers and generous cooks and that my life has been deeply touched again by an ever enriching encounter which extends across so many boundaries and truly brings me life in all its fullness. IT IS ‘WOW’!

