

## Carryou December 2020

In South Africa Carryou and the families are having an especially difficult time now that Covid is adding to their destitute situation. Although I haven't been able to visit this year I am still in contact with them regularly by email and on the phone. It's a sad situation with around 50% unemployment in that area. Talking to Rev Lawrence Mabaso last week I asked if they were able to continue helping the children and families. He said government regulations prevented them from cooking for the children but that they were able to distribute basic food parcels and monitor the families particularly at risk. Apart from Covid19, real, rarely alleviated hunger is everywhere, according to Mark and Sha, my son and daughter in law.

Our sponsored students, like Portia, haven't been able to get internships because of Covid and thus have no chance of getting a job for which they qualified. Portia has graduated and is now a qualified lawyer but still lives in a shack supported by her mother's part time job cleaning.

*Evening Ma'am*

*I am financially struggling. In the meantime I'm searching for a job and I'm still applying for internships but no luck yet. My plan is to get an internship to gain experience so that I can get a job that's in line with my studies and career.*

*I'll continue applying just hoping for the best*

*Yours faithfully: Portia Mdekazi*

**Last December we were able to send funds to the caregivers for their families and special food parcels for our sponsored families.** In February 2020 I received large poster sized cards that had greetings and messages and had been signed by all the caregivers. As they are poster size they had come by sea mail I think! **We are doing the same for the caregivers and families this Christmas.**

The collage attached is from photos a couple of years back, but each picture tells a story that unfortunately is still repeated. I took each photo, except one, myself. I wish I could be there now!

The two of individual small children epitomize the loneliness of a small child having to find their own food. A serious matter for survival!

The water tanker was late in filling the storage tank and the line of containers stood in an orderly queue. Ubuntu!

The elderly Elandsvlei folk who live in the neighboring shacks had been invited to the Annual Meeting and Lawrence had had all the chairs respectfully covered in honor of

their attendance as if it was a company board meeting! Before the speeches they were given a delicious chicken stew over rice, as were the line of little girls coming back from school.

Then Pamela Mokgadi Serage spoke and exhorted all the kids, *'It does not matter if you are an orphan, you are HIV positive, your parents are unemployed, it all depends on you to change the person you are today to be the person you want to be tomorrow'* .....Pamela, an AIDS orphan, was our first sponsorship to Johannesburg University and now she is working in the health service, is married with two children, and is on the Board of Carryou serving as the secretary. She also donates for one of the orphans.



