



Annual Report - Lambano Sanctuary

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Introduction:

Lambano Sanctuary was started in May 2001 by dedicated people who truly felt called by God to help improve the lives of suffering children in South Africa, especially those infected by the HI Virus. Since there are such a great number of abandoned and orphaned children in this country, it seemed impossible at first to make any difference. Yet, after nearly three years the management and staff of Lambano have seen the fruit of their labours time and time again.

The key is in the individual. Each little child is created in God's image and is very special indeed. We have not changed the world and we have not reached the masses, but for the 78 children who have been through the doors of Lambano, life has improved dramatically!

For some, Lambano was the difference between life and death as they were found in plastic bags, on street corners, on railway tracks or at taxi ranks.

For some, Lambano was a safe haven with lots of good food and medicine after being given up by their dying, starving families who could no longer care for them.

For some, Lambano was a loving home which opened the door to adoption after being abandoned in hospital by a young desperate mother immediately after birth.

And for some, Lambano was the comfort and support – the arms that held them tight – during the last hours of their short precious lives.

Yet for others, Lambano has become a Christian home where they will be loved and cared for unconditionally for the rest of their lives. A home where a mother's love is real and the privilege of brothers and sisters is a joy – where medical treatment is a priority and education is important. A true family!!

Today Lambano Sanctuary is also offering hope and support to many mothers, grandmothers, aunts and other care givers in the Katlehong community:

- Regular visits to the area are providing medical assistance and advice to those looking after sick children.
- Training in the basics of child care and HIV gives encouragement and confidence to those who have been isolated by their society.
- Food parcels and infant formulae has become a life-line to those too poor to feed themselves and the children in their care.

The witness of dedicated Christians has given many people hope in the living Saviour!

May this report inspire others to make a difference in the lives of those still suffering every day!!

Our Mission:

To accept into our care children who have been abandoned or orphaned, especially those infected or affected by HIV /Aids.

To provide these children with a caring Christian environment whereby they will be nurtured and cared for:

- Physically
- Emotionally
- Spiritually

with unconditional love.

We recognise the exceptional vulnerability of these children and proclaim that they are entitled to special care and assistance by their caregivers.

Chairman's Report:

Over the past few years I've had the privilege to be part of one of the most amazing Christian journeys imaginable. The road took me from devastation and brokenness through to valleys of doubt, then up passes of joy and celebration, and ultimately brought me to views of God's spectacular glory and radiant love for the young, weak and defenseless!

It is with a very real sense of loss that I must announce my resignation as director and chairman from Lambano. It has become an unavoidable decision to make on my part, which, at the end, had to be made.

Our circumstances as a family have changed quite a bit over the past few years which resulted in us having to relocate to Pretoria in June or July this year. My new responsibilities at the Tshwane University (where I am now employed) means I have less and less time to invest in the work of Lambano. It will be unfair to remain in the position on the Board if one is not able to give one hundred percent. It is better to make room for someone who has both the gifts, abilities and time to invest in this important work of God. My prayer for Lambano is that God will provide someone to take the ministry on, into what promises to be an exciting road ahead.

Lambano, the children, staff, members and supporters will remain dear to my heart and will be very, very sorely missed. The good thing is that we will not be too far and we will be popping in from time to time. Should Lambano require my assistance or advice in any other capacity, I will certainly consider it a privilege to be able to assist in a lesser capacity if called upon.

The past year again stands as proof that God is at work through the generous hearts and willing hands of His people. For all those that again helped to see our little ones transform into healthy and happy children, who supported our staff when they grieved for the loss of the ones who lost the struggle, those who dropped of little notes of encouragement, those who were involved in tremendous demonstrations of compassion and generosity, to the many who share and feel the heartbeat of Lambano's calling – a heartfelt big THANK YOU!

To Melanie, Richard, Peter, Rose, Brian, Nike and Lyn – it was a privilege to travel this path with you. I trust that we will never forget the views and the sights that we gained from the lowest valleys to highest mountain tops – may God richly equip and bless you to continue from strength to strength in your calling to care for the affected and infected orphans of our land!

To God be the Glory for the things He has done.

Yours in Him

LEON VAN DEN BERG



Executive Director's Report

In the past year at Lambano Sanctuary the one thing that I know for sure and have realized over and over again is that **GOD IS FAITHFUL**. We praise and thank Him for providing for all our needs including:

Financial needs through so many individuals, churches, organizations and companies. We are speechless at how our every need was provided for.

Emotional needs of our care-workers and children through the support and encouragement of all our volunteers and friends. It is not easy for us to watch our babies suffer and die and yet God gives us the strength and comfort we need in every situation.

Education needs through our volunteer pre-school teachers that so selflessly teach our children every morning.

Spiritual needs by all those who pray for us, visit us when we are grieving and take the time to sit and talk to us when we are struggling.

Recreational needs as many of you organize outings for us and the children and the volunteers that so regularly come and play with the children.

It was so exciting to start our community work in the Katlehong Township in the past year. Sixty child-caregivers were trained in being more effective in helping the orphans in their care, especially in gaining skills in caring for HIV positive children.

Our paramedic Lyn Croote is visiting the caregivers and children living with AIDS in Katlehong on a weekly basis and there has been a tremendous improvement in their health as she personally trains their caregivers and provides them with food, nutritional supplements and medical advice.

Lyn has also arranged for a medical doctor to meet the children living with AIDS in Katlehong once a week, as the medical knowledge on helping these children in the township is very poor

Several of our adoptive parents visit or contact us regularly and we have the privilege of seeing our children grow up. Our hearts were so touched by Bella and her parents who visited us from Germany recently. Little Bella was found in a garbage bag on a Germiston street corner and now she is a beautiful 3 year old toddler in a secure loving family. How thankful we are to those willing to take these children in their homes and lovingly providing them with a family of their own.

Lambano received 25 **new** children into the home during 2003/4 of which 7 was adopted, 4 placed in foster care and 1 was able to be re-united with his family. Another 3 children were channeled into other homes and 6 went home to be with the Lord. The others will remain with us. We now have 14 "Forever Lambano Babies".

"You can never become truly spiritual by sitting down and wishing to become so. You must undertake something so great that you cannot accomplish it unaided."
(Phillip Brooks)

Melanie Streicher

A day at Lambano:



House mother Gladys preparing scrumptious meals for the toddlers.



Thapelo, Banele and Timmy helping Mama Nike with gardening.



Tending to the needs of bedridden little Pumeza.



Coping with the laundry of 21 children is a big task and keeps the staff busy.



Students from Grace Christian Church assist with general maintenance every week.



Thanks to the dedication and commitment of the three volunteer teachers, Bronwyn, Tracy and Loretta, our 8 toddlers are attending nursery school during the week.

We have seen wonderful improvement in language, gross & fine motor skills and intellectual development in all the children. At this age, school is still a wonderful fun activity and we make the most of it!



Going for outings in the “big bus” is still a highlight when ever the opportunity arises – unfortunately, sometimes it turns out to be a visit to the doctor and that is no fun at all!

All ready for lunch – come on, we’re hungry...!



After one of the training programs of Foster mothers in Katlehong, certificates were handed out to those who attended. In December the Lambano children had the privilege of handing out Christmas presents to the foster children in the community.



Bibles were also handed out these ladies to encourage them spiritually.



At Lambano we have the best birthday parties in the world!!

Gifts in Kind:

During the last year we have once again been blessed by many generous people, who not only gave financially to Lambano, but also showered us with wonderful gifts “in kind”. To mention each one is almost impossible – but here are a few examples:



Beautiful new bedding was provided by the Germiston Baptist Sunday School.



Vital Aire donated a portable oxygen concentrator to make life easier for some babies.



The staff from KPMG brought beautiful Christmas presents for the children....



....and the Seal Beach church in CA, USA sent hampers for our staff.



The Jhb. Children’s Theatre treated the toddlers to “Peter Rabbit”!



Barkleys Bank sponsored an outing to the Doolittle Farm.



The Jhb. Korean Church regularly supplies Lambano with infant formulae, while Air Liquid keep us stocked with Oxygen, and a lovely small ICU room was sponsored by volunteer Lesley and her husband to provide in the needs of the very sick children.



The monthly support from Dis-Chem Pharmacy keeps our medicine cupboard full.



Nampak generously donates disposable nappies every month.



Various donations from many individuals provides Lambano with clothes, toiletries and all things nice...!



Financial Donors - thank you:

3J Computer	Grace Community Church – Seal Beach	Observatory Girls Primary
Amistad International		Orfanos Family
Active Chemicals	Hansen Family	Parkview Junior School
Air Liquid	Harrison Family	Patel Family
Alberton College	Hattingh Family	Pearson Family
Alliance for Youth Achievement (AYA)	Holmes Family	PicknPay
Anglo American	Ian Anderson	Pieterse Family
Anglo Gold	Various International Donations	Pro-Touch Dies
Astrapack	Johannesburg Korean Church	Randolph Family
Auto Trader	Jeppe High School	Ranjane & Reshma
Bandag Tyres	Johnson Matthey	Reddam House
Bethany Baptist Church	Kipps Family	Rodrigues Family
Bezuidenhout Family		
BMI Foodpack	KPMG	Rotary Edenvale
Braithwaite Family		Rotary Johannesburg East
Buys Family	KUW	Rotary Germiston
Clack Family	Labushagne Family	Rotary Ann Ladies – Rosebank
Co-Hayden Medical Services	Lesley Tetse	Rotary Anns – Orange Grove
Comlabs	Lilley Family	Roxburgh Family
Comparex Africa Corp	Louw Family	SBIB Corporate Division
Computerkit Systems	Luso Africa Sports	Seventh Day Adventist Church
Crawford Family	Magda Pretorius	Simba
Crown Publications	Marco & Anelise	Smith Family
Die Bundeswehr hilft Kindern in der 3. Welt e.V.	Marnitz Family	Southcomm Africa (Pty)
	McKinley Family	Spark Family
Dis-Chem Pharmacy	McCain Foods	Standard Bank Foundation
E Goren T/A Synergy Health	Moses Family	Symbol Technologies Africa
Edenvale Baptist Church	Mukhanyo Theological College	Troyville Baptist
Egelaar Family	Muller Family	Tzschoeck Family
Fidelity Services Group	Murray & Roberts	Van Artwerpen Family
Fryer Family	Naidoo Family	Van den Berg Family
Full Gospel Church	Naledi Team	Van Rooyen Family
Germiston Baptist Church	Nampak	Visage Family
First Rand Foundation	Neilson Family	Webb Family
March 2003 – February 2004		Wychwood Primary School

Financial Statements:

It is by the Grace of God that we are able to present these Financial Statements and we give all Glory and Honor to the Lord for the wonderful and faithful way in which He has provided, through many people, in the needs of Lambano Sanctuary.



With the support of various donors it has finally become possible to purchase a house for Lambano. Shortly after the preparations of these Statements we started the process and are now awaiting the finalization thereof. This will be Lambano's first own property, since both the existing homes are privately owned but made available to the work of Lambano through long term lease agreements. We believe that another property will enable us to further extend our work and enable us to care for more children.