

### **The Story of Mokhethi Lereko**

Mokhethi Lereko is 5 years and lives in Zandspruit informal settlement with his mother and father. His father, Elias, is working in the gardens of Emthonjeni (a local community center in the settlement) and his mother, Evelyn, is currently unemployed. Originally from Lesotho, the family was forced to come to Johannesburg to look for job opportunities in 2007. For more than two years they lived in a shack so small that they could not stand upright in it. They later moved to a better room on the property of Emthonjeni, but still live a simple life. Elias, a humble man with a big smile, always greets friendly in Sotho! For a while I tried my Zulu greeting and when he did not respond. I initially thought it is because of my poor quality of Zulu, but only later realized that he is a real Sotho and does not understand Zulu. That caused quite a laugh between the two of us. Now we communicate through his wife, who is fluent in English.

Mokhethi has been going to Golang Pre-School since it opened its doors in Jan 2008. This was the first exposure Mokhethi had to any form of schooling, as he came fresh from the hills of Lesotho. He is always a respectful and attentive boy but his true potential was waiting to be discovered. In the safe and nurturing environment of Golang, his teacher Renie, an experienced teacher of 8 years, gave him the correct stimulation at the right time. Slowly but surely, Mokhethi started showing a giftedness beyond his age. Teacher Renie shared with us that he has a tremendous hunger for learning and after building all the 60-piece puzzles, she gave him a 100-piece one, just to keep him busy! No one expected him to complete it - after all he is only 5 years old! After half an hour the teacher saw a completed puzzle and a very content boy!!! When Renie shared the story with us, I got goose-bumps. Firstly, I realized how God, just out of His tremendous Grace, blessed this boy with a special giftedness and secondly, because of the way God has used Golang to play an important role in Mokhethi's development!

Golang's vision is to walk closely with children like Mokhethi, guiding them on an educational, spiritual and emotionally level. Golang has negotiated ten places for Grade 0 children, all from the Golang Pre-School, which includes Mokhethi, to go to Grade 1 in Kingsway School, a nearby private school which shares our vision. Golang has also committed to sponsor the transport fees of these children.

It is stories like this one that inspire us to continue giving an excellent standard of education to children who would not have had the opportunity. We are looking forward to being a part of Mokhethi's development into the man that God planned him to be.

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