

*Update on Waldorf Training and Initiatives
for Young Children in South Africa
Truus Gerats*

We are glad to report that Waldorf education in South Africa is reaching more and more children. Both in Alexandra/Johannesburg and in Cape Town intensive Waldorf training for kindergarten teachers is taking place. In the Cape, in the black township of Philippi, a straw-bale house was erected for the training to take place, which holds two spaces, one for the training and one for a kindergarten. Additional buildings house a second kindergarten and a first grade.

In Alexandra we concentrate on the training of the women living in the squatter huts around the Inkanyezi Waldorf School and the Baobab Community College. Twenty-two people have committed themselves to a two-year training. We have opened a fourth nursery group, which is meant for the children of the women who take part in the course. However, there is such an overwhelming need, that Fundie and Catherine, who are doing the training, write that they are at a loss as to how to stem the flow of people wanting to bring their children.

We hope to get accreditation for this course, which we do in close cooperation with the Centre for Creative Education in Cape Town.

If people would like to help, here are a few possibilities:

- Send materials such as cloths, silks, wool, crayons, and picture books for the least privileged nursery schools. I am going to South Africa in January and can take these along. Weight is not so much a problem, but bulkiness is.
- Place an order for the ethnic dolls made by parents of the Inkanyezi School.
- Order African instruments, which are simple and suitable for Nursery schools.

I may be reached by e-mail: truusgt@yahoo.com

Tel. 207-374-3786, fax 207-374-2383

Address: P.O. Box 1123, Rt. 177, Blue Hill, Maine 04614 USA