

# Ramosadi Primary School Visit

by Naomi J. Tempies,

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Teacher morale is low only due to the fact that they desperately need resources and an option of a variety of teaching aids. Also, because of the small learner numbers, some classes are combined. This is putting tremendous strain on Johanna, Dorothy and Martha. As this is the first time that they are needing to teach two classes simultaneously.



The level of respect between the principal and staff is high and very endearing to see, actually. Sydney's open door policy creates an atmosphere of approachability. I felt like I was part of the staff from day one. They also really appreciated the fact that Theo and I are educators. It created a sense of believability and trust in what we had to offer. The teachers avail themselves to step in at anytime to assist their colleagues.



Every day that I was there, I noticed teachers making resources. Creating charts for learning words and sounds, cutting pictures out of magazines and newspapers. Very often, after the children had left the junior primary teachers were in each other's classrooms making teaching aids, chatting. It was a cooperative and collaborative effort.

## Learning Materials

Like I indicated earlier, there are no reading books/novels, hence the idea to buy a set of Journey to Joburg and take it through next month. There are some grammar books but not enough for each learner so the teacher usually makes photocopies. However, the teachers opt for writing copious amounts of notes onto the chalkboard. I guess it saves on using paper and puts less strain on the photocopier machine (which at the moment is not producing good quality copies anyway).



Sydney Teme is greatly respected as the manager and principal of the school. The teachers and the parents enjoy a reciprocal relationship of respect, advice, suggestions and definitely assistance.

A parent, whose daughter is now in high school, came along yesterday and donated her daughter's Ramosadi Primary school uniform to an existing needy student. Sydney's fostered this kind of community spirit.

He has shown great enthusiasm and appreciated it when I had opportunity to show him and his staff pictures of the sessions that we conducted with Spectrum Primary School. I also showed them Angie De Lange's certificate. They were very impressed by the professional look of the certificate and that it was linked to a reputable American institution of learning. The teachers asked me if there were more workshops in the pipeline. They were perceptive and understood that the two workshops served as the introductory phase. They are definitely eager to complete more sessions. I think that the incentive of receiving a certificate is motivating them to be involved in LAW (and of course the prospect of being invited to the States for a Paideia conference in the future!)

Sydney and his staff perceive Learning Academy Worldwide as being a stakeholder that will put Ramosadi Primary on the map so that more parents would want to send their children to this school. When that happens more teachers will be sent by the department and a deputy and HoDs can be appointed.

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