

## Hallelujah Moment from South Africa

*"Safe and Secure"*

By Ted Warnock

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Students eager to learn at the Albert Methodist Church in Johannesburg, South Africa. Photo courtesy of Ted Warnock.

More than eight hundred men, women, and children huddle next to each other every evening, trying to find a warm place to sleep. Finally, they have found a welcome home where they are protected from the struggles that refugees face as they try to find a new life.

The Central Methodist Church and Bishop Paul Verryn have transformed their place of worship into a different kind of sanctuary, one that provides refuge. Refugees from various countries find their way there in hopes of finding a secure environment for themselves and their children.

With numerous families occupying the Central Methodist Church, the emergent need for education became very apparent. Despite seemingly overwhelming obstacles, the Albert Methodist Church (formerly St. Paul's School) in Johannesburg, South Africa, has opened its doors, with 60 refugee children now in attendance. Most of these children are orphans who have made their way into the mass of refugees in the sanctuary. Led by refugee teachers and an administrator from Zimbabwe, this school, which was once shut down by the Apartheid Government in 1958, has found renewed life.

God has blessed this ministry by providing assistance through the South African Methodist Volunteers in Mission, World Missions Possible, and Rotary International. Rotary's local district has a warehouse of free educational books and school supplies to assist in the literacy and education of children. My hosts in South Africa and I will build bookshelves to hold many of the 589 donated books.

There is much more to be done. Also needed are blackboards, school desks, tables, cabinets, shelves, and supplies to make numerous repairs. But we know God is with us every step of the way.

*Ted Warnock is a Global Ministries Missionary for Special Projects for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.*

### Ways to Support this Ministry

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To learn more about Ted Warnock, go to: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/advance/missionaries/biographies/>



### Hallelujah Moments

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