

## Excerpts of Trip to Swaziland March – April 2016 by Jacquie

I was very impressed by the progress the community made in building the preschool. They worked very hard and the building was taking shape. We drove to Lomahasha to purchase a further five bags of cement and also one window frame. They continued immediately to carry on building. Our contributions enabled them to finish the walls and now only the roof and another window frame are missing. I enquired about the food situation and was told they were still receiving supplies. A donation of clothing was given to the builder who assisted them.



from this to this



The food situation at Shewula is very bad. Due to the very hot summer and no rain there was simply nothing growing. The vegetables, despite some water, simply burned in the heat as did the grass for the animals. There was a week of constant rain prior to my arrival and the countryside was by then in recovery. At least the animals did find some food again. The whole community needs to purchase food until next year. Prices have trebled in the shops, an additional burden to the very poor. The US government has pledged food rations for the most needy. (No rations have arrived up to date July 2016) Not all are receiving and this applies even to the neediest. There was a lot of commotion and tears from the ones who were not chosen.

I left 50kg of maize for some, after giving many an initial 25kg. I also left beans, sugar, salt, soap and cooking oil with them. A further 70kg of maize was purchased and distributed to the hungriest immediately, especially mothers with children who, by that time, were gathering vegetation as nothing else was available to eat. I also purchased and distributed a

few kg of various seeds, lettuce, onions, beetroot, cabbage, etc. to enable them to supplement their diets. Water, by that time was available again.



The Jersey cows survived, although JJ was moved to another area as not enough hay and water was available to feed both cows adequately. She is with another farmer who looks after her in return for her diminishing milk. Ace looks very well and was grazing in the field when we visited. I was told that JJ's return is imminent.



**Ship as matter of urgency is in need of funds to alleviate the food situation to support the most vulnerable and poor in the community until the next crop is available by March 2017**