

## **Uthando/CINDI Doll-Making Workshop—October 28 and 29, 2008**

### **Feedback at the end of the two-day workshop**

“For me, it was very interesting to learn a new skill as well as to experience that I can make it. From the first time that I saw the dolls there, I wanted to really get able to do that. Now I learned it.”

“For me, when I came here yesterday and I saw that we were going to make dolls, I said, ‘No way.’ But now, I’m proud of myself because I’ve seen what I’ve made and I’m going to teach others. It has been a wonderful time and I’ve learned a lot.”

“When I first heard that there was a doll-training, I said, ‘How can I make a doll?’ Then, when I came here, I thought it was just making a doll. I never thought of the things we would be doing. We learned some stitches and I’m proud of my Thandeka, and now, I’m adding sewing to my aftercare activities for the children. I think it is very interesting. And I’m going to show this doll at our Review meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, that I’ve spent two days in Maritzburg making a doll and I’ve taken the skills to the children as well. Thank you.”

“Yesterday I was very tired and I wasn’t sure what was going to happen. Today, I loved it and I was very happy and I wish that we could continue tomorrow.”

“It was fun to be able to make this beautiful Tamara. If you are familiar with the Bible. Tamara got married to two sons in one family and they both died. Tamara was sent home by the father-in-law. And then one day, Tamara got tired of wearing the mourning clothes. She took it off and dressed herself just like this one [the doll] to entice her father in law. She waited at the gate and the father-in-law did not recognize her as Tamara. The father-in-law fell in love with Tamara and asked to have sex with her and she got pregnant. She gave birth to twins from her father-in-law. When I see a doll at a shop or where ever, I never thought that it requires so much work. I never thought that for two days, two full days, from eight to three, I could just make a doll. And I’m wondering how many days it would take to make a big doll, if it took two days to make this one.”

“For me, it was a wonderful opportunity to come here and make a doll. I love doing hand work, I do hand work, I crochet. I tried to make a doll one day but I didn’t know you had to make the arms and legs separate. But now, I can make my own doll. I want to thank all of you who taught us to make dolls. It was wonderful and you are so patient. Thank you so much.”

“For me to come to this workshop, it was so amazing...I am going to ask my children in Sunday School to make a little tiny doll so that they can know that the Lord Jesus was born and Christmas is more than buying new clothes and eating. They don’t get the meaning. I’ve got this thing now to teach them. I want to thank all of you.”

“For me, I learned how these dolls can work with the children. It was fascinating to do the talking with the dolls. I was actually talking to the dolls, not to the other person, but to the doll. So this is the way this doll is working with the children. It was so, so, so, so, so amazing.”

“I work with a Gogo project at my church. And I’m going to give them these skills.”

“Everybody, when we go home now, lots of us, we are going to the grassroots. And we’re having English classes and such. We all know children who have difficulty in their home. Maybe it is our own home. And it is difficult for us to speak to them. And we make all our instruments, that is where we can express. We always see the outward thing easily. They need food, they need clothes okay, go and play. But in the meantime, they are still starving. In the meantime, we can still see, “I don’t know how we can help that child.” And this is the tools in our hands. Where we can meet them where they need to be met in their hearts and in their emotions so that they can grow up, work through this emotions, learn to talk, learn to communicate, and to express the feelings, and not become hard in their hearts as many of us are because we haven’t had the opportunity. No body came to us to talk and to teach us to talk. Even for us, we can catch up and communicate what’s inside our hearts. I want to encourage all of us that when we go home, and we look at the doll, we must remember that it is an instrument to meet with the heart of someone else.”

“Just on behalf of this group, we would like to thank Uthando and thank RobS for organizing. And also for your heart. Everything you put in, to travel all the way to come here. For us, it is a privilege. To make a doll. For me, this doll means a lot because I can put myself in it and it can reflect the baby that is within me. At least that is how I’ve experienced it, that I’ve got from the experience of talking with the dolls. For us, we must say thank you to you. The heart that you’ve given, that is the most important.”