Visit to Tiger Kloof in Feb 2015

Well – just back from a very hot and dusty Vryburg. Jo (Chairman) and I spent time at Tiger Kloof School as volunteers. We have a connection with the school going back some years. Nothing beats rolling your sleeves up and getting involved with the children. We had the benefit of seeing how a number of the projects in the Huhudi Township are developing. It is all very encouraging but there is much still to do.

It is a very humbling experience – to see so many children who live in the most deprived conditions – eating what is probably their only meal of the day. There are no leftovers, plates are scraped clean.

And yet these children are full of fun, laughter and smiles – they want to touch you and they want hugs from you. They love to play and when they play they could be children from anywhere enjoying the rough and tumble and the sheer joy of being with their friends.

However, although feeding these children makes a real difference to their lives, without the opportunity of education, their hopes of being lifted out of poverty are slim. That is why Tiger Kloof School is so important. They are able to take children from the Township, nurture their development and equip them with the knowledge and skills to change their own lives and those of the people around them. The students at Tiger Kloof are bright and full of warmth. They are ambitious and want to become the very best they can be - people who will be able to make a real difference in their own country.

Inspired by what we saw and heard we spent time talking to the Director and other senior leaders of the school to consider important projects where we might be able to support their work.

We had an interesting and exciting discussion focusing on their ideas and priorities and how we might help. I have come away with one concrete proposal, one that is well on the way to taking shape and another very exciting idea which will be worked up over the next 12 months. Lots to consider – watch this space for further updates.