

Article

Together you are one

Together you are strong

..... this is the title of the report that two students, from The Netherlands, make for Beautiful Gate in South Africa. They have done a research to the process of reunification from Beautiful Gate. Their goal with the research was: *To clarify the rules from the government that guide the process of reunification and to identify the STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES of Beautiful Gate's process of reunification and to give RECOMMENDATIONS to ensure CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP and sustained WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES at home.*

Three months were the two students in South Africa to see how the process of reunification is working, but also to do interviews with all the stakeholder who are involved in the process. This make the research dependable and unique. Besides that they interviewed the workers, they have listen to children and parents/family members what they want to see in the process of reunification, what are good points, problems and which points can be improved. Their conclusion was that all the stakeholder have the intention to do it together. The stakeholders are filled with the love of God and that this is the basic of the working relationship. Without this love there will be nothing what bring them together.

Beautiful Gate was happy to see that this students were able to come to South Africa and to look to the process of reunification. They believe that this students have the competition to look to their process and give recommendations so that the process will be improved and that the children will be reunified in two years, what the goal is of the project. Besides that they did interviews they had an open attitude to the culture of South Africa, they were interested in the different between their culture. This gave the workers a dependable feeling to the students that they will the best with Beautiful Gate and not to come for pointing with fingers. This attitude from the students ensured that the workers were open and fair in their interviews to the students and open to get the recommendations.

For the students was it a valuable experience, their attitude to the assistance is with this research broadened. They have see that in the assistance is not only important that you have knowledge about the target group, but as a Christian you have a value in your job. You are filled with the spirit and love of God, who give you love to yourself as worker and love to your neighbor, what the assignment is what Jesus give to his disciples.

The recommendations that the students give to Beautiful Gate, were focused on the working relationship. They concluded from interviews, other researches and literature that it is important to work together, to see each stakeholder and to hear each stakeholders opinion in the process. Important is to involve parents/family members and if possible the child. This are the stakeholders who came with the question to help, they must be central in the process. With listening to the parents/family members (and if possible the child) you give them the feeling that they have even well the power. In their research they refer to family group conference, empowering parents/family members and case management.

Their conclusion is: do it together, together you are one, together you are strong!