



Infinite Family: Keeping in Touch



August 2010

In the News:

Aug 20 & 21
from noon to 7 pm
Baubles at the Beach Sale!

Jewelry sale in Kismet, Fire Island. Bridget's Gems, a long-time supporter of Infinite Family will give one quarter of all sales to Infinite Family.

Next Online Open House,
a 30 minute webinar on
video mentoring

August 12 at 7pm
August 13 at 11am

[Register Now](#)

View the Infinite Family blog.

infinitefamily.blogspot.com

Contact us or make
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Infinite Family is a 501c3
non-profit charity.

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Hey, hey, they're playing our song!!!



Someone is making beautiful music and the focus of their message is the work we are doing with the teens and pre-teens in South Africa!!! Young South African composer, pianist and vocalist Peter "Ngqibs" Ncanywa proudly presents his latest endeavor: Finding Infinity – A Benefit Concert to Support Infinite Family, featuring a host of songs inspired by the Infinite Family message.

Peter hails from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and is studying in New Jersey. While there, Peter decided to write and dedicate five new songs to Infinite Family.

He says, "Having been away from home for almost three years, I found a deep

connection with Infinite Family and its work with children in southern Africa. I hope to encourage people to be the best they can be through my music and I believe this resonates with Infinite Family's mission. Moreover, it means a lot to me when the music is associated with something bigger than myself."

In conjunction with the concert, which will be his first major live performance, Peter has donated the proceeds of his EP, Infinite Winner, to Infinite Family, as well as admissions and merchandise sold at the concert.

The concert will be at the Prospect Presbyterian Church, 646 Prospect Street, Maplewood, NJ on Sunday, August 29, at 5PM. We hope all IF supporters in the area will come and hear the sweet sounds of Peter!

Visit Peter's [website](#) or on [Facebook](#).



Africa after Work Social September 14

Infinite Family is joining forces with All for Africa and hosting an Africa After Work event on Tuesday September 14 from 6-8pm at 44 ½. The event is an opportunity to mingle with other professionals while supporting Infinite Family's technologically

-innovative approach to mentoring and All for Africa's mission of reducing poverty. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; price includes the first beer, wine or prosecco.

Both All for Africa and Infinite Family are strongly committed to the concept of collaboration and partnership and believe in the synergies of each other's mission. All for Africa, a 501 (c) 3 organization, takes a collaborative approach to poverty reduction by working with the private sector to foster projects that generate economic and social benefits in the communities in which they are located. Their programs focus on agriculture, clean water, community health, education, energy, environmental impact, micro-financing and skills training/livelihood creation. Find out more on their [site](#).

The Africa After Work Committee, like Infinite Family's CONNECTIONS committee, is a group of dynamic young professionals that is playing a pivotal role in supporting outreach and growth, thereby contributing to sustainable development in Africa. Infinite Family is excited to join forces for this event.

Location: 44 ½ restaurant, 626 Tenth Avenue between 44th and 45th Street. Advanced priced tickets available [here](#). Code: IF

The Journey of a Lifetime



With the summer season of travel comes the wonderful travel stories of friends and family. Nothing sells a destination like an enthusiastic traveler who has just returned from an incredible journey.

Infinite Family Video Mentor John Loehrer is in the midst of a "journey of a lifetime" having made a weekly trek via the internet to the orphanages of Refilwe and Nkosi's Haven. He lives with his wife and baby in Gresham, Oregon. Since March, 2009, John has mentored two boys, 13-year-old Lawrence and 14-year-old Tshidiso, via Infinite Family's

unique internet platform and video conferencing desktop.

Here's how John describes his "journey of a lifetime."

How has your understanding of Africa or African culture changed since becoming a Video Mentor with Infinite Family?

When you think of Africa, you tend only to think of those sad commercials on TV. Now when I think of Africa, I think of smiling faces. Of hope. The kids are full of excitement. Full of possibility.

The first day I met with Tshidiso, he was trying to trip me up on a math problem he had solved in school. He got this little grin on his face when I struggled for a second to come up with the answer. We were discussing the Fibonacci sequence the other day and he immediately picked up on the pattern just by looking at the sequence of numbers. He is so smart!

How would you describe your experience as an Infinite Family Video Mentor to someone who may hesitate to volunteer because they fear that a child may be too needy or that the experience will be depressing?

I was really nervous going into it that it would be hard to really connect with my Net Buddy. I found out that most of what I was worrying about didn't even matter.

I expected to have all these deep meaningful conversations with my Net Buddy. I think sharing in the little stuff is just as important. I am there to validate his life. To show him he is important to me in whatever way I can.

What do you think is the biggest gift you have received in your video mentoring relationship?

The biggest gift is probably humility. One day Tshidiso was talking to me and he was interrupted by a friend who came into the lab and started talking to him in another language.

When the friend left, I asked Tshidiso what language was that? Sesotho?

He said, 'No ... Zulu.'

I asked him how many languages he spoke.

'Five. How many do you speak?'

I had to admit I only speak English. It was a very humbling experience. It made me realize in that instant that he had as much to teach me as I had to teach him. Life dealt us very different cards to play, but one hand is not necessarily better.

What keeps you coming back each week?

I started mentoring with Infinite Family because I wanted to give something back to the world. But I come back each week because it's fun. My Net Buddy is a riot. I hope my Net Buddy is seeing possibilities far beyond what he initially imagined for himself.

For at least a few minutes out of my week, I know I am doing something that matters. And maybe when Lawrence becomes a world leader or Tshidiso solves the next world energy crisis, I can be there to take all the credit. Video mentoring is like the first time off of a high dive. You just have to experience it to know what it is like. The scariest part is actually the anticipation before you jump in.

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Infinite Family, a 501c3 charity, inspires and motivates teens and pre-teens with very limited resources or support networks in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, so they build the confidence, skills and global perspective that promote success. It is the only mentoring program using weekly video conversations to establish long-term nurturing relationships. These relationships with adults internationally are designed to transform young people into fully contributing members of their country's sustainable, developing society.