



Bread for Itipini – Children's Lent Project 2008 Itipini Fact Sheet

Itipini is a community located in Mthatha, South Africa. South Africa is located at the southern tip of Africa. It is twice as big as Texas. Almost 44 million people live in South Africa. Mthatha is in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. About 2,500 people live in Itipini.



Along the coast there are beaches. But Mthatha is inland on the dry savannah.

Most of the people living in Mthatha and Itipini are either Xhosa or Zulu. Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa, was born in a village near Mthatha. He is a member of the Tembu tribe, a Xhosa people. Two Zulu words you may have heard are "Impala" and "Mamba". An impala is an antelope and a mamba is a snake. On a birthday you tell someone, "Shosholoza" – "Go Forward" instead of "Happy Birthday."

South Africa is known for its animal parks. There impalas and mamba and there are also elephants, giraffes, hippos, and lions. Many people visit South Africa to see the wonderful animals living there.

Farmers in South Africa grow corn, wheat, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables; beef, poultry, mutton, and dairy products. There are also gold and diamond mines. Some people in South Africa live just like people here in Maryland, but many people are very poor. The people who live at Itipini have built their houses on what used to be the garbage dump of the city of Mthatha. Itipini means "little dump." Most of the people at Itipini are women and children. There is little work for the adults. They are all very poor.