

## TRAGEDY STRIKES THE MRYE TEAM

A very excited group of fourteen MRYE students, under the leadership of Samukelo Vilakazi, left Pretoria on 27 June 2009 on a nine day outreach visit to rural schools in Limpopo and Mpumalanga. However, tragedy struck early on the evening of Monday 29 June when the group was travelling back from their visit to schools in the Makhado area. One of the two vehicles in which they were travelling, overturned.

Two of the students suffered severe head injuries, another a foot injury and all were severely traumatised. Nthabiseng Mashale came back to Pretoria with four of the other students and was admitted to Steve Biko Hospital in Pretoria where she spent almost two weeks receiving treatment for concussion. She is back at University but is still under observation of the medical team at the hospital. Redginale Modau, had a foot injury, which was also treated in Polokwane. She has had to use crutches for about a month but is recovering well.

Ivon Maphoso was taken to Polokwane hospital where she spent the next week in ICU. Tragically, her injuries were too severe and she passed away on 8 July. Her memorial service, arranged by members of MRYE, her Christian Fellowship group and other groups to which she belonged, was held in the University Chapel on Thursday 16 July. This was planned as a celebration of her life and the singing and inspiring words of support and praise from both friends and family, was a fitting tribute to Ivon who was well loved by so many and who had played such an active role in her church group, the MRYE group and other student bodies on the campus. Her sister and uncle represented the family at this service and her friends filled the Chapel to capacity. Her funeral was held in her home village on 18 July and special arrangements were made to transport the MRYE team and other students from Pretoria so that they could be of support to the family and pay their last tribute to Ivon. We are grateful to the FABIans who were able to attend the memorial service and represent FABI at the funeral.



Ivon Maphoso

This accident and the tragic loss of Ivon was a huge blow to the MRYE team members who celebrated her life but also mourned her loss. To FABI it was also a tremendous shock and loss as the MRYE outreach group has become an integral part of not only the CTHB but also of FABI itself. We mourn with MRYE and extend our deepest condolences to Ivon's family.

