

# lesotho letters

Glenn & Stephanie Gault  
Serving with Hope International Missions

February-March

## Prayer and Praise:

- **Pray** that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth reapers! In Lesotho one congregation does not have a pastor. In South Africa two congregations lack pastors.
- **Praise** the Lord with us! Last week we got our residence permits renewed for another 2 years!
- Please **pray** for the Bible School that meets twice a month on the weekends. **Praise** God for the 14 students who are enrolled this semester. **Pray** that they will be motivated to study and that they will respond to God's call in their lives. **Pray** for the teachers:
  - Rev. Pheko: Old Testament Wisdom and Prophets
  - Rev. Matšaba: Following Jesus (a discipleship class)
  - Miss Ramakhula: Intermediate and Advanced English
  - Rev. Tilo: Beginners' English
- Please continue to **pray** for 'Me Mapheko. Though her left hand is improving bit by bit, it will take a miracle to make it useful again.
- **Praise** the Lord for the money that was given to buy tents for outreaches. We will try to include a picture in an upcoming newsletter. Thank you for giving!

## Impressions of Africa

In the last three months we were blessed with visits from both sets of our parents. Of course the main attraction for them was Kaitlyn, but their interest and enthusiasm for the work here and the culture that has become our "adopted home" were encouraging. Five years of living in Lesotho has made the unusual become so ordinary that we don't even notice it, but visitors have a way of making us look at our surroundings from a different point of view. We trust you will enjoy their perspective and catch a bit of their enthusiasm.

### Stephanie's mother writes:

God was truly good to work out all the details so I could be with Glenn and Stephanie for six weeks over the time of Kaitlyn's birth. Perhaps the most moving picture in my mind is that of the cemetery just outside Botshabelo. When Glenn described how much it has grown since they have been in Africa, I got a vivid, unforgettable picture of why he and Stephanie are there. Lives are



slipping into eternity so rapidly.

Seeing the dedication of the missionaries and the contentment of the Christians in their simple way of life have challenged me to keep a closer watch on my priorities. The total commitment of the pastors to the evangelization of their villages is difficult to describe. I will never be the same for having spent time in Lesotho and South Africa.

### From the pen of Glenn's father:

After being four weeks with our missionary children, we have a much better idea of what fills a missionary's time. In the first place there are ministry duties such as

preaching. One recent sermon was "Remember Lot's Family", based on Luke 17:32. The disastrous effects of associating too closely with the ungodly was described for Lot, his wife, his sons-in-law, and his daughters. The missionary also holds a weekly Bible study in which (at present) the Ten Commandments are being studied, one each week.

A Christian man's mother died. Since the missionaries had obligations that would prevent them from attending the all-day funeral, the missionary and national pastor traveled to the village of the deceased, found the home, and visited the heathen father and family. After visiting a bit and praying, the missionary gave a short bereavement message including the gospel plan using 1 John 3:1-3.

To work towards self-sufficiency, the church in Lesotho has formed a Board and Executive Committee. Under these are six sub-committees: Constitution, Financial, Conference Preparation, Counseling, Education and Training, and Youth Activities. The missionary sits with some of the committees to help them develop their abilities. He may need to attend as many as three committee meetings a week.

There are many errand duties including attending to medical clinic affairs; shopping for groceries and household needs; and buying propane, textbooks for seminars, and construction materials.

There are nearly always vehicle repairs, a construction project going on somewhere, or business for the mission. The scattered churches necessitate much traveling.



Hopefully this panorama of pictures of one "block" of the cemetery (that Stephanie's mother mentions) can give you some idea of how big it is. It is at least 6 times larger than it was when we came in 2000.

The majority of people buried here died before they were 35 years old.

## Life in Lesotho

You might find these Basotho childbirth customs interesting.

- Traditionally only mothers are present to help with a birth. Men, including the father, are unwelcome.
- The mother-to-be usually goes to her parents' village a few weeks before the baby is born and returns there after the birth. The father may visit the baby after a few days, but the mother may not return to his village for several months. ('Me Manthabi didn't go to her mother's home. Rev. Kali is very happy!)
- The father's mother usually names the child a few days after birth. Typically there are two names—a Sesotho name and an English name. The mother's family may also give the baby a name, even though it might never be used.



Hope International Missions  
P.O. Box 1065  
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

**Field Address:**  
P.O. Box 1114  
Ladybrand 9745  
South Africa

**E-mail:**  
gaultlesotho@xsinet.co.za

*As you can see, a missionary's life is busy, varied, and challenging.*

### Kaitlyn's Korner

Mommy's friend, 'Me Manthabi, (the pastor's wife here at Matukeng) just had a baby on February 10, exactly three months after I was born. His name is Thabiso (the one who makes happy), and he weighs 8 lbs. 6 oz. When Mommy's friend was still pregnant she used to visit me every few days. Now that she has her own baby, she doesn't come and hold me as often. When Thabiso and I get a little older I'm sure we'll enjoy playing together.



Thabiso and I getting acquainted



'Me Manthabi loves me!

Three weeks ago I turned over from my tummy to my back twice in one day, but I haven't done it since. Mommy and Daddy try to get me to do it again every day, but I don't cooperate. 😊

**We thank God each time we remember you!**

*Glenn, Stephanie + Kaitlyn Gault*