

lesotho letters

Glenn & Stephanie Gault
Serving with Hope International Missions

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Answer to Prayer

In our last newsletter we asked you to specifically pray for peace and political stability in Lesotho. Thank you for praying! God has answered! Though there are still a few “rumblings,” the problems seem to have been solved.

Prayer and Praise:

- Help us **praise** God for the excellent response to the VBS. (see article →)
- Help us support ‘Mé Manthabi (Rev. Kali’s wife) in prayer. She is holding children’s services here at Matukeng every Wednesday. Please **pray** a LOT for her! Also **pray** for Ausi Itumeleng who is teaching the children on Sunday. She got saved through Stephanie’s Sunday School class three years ago. **Praise** God
- Continue **praying** for revival!
- Please **pray** much for our annual Bible distribution trip. We will be going to Zimbabwe instead of Zambia this year. We plan to leave around the 10th of July for 3-4 weeks.



VBS 2007

Whew! 192 children at a VBS is a big challenge! We want to especially thank Debbie Cawman (independent missionary bound for Mozambique) and Christy Contraras (PVBI intern) for the great job they did of telling stories and making the truth of God’s Word easy to understand for children. ‘Ntate Kali and his wife, along with several other people from the church, were also a huge help with translating, singing, and “crowd control.”



The carport “tabernacle”

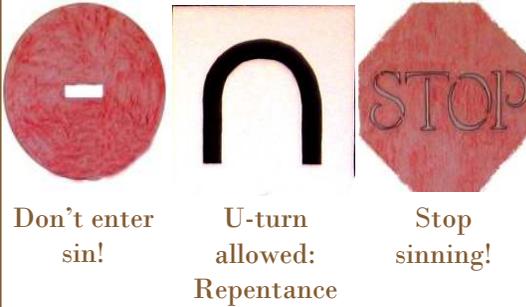
We honestly didn’t expect that many children to come,

especially the first day or two since the church here at Matukeng hasn’t been holding children’s services.



Waiting in line for a snack

Debbie and Christy used common traffic signs to teach the children about salvation and holiness.



Don’t enter sin!

U-turn allowed: Repentance

Stop sinning!

However the children who attend our normal Sunday services did a great job of spreading the word. When 150 children showed up the second day, we knew we had to find a bigger place than the church, so we moved to our new carport. Children came from 4 or 5 villages (two truckloads from Ha Motheho on Thursday), and many of them responded to an invitation to ask Jesus into their hearts.

God answered a special prayer as a result of the VBS. Since Stephanie had her stroke in 2005, no one at Matukeng has been holding services for the children. We were praying that God would call and inspire someone to do this very important ministry. ‘Mé Manthabi caught this vision and is having services every Wednesday afternoon!



Kaitlyn’s Korner



Ntate Mokoena, the clinic gardener, loves us all. He’s holding his son, Poloko. To his right is Thabiso, the pastor’s son.

I saw my first elephants at the Bloemfontein zoo. I really liked them, but my favorite animals were the ducks!



Life in Lesotho

There's going to be a funeral at our neighbor's house. We don't know the lady that died because she's been separated from her husband for years, but we've been watching the preparations from our kitchen window. The family has been cleaning the house, washing all their blankets, and fixing up the yard. They've brewed a big barrel of beer. Neighbors and family are coming to visit. (Actually we wonder if they come to sympathize or if it's the big barrel that draws them!)

Funerals are quite different here than in America. Some of these differences are just cultural. For example it's not unusual for the body to be kept at the mortuary for three to four weeks before the funeral. However, many of the customs are related to ancestor worship. No matter how poor a family is, they will sacrifice a cow to provide food and a skin "blanket" for the dead ancestor. All the close relatives will kneel as their hair is shaved in honor of the deceased. As the grave is filled, the male relatives must each throw a shovel-full of dirt onto the casket in a certain order so that they will not be haunted by the spirit of their loved one.



Firewood for cooking the funeral feast

The Saturday morning service will be long because superstition says that if they go to the grave before 1pm it will hail (even in the middle of our winter dry season!?) Relatives will talk about the deceased and comfort the family. Then the family's church will have an hour or so to sing and preach. They might even give someone from our church a few minutes to exhort. The chief will close with a few wise words about keeping peace and maintaining traditions.

Do you have questions about our ministry in Lesotho? E-mail them to the address below, and we will try to answer them.



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

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

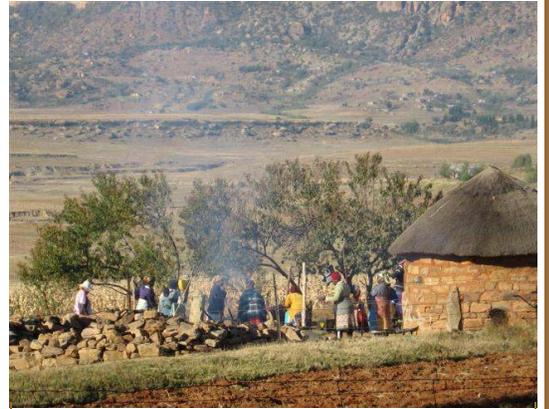
E-mail:
gaultlesotho@xsinet.co.za

Web:
hopeinternational.cc
gaultsinlesotho.blogspot.com

The funeral is next Saturday, but Friday night there will be an all-night service with singing, dancing, story-telling, maybe a some preaching, and of course the big barrel of beer.

After the graveside service, everyone will return to the house for the feast of beef (from the sacrifice) and either rice or corn meal mush, and usually some vegetable like spinach or pumpkin. If the family is rich, the feast will be extravagant with several salads and maybe a choice of chicken or mutton.

In the midst of the AIDS pandemic, funerals have become so common. Almost every week someone in our village slips into eternity without knowing Jesus as their Savior. Please pray that pastors, missionaries, and laypeople will be effective in spreading the good news of salvation. Pray that the youth will reach their peers with the message of abstinence. Pray that Sunday School teachers will be able to love little children to Jesus. Pray that God will send a mighty revival to Lesotho!



Brewing beer

Your prayers and support are making a difference in Lesotho!

Glenn, Stephanie + Kaitlyn Gault