

JUNE 2023

PETERSON'S NEWSLETTER

Wesley ~ Misty ~ Kaylee ~ Karissa
Kathryn ~ Kara ~ Clayton ~ Courtney

HOPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS | AFRICA



Missionaries to Lesotho

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Lesotho, Africa, from the Peterson family. If we were to greet you in the native language, we would say, 'Lumela' (dumela), which means 'believe.' In a world that is taking truth and turning it upside down, what do you believe? We are convinced more than ever that what we put our faith and trust in must be the eternal Word of God. It does not change and will stand the test of time.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

Since our last newsletter we sent in December, our calendar has been full. At times we have been in those moments where we did not know if we were coming or going. We can say God has been with us every step of the way, and we want to say thank you for your prayers for our family.

January came in like a brisk summer breeze as we hit the ground running with a building team to help us with our tabernacle building. Hosting teams can bring uncertainty on what will get accomplished—but huge rewards. Timing the logistics of arrival and materials on hand is not a small task. On January 11 a team of six guys arrived from the US to help us put a roof on the front part of the tabernacle building. We were ready and prepared for them to make a difference in one week—and they did. Only God could have put this team together with the skill and performance we needed. In just four and a half work days this team was able to put the roof on the front, build the stage walls, hang drywall, and cut all the metal trim for the windows. It not only was a big boost to our project but also to our spirits as we watched the building begin to move into the final stages with the front being almost done.



Impact

THANK YOU FOR
GIVING TO THE LORD!

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8

Misty's parents, Jerry and Becky Schenck, arrived in Africa the same day in January the team left. I have said several times since then that God's timing is perfect. Jerry's lifelong skills in welding proved to be perfect timing with his ability to help us design and weld up many of our bench frames that we needed. He was also able to weld up a carport that will last for many years and provide shade for vehicles and a nice work area out of the hot African sun. They left with uncertainty as Misty's mom had been diagnosed with colon cancer about a month before they came, but blessed for the amount of work they were able to do and time spent with us in Africa.



Three weeks after Misty's parents left, we picked up our second work team from Fort Scott, Kansas, on March 9. It became clear God had placed the two teams we needed help with at exactly the right times. Windows, interior framing, hanging drywall, doors, church benches, and painting were all done to help us prepare for our tabernacle dedication at Easter time. Two weeks later we were able to dedicate the tabernacle building during our largest conference of the year. On Saturday during the dedication service the building was full with about 350 people in attendance. It was a blessing to have our President Harold Martin here, with his wife and son, Kayla and Dylan, along with friends, Paul, Janette, and Caroline Kaufman, for this week of Easter celebration. They came in several days ahead of the conference and helped us finish up the church benches in time for our big weekend. We were so grateful for all the work that had been done to make this weekend one we will always remember.



One of our blessings has been having short-term missionary Matt Smith serving on our field for several months. Matt comes with a passion for missions, a heart willing to serve in whatever he has been asked to do. He has been a really big help and asset to so much of the work on the tabernacle that has been done since March. He will be missed when he returns to the States in June.



Looking Ahead:

Winter has arrived in Lesotho as summer sets in for you in the northern hemisphere. We enjoy cool nights with very mild temperatures during the daytime and lots of sunshine for this time of year for us. At our nice elevation of around 5000 feet, we can expect temperatures to dip into the 30s and even 20s at night, but with sunshine rising to about 55-65 degrees during the daytime. It brings cool mornings, with kids gathering around the propane heater in the morning, but lovely weather as the temperatures rise during the day to that ‘perfect’ spring or ‘fall’ weather so many enjoy back in the US.

Kaylee and Karissa arrived back in Lesotho on May 24. They will be home for two months for their summer break from Hobe Sound Bible College. We are really glad they are home and excited about the time we can be together after being apart for almost a year.

Our Lesotho winter will be busy as we are involved in helping the Gaults host two different teams. Millmont God’s Missionary Church is bringing a youth team for a mission trip the first week of June. The second week of July Touching Lives for Christ will be coming to Lesotho with a team as well. We are looking forward to having these two teams here and being a part of the ministries we are involved with.

Lord willing, we plan to take a vacation for a week to Cape Town, South Africa, with Kaylee and Karissa before they return to the states at the end of July. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to serve here in Lesotho, Africa.

In His Service,

Wesley & Misty Peterson

The Peterson Family
Lesotho, Africa

Praise!

- Kaylee & Karissa arrived safely
- OVC students in new school year
- Tabernacle building dedication
- Peterson kids’ school year finished

Prayer:

- Tabernacle completion
- Visiting teams in June & July
- Protection with crime on the rise
- Summer rest for Kaylee & Karissa

PHOTO PAGE



On April 20
Misty left for
an unexpected
trip to Florida

to be with Kaylee and Karissa. After three weeks of Kaylee experiencing medical issues, passing out at urgent care, and extreme amounts of fatigue, we decided it best if she went to help them in their time of need. While it left a void here in Africa, God helped us all while Misty was gone. It proved to be a good decision as it has helped Kaylee during this time of trying to manage sickness and still keep up with school assignments. Mommies are like medicine, and it was what both girls needed at this time in their lives. Misty returned to Lesotho about a month later to a very happy family. Please continue to keep Kaylee in your prayers as she is slowly making progress and gaining back her strength after having mono.



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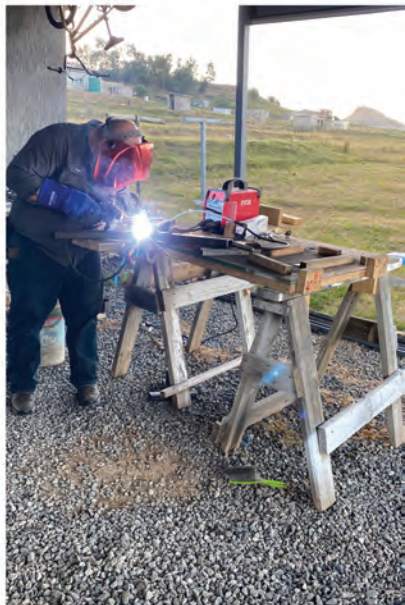
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Tabernacle Dedication Week in Lesotho





LESOTHO



ORPHAN & VULNERABLE
CHILDREN MINISTRIES

A MINISTRY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS



Wes & Misty Peterson
OVC Ministries Lesotho

God has been helping in the Lesotho OVC Ministries, and we are very thankful! Our family is blessed and humbled to be a small part of this kingdom-building ministry among the Basotho people.

In December when the school year ended, a conference was held for the OVC sponsored children and young people. It was a wonderful two days with special services, counseling, games, and lots of food. One young lady gave her heart to Christ, and several others testified how God worked in their lives during this conference.



OVC students and staff at the December conference



January is always a busy month! Fourteen new students were approved for sponsorship by the OVC committee. It is always a rush to get new uniforms, books, backpacks, and pay school fees as the new school year begins. We were very thankful to have a local office supply store assist us with getting many supplies at a discounted rate. Another store manager told me to contact her next year as they wanted to assist with uniforms. It is a blessing to see local companies wanting to help in the community.



BACK to
SCHOOL

Sister Itumeleng continues to be a huge blessing in an administration role and in the discipleship training. Her responsibilities are many, but she does it all with a smile. She has a heart and passion for young people and a desire to reach them with the gospel. We praise God for the spiritual growth we have seen in many of the young people. It is a blessing to hear testimonies of transformed lives through the “Reach 4 Life” discipleship classes. There is a training for new teachers next month, and we pray that new discipleship groups will be started. Would you pray for her as she has many responsibilities and also for the young people she works with every week?



Sister Itumeleng
OVC Admin Assistant

Let all that
you do be
done with
love.

I Corinthians 16:14



President Harold and Kayla Martin with Sister Itumeleng at our Easter Conference this year and a Reach 4 Life class at Matukeng

Please continue to pray for our OVC children and young people. They face many challenges at home and school. Pray for continued spiritual growth in those attending discipleship classes. We pray that more classes can be started in the near future. Pray for wisdom and guidance for our family and the OVC committee that we will show the love of Jesus through this ministry and help make disciples for Christ in the kingdom of Lesotho.

You might ask yourself, how can I help?

Lesotho’s small population of two million people is home to over 300,000 orphans, and many more children are considered vulnerable.

Over the last five years we have assisted more than sixty orphans and vulnerable children through the local churches in Lesotho. Currently we have forty-eight OVC students from the age of six to age of twenty-two in the sponsorship program. This program helps students with their education through primary, highschool, or trade school. Through the “Reach 4 Life” discipleship classes, they are learning how to walk a Christian life in a culture embedded in ancestor worship and witchcraft.



The needs are still great!

Today we need nine more sponsors to make a lasting impact on a child’s life in Lesotho. A child sponsorship can give an education and discipleship classes that will last for eternity.

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot
keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

~ Jim Elliot



CHILD-SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

What Is a Child Sponsorship?

Our child sponsorship program provides funds for education, discipleship, counseling, and the emotional and physical needs of an orphan or vulnerable child. A sponsorship donor is matched with a specific child in the program. Your \$60 for a full sponsorship or \$30 for a partial sponsorship provides the opportunity to make a lasting difference in this child's life through prayer, communication, and financial assistance.

How Does HIM's Sponsorship Work?

We look at orphan ministry with a holistic approach. By focusing on spiritual and physical needs, we develop a solid and biblical foundation for life. An academic education can break a family cycle of poverty. Emotional care and counseling provide support in overcoming the trauma and emotional scars many orphans face. Finally, a focus on social skills helps a child navigate their difficult world.

We believe the local church can have a truly successful impact on the life of a child. HIM's OVC Ministries has been established and administered through the local HIM churches in Lesotho. Each child in the program has been referred by the local HIM pastor and the local chief of their village.

Email Wes and Misty for sponsorship information: peterson@feaministries.org

2023 students available for either a full or half sponsorship



Name: Reitumetse
Age: 21
Trade School 1 Year

I live with my mother, aunt, my younger sister, and younger brother. My dream is to become a nurse. I enjoy singing at church.

My favorite verse is Luke 17:15.

Name: Tselisang
Age: 16
Grade: 9

I live with my mother and my twin brother. My dream is to work at the bank, so I want to study as an accountant. I enjoy playing soccer during my spare time and at school.

My favorite verse is Romans 10:9.



Name: Maipato
Age: 15
Grade: 11

I live with my mother, sister, and my cousin. My dream is to be an accountant after completing my studies. I enjoy playing ladies' soccer at school.

My favorite verse is Proverbs 3:6.



Name: Karabelo

Age: 16

Grade: 10

I live with my mother and my cousins. My dream is to be a pilot after completing my studies. I enjoy playing soccer with my friends.

My favorite verse is Phillipians 4:13.

Name: Kekeletso

Age: 17

Grade: 10

I live with my grandmother, siblings and my cousins. My dream is to be a nurse after completing my studies. I enjoy reading and doing quizzes during my spare time.

My favorite verse is Matthew 6:24.



Name: Thato

Age: 16

Grade: 11

I live with my grandmother and my cousin. My dream is to be an accountant. I enjoy playing soccer.

My favorite verse is Philippians 4:13

Name: Senate

Age: 14

Grade: 8

I live with my grandmother. My dream is to be a soldier after completing my studies. I enjoy cooking.

My favorite verses are Romans 3:23 and Psalm 1.



Name: Mpolokeng

Age: 16

Grade: 8

I live with my mother, father, sister, brothers, and my younger sisters. I want to be a nurse after completing my studies. I enjoy reading during my spare time.

My favorite verse is Psalm 19:8.

Name: Mojabeng

Age: 15

Grade: 11

I live with my mother and my two sisters. My dream is to be a fashion designer or a mechanical engineer. I enjoy reading during my spare time.

My favorite verse is Proverbs 23:13.

