

engage Kids

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HIM AFRICA



SHARING GOD'S LOVE

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS



Well, Louie, you're in Africa, and we are on our way to Lesotho to meet the missionaries working there. We are going to take a slight detour so I can show you something. Remember our goal of hunting down stories of God's hand at work in Africa?



I DO! Where will we begin?



Look around at this farmland. It reminds me of some sweet friends of mine. Johan (Yo-hawn) and Hessie van der Merwe (fun dur MEHR-vah) own a wonderful large farm in South Africa, not far from the Lesotho border. Years ago, the van der Merwes started a church in nearby Hobhouse. That little church has ministered to many farmers, and the missionaries find visiting the van der Merwe's farm restful and encouraging.



I have heard of these special people. Is their farm the detour you mentioned?



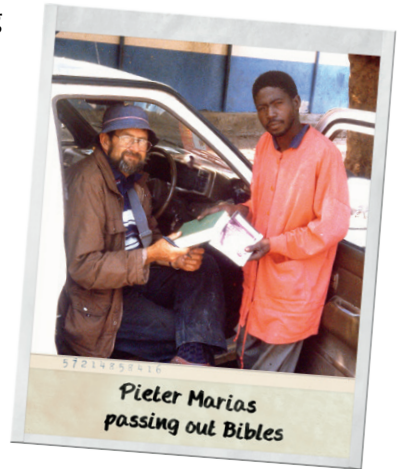
No, I want to take you by to see Hester Marais (Mah-RAY). If you want stories of true African adventure, Ouma (OO-ma = Aunt) Hester is the person to talk to.



Ooooo...What does she do? Capture zebras? Keep a pet elephant?



(laughing) No, nothing like that. Ouma Hester and her husband Pieter have had the kind of adventures where God's work is easily seen. Over thirty years ago Pieter Marais was handing out gospel literature, holding services in tents, and more. Then he began building churches—five in Lesotho and more in South Africa.



How fascinating! I'm sure they met lots of people that way.



They did, and they met many more once they started taking Bibles into five other countries where people really needed them—Zimbabwe and Zambia for instance. Pieter had to camp out in interesting places, cross rivers so high he needed special gear for his vehicle, and travel in areas where lion attacks were a real threat.



WOW! What about the Bibles? Did he get them to the people?



Did he ever! Over the years Pieter and his helpers distributed over 185,000 Bibles. Yet more people still need them. Just think...if we could get Bibles to the refugee camp in Zambia, God's Word could go with the refugees when they move on, making them missionaries too! Bible distribution is powerful. God's Word brings hope and life wherever it goes. And...there is Ouma Hester. Are you ready for that visit?



Indeed, I am. Lead on, Sir Vashon!

DID YOU KNOW?

ABOUT BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

1. _____ Bibles have sold.
2. God used _____ different men to write the Bible.
3. The Bible was written over a span of _____ years.
4. The Bible was written on _____ different continents.
5. The Bible was written in _____ different languages.
6. The Bible has been translated into over _____ languages.
7. The Bible contains _____ books.
8. The Bible contains _____ chapters.
9. The Bible contains _____ verses.
10. The Bible contains _____ words.
11. It takes about _____ hours to read the entire Bible aloud.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| • 3 | • 66 | • 40 |
| • 774,000 | • 5 billion | • 31,000 |
| • 1,189 | (<i>that's 5,000 million!</i>) | • 70 |
| • 3 | • 2,000 | • 1,500 |

Did you know that people have read the Bible more than any other book?

ANSWERS

1. 5 billion; 2. 40 men; 3. 1,500 years; 4. 3 continents; 5. 3 languages; 6. 2,000 languages; 7. 66 books; 8. 1,189 chapters; 9. 31,000 verses; 10. 774,000 words; 11. 70 hours.



MEMORY VERSE

DID YOU KNOW that the Bible *cannot* be completely destroyed? Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

Matthew 24:35

LIVING FOR JESUS



top that?

I thoroughly enjoyed that visit with Ouma Hester. What could



you think so far?

There is SO much more to see and experience. What do

Louie: From the farmland and rolling hills to the distant plateau and mountains, this part of Africa is quite interesting! And the people...whom will we meet next?

Vashon: See that round hut just up the road there—the one with the pointy top? It's called a *rondavel* or rondel house. It's home to one of the families from the mission church. And we are right on time. Kaylee and Karissa Peterson are ready for us. Halo, girls! Hop in! Meet Louie, our visitor from the States!

Kaylee: Hi, Louie! We are “visiting” from the States too! We've been away at college.

Karissa: I was fourteen when we moved here in 2018, and this area truly became home to us. We love each chance we get to come back. We have learned SO much here.

Louie: What are some of your favorite experiences?

Kaylee: I really enjoy the church youth group, teaching Sunday school, cooking during church conferences...and exploring up in the mountains.

Karissa: Me, too! Plus I got to help build our house! Dad taught me how to paint, do plumbing, and build cabinets. Working with short-term mission teams and OVCM kiddos is rewarding too.

Kaylee: Living in Lesotho has opened my eyes to the world beyond my family and friends. I have a new view of what is most important—relationships with God and people. I wouldn't trade my time in Lesotho for anything.



Karissa: Same here. And partly because of my time in Lesotho, I am taking TESOL classes—that means Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Working in that field might introduce me to people from all over the world.

Louie: Impressive! So...how would you suggest young people get involved with missionary work? Do they need to visit Africa for that?

Kaylee: While a mission trip is always a great idea, kids can minister right where they are. They can start by making friends. You never know who might be struggling or needing a friend. We have been called to love whoever crosses our paths.



Karissa: And kids can volunteer with community projects, visit a nursing home, and just love people wherever they are.

Vashon: Great ideas, girls. Well, we've arrived at the mission compound, and there's the beautiful Peterson house. We will leave you here and head to our next stop. Louie? Are you ready to see more?

Louie: I am! Let the adventure continue....

Louie's Treehouse Lain



OVCM Spotlight: Toka

Thirteen-year-old Toka might be quiet and shy, but his smile is a bright one. Toka lives with his family in a mountain village in Lesotho. The family often struggles to get enough food. The OVC sponsorship has been a huge blessing because it means Toka can attend school. He is in the ninth grade and would like to join the army after he finishes high school. He enjoys playing football (known as *soccer* in America), and his favorite verse is Psalm 2:1.



You will notice that many OVCM participants are teens. In Lesotho elementary schooling is free, but families have to pay for high school. With the help of OVCM sponsors these young people can benefit from education their families are unable to afford.



ENGAGE KIDS is a ministry of
Hope International Missions
PO Box 1065
Hobe Sound, FL 33475
Phone: (772) 546-1113
Email: engagekids@feaministries.org
Web: feaministries.org/engagekids

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