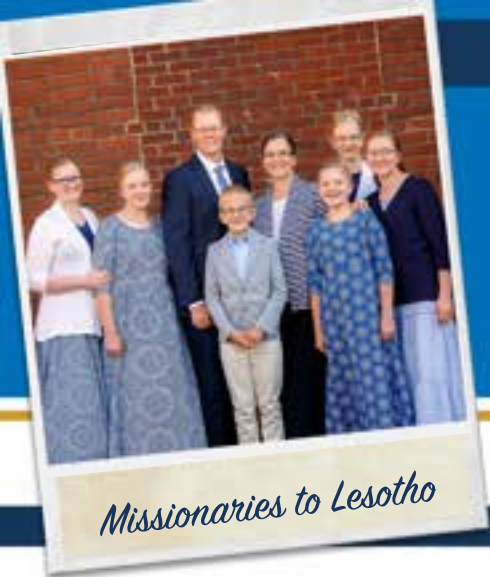


April 2024

PETERSON'S NEWSLETTER

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

HOPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS | AFRICA



Dear Friends,

As we start this new year, we want to praise the Lord for God's goodness and mercies. We have seen God working in Lesotho in many of the mission's ministries. This year is shaping up to be another busy year in Africa, as multiple building teams are planning to come and help on the building project along with a Touching Lives for Christ team in July. Kaylee and Karissa plan to return home in May after finishing another school year at Hobe Sound Bible College.

At the end of 2023 the Orphan and Vulnerable Children's Committee approved twenty-four new students for the 2024 school year. Reviewing the many applications we receive is always challenging. Starting the year in January with that many new students is keeping Misty and Sister Itumeleng very busy as they pay school fees and purchase books, uniforms, and supplies needed to start a new school year.

Sister Itumeleng, our OVC administrative assistant and discipleship leader, continues to do an excellent job in the Reach for Life discipleship program. Young people regularly testify to how God is ministering to them and how the discipleship program is helping them serve the Lord and stand for the truth in school. Will you continue to pray for these youth that God will use them to build His church in Lesotho?



We thank the Lord for answering our prayer for an OVC vehicle for the ministry. The need became evident as the ministry grew and expanded. Buying a good used car in Lesotho can be challenging as you never really know what you are getting or how well it has been maintained. Through some connections and answers to our prayers, we were able to purchase a good used Nissan X-Trail. Pray that it will give us many years of excellent service.



Watch the short video by scanning the QR code below and learn more about the Orphan and Vulnerable Children's Ministry Sponsorship Program in Lesotho. It shares three of the greatest challenges these children face and a solution that is helping.



On November 20, 2023, the project truck left Matukeng loaded with supplies and materials to travel to the village of Ha Ratau to start a new church building project. While it is only thirteen miles from Matukeng, where we live, it takes about one hour and fifteen minutes because of the rough road around the mountain to the village on the other side.

With permission from the village chief, for many years services were held in an old abandoned house with broken windows. It was cold during the winter and was not large enough to accommodate the growing church. With a generous donation from an American church, we secured land from the village chief and began constructing the first church building in Ha Ratau. The people have prayed for years that God would supply them with a building and are excited to see God answer their prayers. The church was finished at the end of February 2024. Two young ladies gave their hearts to the Lord on the first Sunday in the new church. Please continue to pray for this church to be a light in a village of darkness.



Scan the QR code to visit the village of Ha Ratau.



We have been working with the Department of Forestry for several years to develop an erosion control plan to help solve issues directly below the mission property in Matukeng. Land erosion is a big problem in Lesotho because of overgrazing and poor land management. We asked about planting trees, and the director gave us three hundred trees for free! Pray that these trees will grow and be a blessing for years. Many saplings have survived the transplant, but we need rain as it has been hot and dry over the last six weeks of our African summer.



Second Rental Home Is Underway

During the last week of February 2024 we started filling and compacting the dirt to prepare the slab for the second rental home for the Eternal Foundations Project. We are excited to get this off the ground. This second rental home will have three bedrooms and a one-car garage. Plans are underway to have several work teams this summer to help us complete this construction by the end of 2024. Having a second house to rent will continue to provide funding for the mission work in Africa and help develop a solid foundation of local funding for generations to come. We look forward to finishing this home which will complete Phase I of the project. If you want to invest in this project, we still need funds to complete it this year.



CLAYTON'S HEARING UPDATE AND NEEDS

Thank you for praying for Clayton's hearing issues over the past few years. In 2021 we noticed Clayton was having difficulty hearing. We were referred to an ENT specialist in Florida because of significant hearing loss and abnormal growths in his right ear. He had his first ear surgery in April 2022 with a titanium prosthesis to replace the bone loss in his middle ear. Follow-up exams and testing in South Africa confirmed that the initial surgery did not take as we had hoped. His surgeon in the States reviewed all the reports along with a specialist in South Africa. It was recommended that we try one final surgery to see if they could repair the bones and restore his hearing. The second surgery in November 2022 revealed a cholesteatoma growth and damage to a second bone in his middle ear. Unfortunately, repair surgery has not restored his hearing, and the doctors suggest not to attempt any further repairs to his middle ear as it will only increase the risk of scar tissue and cholesteatoma growth.

His ENT surgeon has presented options for Clayton's hearing, as the challenges will only increase as he gets older. In 2023 Clayton was able to trial an external bone conduction hearing device. The first day he had it was like a child experiencing seeing after getting glasses for the first time. The sounds, the music, and the ability to hear with his right ear encouraged him and us that modern technology could make it possible for him to hear again. The specialists have recommended an implanted bone conduction device called a BoneBridge with an external processor to bypass the middle and inner ear for optimal hearing.

For the past six months we have been communicating with Christian Healthcare Ministries to see if they would cover the cost of a BoneBridge implant, since they covered the expenses for his first two surgeries. However, after the final medical review in March, they declined eligibility for reimbursement based on the organization's guidelines on external hearing devices.



CLAYTON AGE 13

As further ear surgery is not recommended, we have decided to pursue the BoneBridge implant so Clayton can regain hearing in his right ear. It is a relatively simple procedure, about an hour long, in which a small plate is inserted into the bone behind the ear. The processor is attached magnetically to the outside of the skin but sends sound waves through the implant using bone conduction. The complete quotation for surgery and the BoneBridge hearing device in South Africa is \$9,000; it will cost about twice that amount in the States. We plan on having this surgery done in the next few months. This is a significant personal expense we had hoped would be covered through medical sharing. If you would like to give to this special project, you can send a gift to Hope International Missions for Clayton Peterson's BoneBridge Surgery. Thank you so much for your prayers for our ministries in Lesotho - God is doing great things!



In His Service,

Wesley & Misty Peterson

To learn more about this type of surgery and hearing device, visit the following link:

<https://www.medel.com/hearing-solutions/bonebridge>

Praises!

- Purchased used OVC car for ministry
- Spiritual help among students and revival
- Finished village church in Ha Ratau
- Started the second rental home

Prayer Requests:

- Funding for Clayton's surgery and hearing device
- Final funding for the second rental home
- Multiple teams from May-July
- OVC ministry and students

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