

engage Kids

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HIM AFRICA



GOD CAN USE ME!

FROM PREPARATION TO PURPOSE

FROM COLORADO TO...AFRICA!

Greetings! My name is Stephanie Gault, and I live in Lesotho, Africa. Your friend Louie asked me to tell my story. Would you like to hear how I became a missionary? When I was a young girl, my parents pastored a church in Colorado. We loved it when missionaries visited our church. I admired those who went to faraway places to share the gospel with people who had never heard it. Conversations with missionaries, plus my parents' regular prayers for missionary work around the world, strongly influenced me.

I was just ten years old when God called me—ME—to be a missionary. I was so excited! I did not know exactly what that would mean. For years I thought I would be a missionary nurse in China. That changed when I went to college. I realized blood, needles, and stitches were *not* for me. So I studied missions and how to teach English instead. I also had some classes on how to teach children. I got to practice what I was

learning by working with the children of a Haitian community near my school. I did not realize it then, but God was training me for a special ministry.

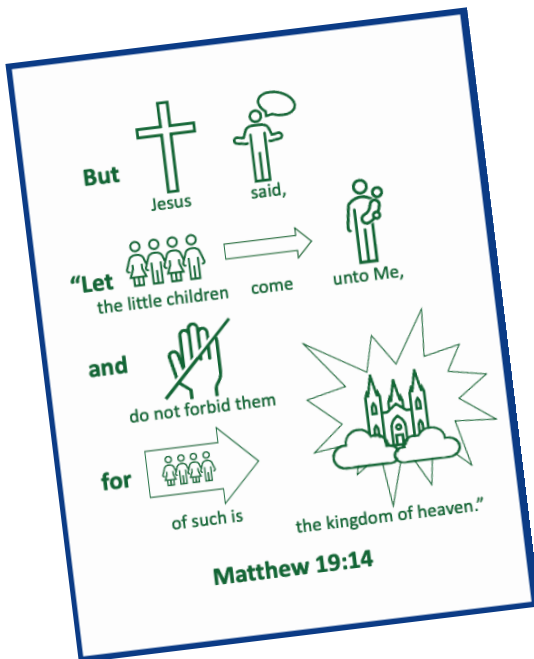
I married Glenn Gault, and not long after our wedding we visited Africa. On that first visit to Lesotho, I was asked to share some songs and a Bible lesson for the children of the villages we visited. When we arrived in a village, children would gather quickly, but the adults were often hesitant to attend a service.

My husband and I moved to Africa the very next year. At that time the churches of Lesotho had no classes or special ministry for children. God knew that. And God had been preparing *me* to fill that spot. What an honor and a privilege it has been to follow God's special plan for my life!



MEMORY VERSE PHOTOS

Sunday school teachers and children's workers look for creative ways to teach memory verses. One fun method is to make a poster with pictures drawn to represent words or phrases. Here is an example of how Matthew 19:14 could be illustrated with simple pictures.



Why not try making your own poster illustrating this month's memory verse, John 3:16, with pictures? Then you could use it to share God's love with a friend. We would love to see your work. Send a picture of your poster to rebeccaheard@feaministries.org.



MEMORY VERSE

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

TEACHING GOD'S WAY

Hi, again. Stephanie here. Louie and Vashon stopped by for a quick visit, and I was telling them about the challenges of our first years of ministry here in Lesotho. They thought you might be interested in the stories too.

Though we missionaries understood the importance of teaching children about Jesus, the Basotho people did not. The churches they attended all taught that the way to heaven was to do good works. (You and I know that is not right, don't we? We are saved by believing Jesus died on the cross for our sins, rose again, and wants a relationship with us. We serve Him because we love Him!) The people were confused, thinking that sinning was okay if they also did good deeds. They did not want to send their children to a church that taught salvation through Jesus alone.

Though that thinking discouraged us a little at first, God gave me an idea. The children loved learning English, so why not hold a Wednesday afternoon English class? That way, there would be no conflict with Sunday plans families might have. The children loved coming. Over the months following, we taught English using simple Bible lessons and songs.



We did not have a classroom, so we met under an oak tree for lessons. If it rained, we moved under the carport. Cold, rain, wind, heat, dust—we have had classes through it all! During vacation Bible school sessions, we made simple crafts (like coloring pages or paper picture frames) and served simple snacks (like orange halves, little bags of chips called *masimba*, or cookies called *dikwamkwara*).

The children kept coming, we kept teaching, and soon parents were seeing changes in their children. Children were obeying their parents, becoming more respectful, and wanting to serve God. The parents got curious. Some even attended church services...and liked them!

That was the beginning. God blessed our efforts, and for years now I have shared Bible stories and songs with the children of Lesotho. More recently I have been privileged to teach Basotho church workers how to do what I do. I get to teach teachers how to teach! Isn't that fun?

More next time,
Stephanie Gault

Louie's Treehouse Lain



OVCM Spotlight: Palesa

Do you know what your name means? Palesa's name means "flower" in Sesotho. The name seems to suit this bright young lady. At eleven years old, Palesa's dream is to one day become a doctor, but for now she enjoys just being a kid. She is in fourth grade and lives with her grandmother and cousins. Running and playing is a favorite pastime, and John 10:11 is her favorite verse. If you look it up and read it, maybe it will become a favorite of yours too.



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