

engage Kids

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HIM AFRICA



I CAN HELP!



Itumeleng and Misty gathering school supplies

SUPPLIES FOR SUCCESS

Today was packing day. And I, your friend Louie, learned a lot along the way! Wes and Misty Peterson oversee Orphan and Vulnerable Children Ministries (OVCM). An important task each year is purchasing, packing, and presenting school supplies to children in the program. These supplies help... wait. Let me tell it this way.

We arrived at the Peterson's just after breakfast. The kids were all bustling around, carrying boxes, bags, and backpacks of all kinds. Soon Vashon and I were assigned jobs. We didn't mind. "Many hands make light work," as the saying goes.

As we sorted supplies and filled backpacks, I became curious. I asked Misty, "Just who is all this for?"

Misty smiled. "The children we will give these supplies to are orphans or vulnerable children—children whose family situations mean they can't get basic items they need for school."

"Are there a lot of orphans?" I asked.

Wes popped around the corner. "Nearly 153 million in the world. In Lesotho there are around 300,000."

"I grew up in a loving family," said Misty, "so it is hard to imagine what it feels like to grow up without one or both parents. The Bible says Christians should give special care to orphans, so this program is one way we can do that."

Wes explained more. "These children are dealing with several hard things. They have lost a dad or mom or both. They might live with a grandparent or uncle, but they miss their parents. And their families are poor. Many of them make less than \$2.15 per day. They can barely pay for food and are unable to pay for school. Without education they can't get jobs when they are older, so the poverty cycle continues. They feel hopelessness and often make bad life decisions."

"But that's where we come in!" Misty said. "The OVC Program gives them supplies for school. A good education puts them on the road to success."

I am more grateful than ever for my family—aren't you? I am also glad to be part of a program that is actively helping the needy kids of Lesotho.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SURVIVE?

The Bible says God will supply all our needs. But what are our true needs? Will you die if you do not have pink sheets on your bed or a new baseball? Circle the items that are necessary to stay alive and healthy. Then show this to your parents and see what they think.

SHOES

BED

STUFFED ANIMAL

DOG

COAT

VIDEO GAMES

PHONE

BREAD

CANDY

DOUGHNUTS

VEGETABLES

SOAP

CRAYONS

SCOOTER

CLOTHES

PIZZA

BIBLE

STORY BOOKS

COOKIES

PENCILS

HOUSE

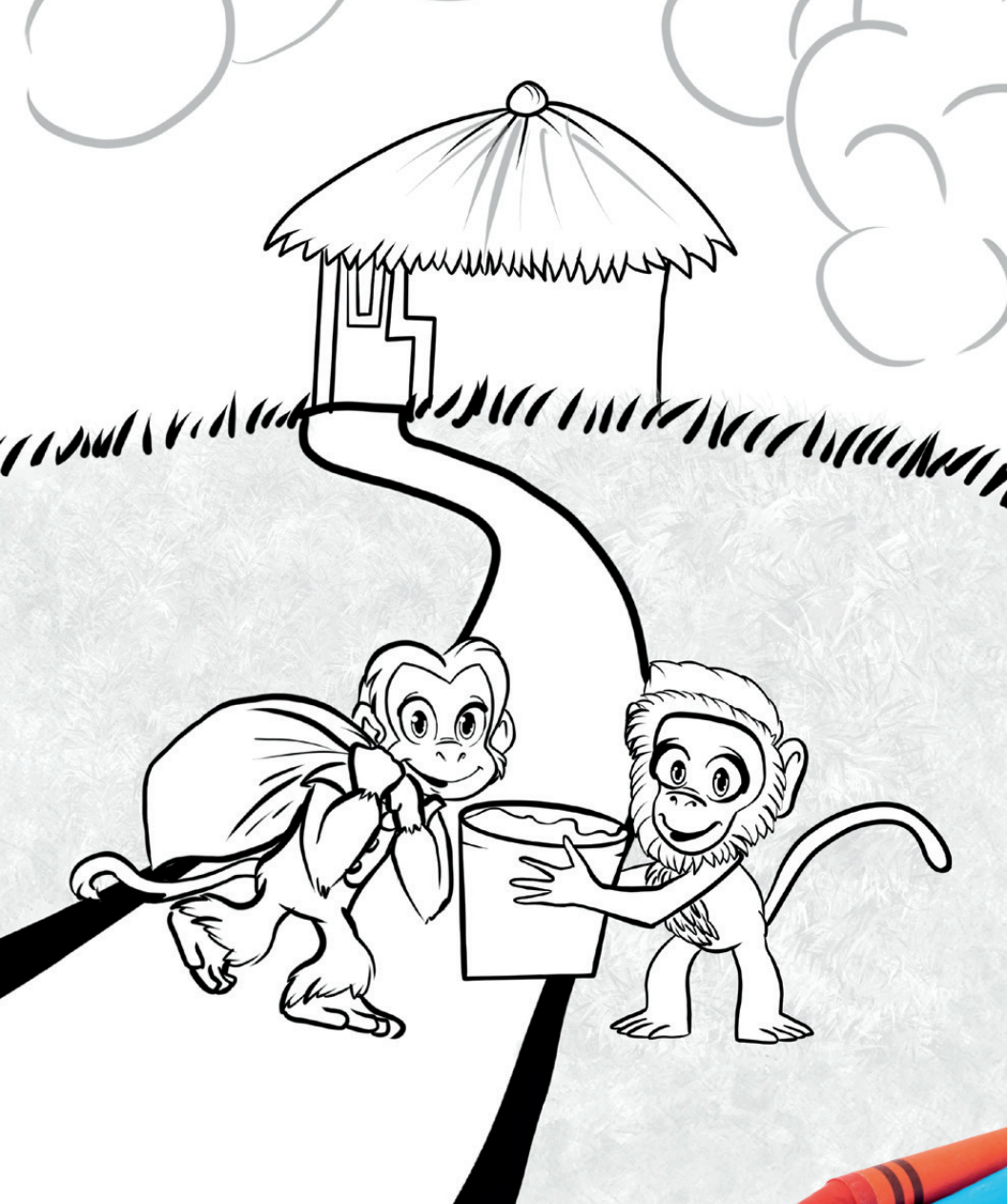
FRUIT

TOOTHBRUSH

BICYCLE

MEDICINE

PAJAMAS



MEMORY VERSE

The King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40 ESV



**A HEART
FOR THE
HUNGRY**

Supper with the Petersons was a lively event. Conversation flowed all around the table. Just what I expected with six children and two monkeys excited to share. I started to ask for a second helping of shepherd's pie when Misty said she would like to tell me a special story.

“OVCM is about more than giving out backpacks of school supplies. We want to help meet other needs these children have as well. For instance we teach them what it means to grow spiritually—how to live for God and how to trust Him to meet their needs. They haven't seen Christianity modeled in their homes, but we teach them the basics through the Reach4Life program. We love it when young people understand the lessons and begin to live out what they are learning.

“That happened recently with a young lady. One Sunday morning she came to church as usual, but this time she had a special request. She told us that she had not eaten anything since Saturday morning because there was no food in her house. Then she said, ‘We learned in Reach4Life that if we have problems, we need to tell someone and ask for help.’

“Of course we wanted to help! So Sis. Itumeleng (Do you remember her?) and I went right away to this young lady's home with some food. Her grandmother was so grateful. She could feed her two grandchildren! The family still faces many challenges, but their faith in God increased that day. They asked, and He answered.”

I was touched. I found I didn't really need that second helping of shepherd's pie after all. I began to think of ways I could keep helping needy children even when back in the USA. My first step would be to ask my family to sponsor an OVC child. Then I think I have some toys I could donate. And is there a place where I could help serve food to hungry families? Hmm...I'll need to check on that too.

Working for Jesus,
Louie

Louie's Treehouse Lain



OVCM Spotlight: Mathapelo

Do you enjoy household chores? Do you like to clean your room or help your mother in the kitchen? Fifteen-year-old Mathapelo does. She likes to help her mother around their home. Maybe Mathapelo is practicing—she wants to be a nurse when she grows up, and medical facilities should be clean and organized. Mathapelo's favorite verse is Romans 3:23. She knows she must have the Lord's help as she grows, attends school, and continues learning about God.



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