

engage Kids

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HIM AFRICA



PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

Family. When you hear that word, what picture do you see? As for me (Louie), I think of my ma, pa, and many brothers and sisters (I have a dozen!). But not everyone's family looks like mine. Does yours? When you get home from school, maybe your mom greets you with a snack and a hug. Maybe your dad plays catch with you on the weekend or helps teach you to ride your bike. Families are important, aren't they?

On this trip to Africa, I have met many children whose families do not look like mine. Some children have lost their father. Some of them have lost their father and mother.

Sometimes orphans are placed in an orphanage—a home for kids without parents. Lesotho is doing things differently though. Instead of sending these scared and hurting children to an unfamiliar place to live, the orphans go to live with any family members they do have. Some live with a grandma while others live with an aunt or uncle.

Wes and Misty Peterson have been working with the Orphan and Vulnerable Children Ministries (OVCM) for



**HUGS
AND HOPE**

quite a while. They understand children have many needs—more than just a place to live. They need clothing, food, education, opportunities, and love. The Petersons look for various ways to meet those needs. They tell people in the United States about the kids who need help. Churches and families get involved by giving money the Petersons can then use to purchase basic items for the orphans and the families supporting them. They provide school supplies for example. Education brings hope for a better life. With a good education young people can get better jobs, become successful adults, and support their own families.

The most important need for these children is the same as for you and me—learning about God. Who will teach them? That is where the church comes in! The church provides a spiritual family for these who so desperately need it. The church surrounds them with care and points them to God so they, too, can learn to love Him. God's love brings hope and makes a long-lasting difference in the lives of these precious children.



MY FAMILY

Create a “family tree” using your hand. Place your hand at the top of the tree trunk and draw around it to make “branches.” Then color it. Or make a finger paint hand print, as pictured. Write the names of your family members along each finger “branch” and add your last name under the tree trunk.





Draw a picture of your family in the frame. Then thank God for the family with which He has blessed you.



MEMORY VERSE

Pure and genuine religion means caring for orphans and widows in their distress.

James 1:27 NLT



ORPHAN IN DISTRESS

Ausi (Sister) Malashoane (*Au-see Mah-la-shwâ-nee*) was scared. The house was filled with people who had come by after the funeral for Malashoane's mother. They wanted to show Malashoane and her brother support. Their mother had been ill for years. Malashoane had cared well for her all that time. She loved her mother and was saddened by her death. But now how would she take care of her little brother alone? She was only in her twenties.

Unfortunately, Malashoane had to set aside her schooling to help her mother. Now that her mother had died, Malashoane had some thinking and planning to do. She told the missionary that day that she trusted God to provide for her. But because she had not finished school, a job would be hard to find. She was unsure how she would provide for her little brother.

High school education costs money in Africa. Without money, students cannot finish their education. Without an education, a young person in Lesotho struggles to survive. Jobs are scarce, and the few available often pay less than \$2.15 for a day's work.

What hope did Malashoane have of getting something better? Though she was tempted to fear, she had also seen God faithfully care for her family, even during hard times.

Thankfully, the OVCN program offered Malashoane the support she needed! Through the program, Malashoane went back to school. Working hard, she soon graduated with a nursing certificate! Today, Ausi Malashoane supports herself and her little brother by dispensing medicine at a pharmacy.

When I met Sister Malashoane the other day, a huge smile lit up her face as she joyfully told me her story. I could not wait to share it with you as another example of how God is using the missionaries in Lesotho to change lives.



Still adventuring,
Louie

Louie's Treehouse Lain



OVCM Spotlight: Lerato

Twelve-year-old Lerato has a favorite scripture. Joshua 1:6-7 talks about being strong and courageous because the Lord is with those who serve Him. Those verses are good for Lerato because he wants to be a doctor someday and that takes a LOT of hard work and courage! For now Lerato is living with his older sister and cousin at his grandmother's house. He is going to school, helping in the garden, and just being a kid. What do you want to be when YOU grow up?



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