

DECEMBER 2024

# PETERSON'S NEWSLETTER

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

HOPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS | AFRICA



*Missionaries to Lesotho*

Dear Friends,

**G**reetings from the Peterson family. Over the past few months our hearts have been deeply touched by your prayers and support during this time of transition. Moving from Lesotho, Africa, back to the United States was difficult. We have been loved and received graciously by the Basotho people. But after seven years of missionary service with Hope International Missions, we knew it was time to return home as our children are stepping into the next phase of life, and we need to be there to support them.

In 2015 when God began to stir our hearts for ministry, specifically orphan ministry, we did not know what that would look like. Yet today we can scan over the years and see God was with us each step of the way. Our time in Lesotho and the ministries we were involved in there have been some of the most significant years of our lives. We have learned you can love two places and people at once. Lifelong friends have been made, and we are humbled that God let us be a part in building His kingdom in Africa.

Serving in Lesotho with the OVC Ministry has been a great privilege. In the past six years a community-based ministry that assists orphans and vulnerable children has been established. Through this program eighty-two children have received help in fifteen different villages. A dedicated OVC committee, alongside Sister Itumeleng and Pastor Kali, are continuing to further the work. We will still help with the sponsorship program and give direction as needed.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

~  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



# For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ~ Luke 2:11

Another ministry we began in Lesotho was the Eternal Foundations Project. One of the challenges missionaries face in a developing country is establishing a reliable fund for the mission to become self-sustaining. We realized the village of Matukeng was a prime location for beginning such a project. Because it is near the capital city, there is a high demand for housing. Our village was the perfect place for building a small rental community that could support the local churches. Rental income from the first home has already significantly impacted the church's finances; the available funds will grow with the completion of the second house in early 2025.

A church tabernacle was also built on the property. It is used each Sunday for Matukeng church services and hosts multiple conferences throughout the year. During our second term, a new church in the village of Ha Ratau was built. These four building projects kept Wes very busy, yet seeing it all take shape was exciting. Relationship bridges have been built through the laborers who helped and through hosting work teams. We thank everyone who prayed and gave to these buildings over the years. Please keep praying that the financial foundations laid will continue to grow and be a blessing to the churches in Lesotho.

The Lord has directed our steps these last seven years. In the months leading up to our departure, I began to reflect on our time in Lesotho. As I listed things God had taught and shown me, I was overwhelmed and encouraged to see all the blessings He had given us.

As we said our goodbyes to a place we deeply loved and called home and gave our last hugs to the people we had served, we were at peace. It was not easy, but our time in Africa was worth it. Our family would do it again in a heartbeat. Please pray for the ministries we left behind as they continue forward. We ask that you also pray for the missionary team serving in southern Africa. They became our family, and we miss them dearly. Pray they will continue to be effective in making disciples for the sake of the gospel. The harvest field is still ripe. Much work still needs to be done, and more laborers are still needed in Lesotho and South Africa.



Glenn and Wes at the airport



Our picture with our missionary team in Lesotho on our last Sunday



Church Director Ntate Kali and his family at our farewell service



Ntate Motlalepula and family. He was our main block layer and then became the project manager over the last few years



Courtney with some village kids after playing with them at one of our farewell services



Saying good-bye to Ntate Mofolo, our electrician



For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder. And  
His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty  
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~ Isaiah 9:6



# A view from the Peterson Kidz



Courtney

Living in Africa has changed my life in so many different ways, and I've been able to grow so much. God has truly been able to work in my life and has blessed me with an experience I will never forget. Growing up with the youth there has given me a small glimpse into their lives and struggles and how miraculously God has been able to change their lives too. I love the people and the mountains a lot. My heart has a strong passion for missions because of living in Lesotho, a passion I hope will grow.

I'll look back and enjoy those moments that I had living in Lesotho. The beautiful mountains, canyons, and barren landscape were always a joy to view. Living in Lesotho changed my view about the world. I have felt loved by our church, missionary family, and friends. Even though we were far from America, Lesotho was home, and a piece of my heart will always stay there.



Clayton

One of the things I loved about living in Southern Africa was the opportunity for adventures. From hiking the mountains to exploring canyons to walking the red dirt roads, there was always an occasion for adventure. To me Africa means memories of people and places I love, many cups of hot Rooibos tea, and lots of good food.



Kara

Lesotho and South Africa are close in my heart. If there is any place I have loved well, it's Africa. From day one I loved Lesotho, but what has impacted me in many ways is its geography. I am grateful God let me grow up near mountains. Seeing our plateau covered in fog or watching a thunderstorm always touched something deep in me. God has taught me to love His creation. While I miss my home, I'm beginning to learn Jesus can help me love America too. He puts just as much care and thought into an African daisy as the Florida palmetto that gives me shade. His fingerprints lay all over Lesotho, but it's comforting to know He is here in Florida also.



Kathryn

Living and loving Africa shaped me in ways that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Africa taught me how to see the world from a broader viewpoint and showed me how God is building His kingdom all around the world, not just here in the United States. Two of my most favorite things about Africa are the people and the mountains, and I miss both very much. I consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity to live there and an honor to call it home.



Karissa

Living in Africa forever changed me. It was a privilege and blessing to call Matukeng "home" and the church there "family." I miss teaching Sunday School outside and making conference food for hundreds of people. I miss my mountains and the precious people who called me "Sister." I miss the craziness of hosting the teams, being able to travel South Africa, and visiting "The Farm." This chapter of my life will forever be one of my favorites, despite all its difficulties and challenges. This chapter taught me so many things, but I think the most important is this: no matter where God places you, Christ is home.



Kaylee









ORPHAN & VULNERABLE  
CHILDREN MINISTRIES

But even the very hairs of your head are all  
numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more  
value than many sparrows.

~ Luke 12:7

Some of the OVC students we have worked with in Lesotho





# BUILDING *the* FOUNDATIONS



# AFRICA

The final details and finish work are being done on the last building for Phase 1 of the Eternal Foundations project. The last big item we need funding for is kitchen cabinets. Please pray about what you can give to help us complete the second rental in early 2025. This second home will continue to build a solid foundation for the mission work in Southern Africa.

Help us finish strong  
this *Christmas Season*

Needed: \$5,000

For: Kitchen Cabinets

