

# THE KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE

Matt & Brooke  
SMITH

SERVING IN LESOTHO, AFRICA



SEPTEMBER 2026



*Tent meeting*



*Chocolate chip cookies we baked and gifted to our local church as a gift.*



*What it looks like when we're told, "Make grandfather sleep on the floor. Put the hen on the grandfather." As you can see, we are very obedient.*



*Tutor: "Put the lion on the piano."  
Us: "Say nothing more; this lion is now Beethoven."*

## Lumelang from Lesotho!

pronunciation: doo-meh-long

meaning: Sesotho for "hello" to a group of people

It has been a fulfilling, crazy, stressful, and rewarding whirlwind the last couple months! It is amazing what you find yourself willing to endure when you know you're in the center of God's Will. We wouldn't trade our little home for a palace, but we might trade our homemade coffee creamer for an International Sweet & Creamy creamer in the USA, as coffee creamer is one thing we can't seem to find in our stores. But after days of searching, we DID find a drip coffee maker, and Matthew (and as a result, Brooke) was very happy. Coffee isn't a necessity in our household, but then again neither is hot water, and yet, what a joy it is!

Upon our arrival on July 4, 2026, we spent our first 30 days settling in, which included, but was not limited to, shopping for basic dishes, kitchen supplies, and spices; looking for household items (a broom, pillows, towels, etc.); filing for our residency permits (don't even ask us about that—poor Matt practically got ulcers from how complicated Lesotho makes the process); and preparing for language studies. To expound on the residency permits (which by the way, we finally were able to submit), the online website would time out after two minutes, so if we didn't fill out our information fast enough, it would delete it all and restart. On top of that, we were told to get our official documents certified, only to be told when we submitted them that the copies were not supposed to be certified after all—they wanted UNCERTIFIED copies. We were a little confused why they wanted "better" instead of "best," but who are we to argue with the VFS? Thank GOD, everything is submitted, and that means we can stay in the country while we wait for news on our applications!

Within our first month, we were able to attend a local tent meeting that was pitched in our village and another local village. Though we couldn't make it for every night of the three-week meeting, we were so happy for the times we WERE able to go, despite the cold temperatures. God's presence was real, and several testified to getting spiritual help. Please remember these ones in prayer, as the culture does not make it easy for new and professing believers.

As soon as our first month was up, we began language studies. A local girl here was selected as our tutor, as she loves talking and speaks good English. The program we are using patterns after how children learn any language—first through listening. As of now, three weeks in, we can understand colors, genders, family members, physical actions, pieces of clothing, animals, body parts, animal parts, foods, directions, household items, feelings, and conversational bits. Though we can't speak much so far (which is exactly according to plan with our curriculum) we can understand and do things such as: "Pick up the spoon and put it in the glass," or "Sit down on the floor," or "Run to the window and open it." Though it may not sound like much, these baby steps are our first towards conquering Sesotho and we could not be more excited! Yes, there have been funny moments such as when Brooke was asked to point to the cow and she pointed to the grandmother, but since grandmother was just a wooden doll and therefore couldn't be too offended, all's well that ends well, and Brooke is being extra careful to never mistake any little old ladies for four-legged beasts of the bovine variety.



# Praises and Prayer Requests

## PRAISE

- We have a house, two vehicles, and good friends here—that's enough for which to be thankful!
- We praise God for safe travels here and that all of our luggage made it safely! He cares about those things!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Our continued language learning: both for us as we learn and for our tutor as she teaches us!
- Those who received spiritual help during the tent meeting, and those who didn't.
- That our visa application will be accepted.

We would ask for your prayers as we learn to navigate this season of life. On one hand, we are so excited to be learning Sesotho; but on the other, we struggle with the fact that long days must be spent in the classroom until we can become involved in full-time ministry. Every current and former missionary we have spoken with has stressed the importance of setting aside this time to study Sesotho before jumping into our respective areas of ministry, as it is much harder further down the road to step away from established works to pick up language learning again. How thankful we are, though, for God's people who daily encourage us, strengthen us, pray for us, and love us. We would be nothing without God, but because of Him, we are tools for His Kingdom.

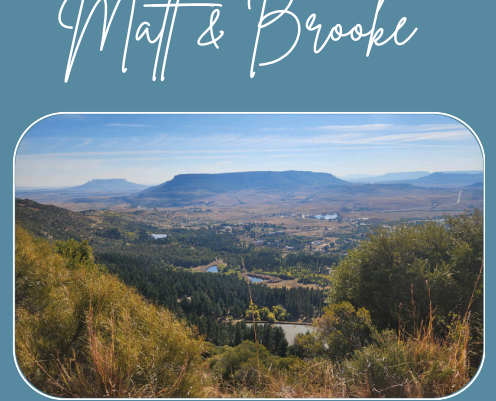
Isaiah 41:10 (KJV) says, "...for I am with thee...for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." He has, and He will!



*Found these golden arches while in South Africa.  
(Lesotho does not have McDonald's.)*



*Took a small detour while in South Africa to see the snowy mountains.*

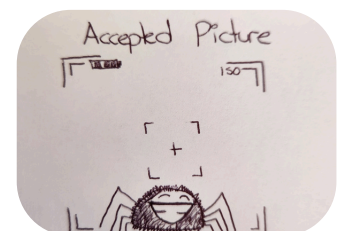


*Saw this view while hiking in Lesotho!*

*Matt & Brooke*

"Okay, it's me again. As it turns out, no one who read my first letter helped me out by sending me a plane ticket, so I had to go and fill out a residency permit in order to stay here. Otherwise, I'd get squished for being here illegally. It was a **PROCESS**, let me tell you. Imagine being a spider and having to get your passport photo taken. It took two tries to finally get it perfect! I made sure to enclose a photo of my passport picture in case anyone wanted to see a photogenic spider. In other news, though, I learned some Sesotho just by living here at the Smiths' house. They're, like, really bad at speaking it right now, and I have fun laughing at them, but I've also picked up some of the language from them! I am an abuti (a-boot-ee) since I am a boy, and my favorite snack from the Smiths' kitchen is moosli (mooz-lee), which is granola! I'll try to learn more before I write again! Bye!"

*-Wesley the Spider*



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