

lesotho letters

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Serving with Hope International Missions



Prayer and Praise:

- Please **pray** for Jannes van der Merwe as he starts his first year of Bible school. He feels that God clearly called him to go, but it is not an easy step for him to take. **Pray** that God will help him and bless him as he obeys!



Jannes van der Merwe

- Please **continue praying** for 'Me Mapheko. Her left hand is slowly beginning to work, but she still can't use a computer at her job. We **praise** the Lord for the improvement but still trust Him to completely heal her.
- Help us **pray** for a nation-wide revival in Lesotho.
- **Praise** God that Stephanie continues to improve. Little by little she is beginning to speak Sesotho again.
- Please **pray** that God will give us strength and endurance for the work. Having a little girl increases our responsibilities at home, and ministry also seems to constantly need more of our time.

December-January

News News News

December

December was a busy month for the church in Lesotho. The first weekend of the month, one of the pastors got married. Church weddings are big occasions in Lesotho, especially when it is a pastor's wedding.



Rev. & Mrs. Maqaphalla

The next event was the annual baptism. This is always a memorable time for both new converts and pastors, but this year was unusual as we had two baptism services. In 2002 we planted a new church up in the mountains of Lesotho. This month several pastors took a tent to that church and held a weekend of revival to baptize all the new converts there. The following weekend was the baptism in Maseru. All together 55 people were baptized.

As usual, we have conferences in Africa to celebrate Christmas. This year the one in Lesotho began on Friday night and ended Sunday morning (Christmas Day). In South Africa, there was just a Christmas morning service, but about 250 people attended it.



After we helped there, we went to the Van der Merwe's for Christmas dinner. Since it is summer time, South Africans typically eat cold cut meats, fruits, and salads.

Mission Work?

Fixing tractors, feeding calves, mending fences, giving cows injections . . . Is that mission work? For about 10 days it was for us! The Van der Merwe family (top of the next column) are HIM



missionaries in South Africa. Their farm supports them and their outreach to farm workers in the area.

During January they took a 10-day trip to Cape Town to

take Jannes, their second son, to Bible college. While they were away, we helped them by managing



the farm. We kept busy, but the change of



work was enjoyable. We especially enjoyed their huge sandstone farm house with the lovely

rose garden out front!

Planning for the New Year

January is a month of looking forward. The church leaders and I met to make plans for the coming year. We had a good time together praying, discussing problems, and setting goals for 2006.

For many years the church has not had a system of membership. Everyone who attended could vote and take part in the services. In order to encourage commitment and tithing, we

Life in Lesotho

Happy New Year! Parties, drunkenness, firecrackers, banging on pans—this is the way to bring in the new year in Lesotho. In our congregations, however, the Christians attend an all-night prayer meeting.

Among the Afrikaans people in South Africa, there is a tradition of beginning the new year in prayer. Usually on New Year's Eve (they call it "Old Year's Eve") we join our fellow missionaries and Christian friends for a meal and fellowship. Late in the evening, we gather for some singing and a devotional. Around 11:45 we have about 30 minutes of prayer through midnight; then everyone goes home. Some of our friends have kept this tradition for more than forty years!



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have decided to begin a system of membership similar to that of churches in America. A part of this project includes compiling a statement of beliefs and a covenant for members.

We also discussed plans for spreading the gospel and the message of holiness farther into the mountains of Lesotho. This is a challenge! Some roads are bad while others

don't even exist. Transportation is expensive. The mountain people are very poor and won't be able to support a pastor.

As yet, we have no solution for some of these problems, but we are excited about what God is doing in Lesotho. We know that He will give us wisdom, and we know that He wants us to go even to these remote places!

Kaitlyn's Korner

Early in January I had my first trip to the pediatrician. The doctor was very nice, and I smiled at the nurses until they gave me shots. Mommy and Daddy are glad that I'm growing well and seem healthy.



I like to smile at people now, and I enjoy lying in my "gym" and hitting at the stuffed animals (above). I've been sleeping through the night since I was five weeks old. That makes Mama and Daddy very happy!



We praise God for the blessing you are in our lives!

Glenn, Stephanie + Kaitlyn Gault