

Ligdraers



“THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST HUMBLING OUTREACHES I HAVE BEEN TO.”

JANA MARX Those were the words of Aobakwe Seikaneng in retrospect of the Student Church’s Lesotho Outreach this year. On 28 June, 50 students under the management of chairperson Adriaan Knoetze and reverend Christo Louw from the Student Church, exchanged Bloemfontein for the beautiful landscapes of Lesotho.

Carina Meyer, the secretary of the outreach’s executive committee, provided *Partners in Mission* with some feedback after setting foot on home ground again.

“Even before this year’s outreach started, we could already testify to the devil’s wickedness, but also to the Lord’s faithfulness,” she reported. “About a week before we left for Lesotho, we heard the unsettling news that Lesotho was experiencing political tension and that a *coup d’état* might have taken place. For a time, the option of cancelling the outreach loomed before the committee, but peace was restored in time for the outreach to proceed as planned.”

Carina especially acknowledged the unity in the team: “There was really no distinction between the black and white team members, as we fondly shared in one another’s eccentricities. This provided us with many hilarious memories in the years to come.”

According to Carina, the outreach’s highlights included the distribution of Christian literature in the town of Quthing, building projects at Quthing and Mphaki, several projects for children, an unexpected 70th birthday celebration of a local church member and a very special ministering opportunity at a man’s house one night.

“At Quthing we realised the need for a basic Sunday school, as there were almost more children than adults at the church services,” she explained. “Some of the books that we brought along, give basic instructions on how to equip a person to become a Sunday school teacher.” As a result, they left many of the children’s books and books aimed at Sunday school education in the hands of *mme Josephina*, an active member of the local congregation. “We hope that the Lord will use her (*mme Josephina*) to establish an effective Sunday school at Quthing, according to His will!”

The team also addressed many relevant issues, such as teenage pregnancies, divorces and ancestral worship, and they performed many building activities at both Quthing and Mphaki. “At Mphaki we laid water to the parsonage, so that you no longer had to convey buckets of water to the house from a tap a few hundred metres away. At Quthing, on the other hand, we plastered many of the walls in the house to seal the cracks and then repainted the whole house and front gate. We also laid water to the kitchen, as



there had only been a tap and a sink, and we established a better draining system for the tap outside,” she excitedly told us. Carina also remembered how members of the local congregations, while singing cheerful songs, had assisted them during the reparation work. “In reality it didn’t feel like work at all!”

The team members contributed to many youth projects, but what delighted them most, were the young adults who were already participating in their local churches. “Quite a few of them (between the ages of 20 and 30) helped to give sermons in the churches on Sundays, helped us with the building projects and willingly offered to be our guides and translators as we went out into the towns every day,” Carina added.

One of the most inspiring chapters in the Lesotho-story, is certainly the one that she calls ‘the incredible sleepout’:

“At Mphaki, two of the men on the team met a man whose wife had deserted him. The man didn’t know the Lord and was visibly lonely and depressed. Eduan and Quintin were invited by this man to spend one night at his home and had the opportunity to share their faith with him. Both could feel the hand of God at work, as He opened doors for them to dig deeper and deeper into the man’s spirituality, doubts and fears.”

In return, those two team members invited the man to watch the *Jesus* film at church the next evening, but the man lived quite far from the town and they doubted whether he would actually come. “As the sun set that night of the film event, Eduan prayed and waited for the man to come. He knew that there was still so much left to tell about

our Saviour and that the film would be an ideal opportunity to cross language barriers and spread the Word,” Carina reported. “As the last rays of the sun disappeared, Eduan saw the man approach the church. He ran towards the man, embraced him and praised God for another lost son that has returned.”

The Lord sent the students of the Student Church on a very special mission and accomplished great work through their obedience.

Romans 10 verse 14 to 15 is clear on our responsibility regarding mission work: “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, **‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’**”



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