

NEWS FROM LESOTHO



Rob's News Letter from Lesotho and Clarens October 2012

It's now 5 weeks since I arrived and there are some great encouragements but also frustrations.

In Lesotho, Rehebothe Church is reeling and rejoicing as on Sunday 14th October they had 66 people declaring their faith in Jesus in being baptised. This included people from the two satellite churches and they were thrilled that, by Sunday morning, 60 had asked for baptism; then after the preach, another 6 came forward! Pete West, the leader, now has the daunting task of helping these people to grow as disciples and become part of the church.



The MAP team at the clinic has expanded. As well as the 3 from last trip, Ntsoaki, Lydia and Matatola, Thaba has returned (the young man who had found some temporary work). Matankiso is another lady joining the team. They are keen to learn and each week we have done some training before going out to visit a small number of patients.



The frustrations are with the clinic building; we now have the money to continue and hopefully complete the building, but finding a good builder who is able to take on this project is not so easy. Do please pray, as Pete has asked me to be responsible for pushing this along. His time is needed on the challenges seen above.

There has been some work done, and there is now an enormous hole about 25 yards from the clinic. Some of the young men have been digging one day each week, and currently it is over 6 feet deep and a similar length and width. Quite a feat with pick and shovel through red clay. To complete, when the hole has reached 8 feet deep, will then require a platform cover with two (enclosed) seats over holes in the platform, these are the "long drop" toilets. Ours will be a sophisticated new design with a ventilation pipe (for obvious reasons); a so called VIP (ventilation improved pit-latrine).





On the South African side of the border, the church in Clarens continues to be stimulating, with the mixture of lively African worship and a focus in preaching for this season on "one thing" - the presence of God as in psalm 27v4. The on-going challenge is sharing all of this with people who I know live in varying degrees of poverty and yet are so grateful to God for every blessing. Very humbling.

I have been visiting with the 'People of Hope' team in Clarens and seen a wide range of people they support. Here too, there are frustrations in feeling that we only scratch the surface of need and often our response, humanly speaking, is limited. However, our prayers bring God into everything and He is never limited!



I have also done a half day teaching session on Cancer; something they see increasingly and are concerned about. We invited the team from Lesotho and also another church team from a nearby town, and in all there were over 30 at the session.

In order to keep myself up to date with HIV management, I have contacted a specialist in the condition and managed to sit with him at some clinics. It is now 3 years since I worked in a similar set up when I was in Cape Town, and there have been some changes in use of medicines as they are learning from experience.



Hilary will be teaching for 1 week in Dihlabeng church school, in the class she worked with last year. Summer has come, and doubtless we'll also have plenty of time out of doors to enjoy braais (barbecues) with friends.

Rob Ferns