**ARMS OF CARE TRIP TO MASERU LESOTHO FROM 9/16/2016 -9/21/2016**

 

**Lesotho**, officially the **Kingdom of Lesotho** is alandlocked Country in southern end ofAfrica completely surrounded bythe country of South Africa. It is just over 30,000 km2 (11,583 sq mi) in size and has a population slightly over two million. Its capital and largest city isMaseru. Lesotho is a member of theUnited Nations, theCommonwealth of Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The name *Lesotho* translates roughly into *the land of the people who speak*Sesotho.About 40% of the population lives below theinternational Poverty line of US $1.25 a day.Lesotho is crisscrossed by a network of rivers and mountain ranges including the 3,500m-high peaks of Thabana Ntlenyana. On the Thaba Bosiu plateau, near Lesotho's capital, Maseru, are ruins dating from the 19th-century reign of King Moshoeshoe. Thaba Bosiu overlooks iconic Mt. Qiloane, an enduring symbol of the nation’s Basotho people.

Capital: Maseru

Currency: Lesotho loti

King:Letsie III of Lesotho

Population: 2.074 million (2013) [World Bank](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL)

Continent: Africa

Official Languages: Southern Sotho, English

The Lesotho team comprised of :
Godwin Okoro
Tosin Olatidoye
Ade Aderibigbe
Joko Aderibigbe
Mabel Olufelo
Malaika Syphertt

Rita Holloway
Charmaine Crawford
Amara Onuzo

Local coordinator: Mr Akim Phamotse

Host Pastor: Rev Paul Olayinka

**9/16/2016, Travel Day ( 9/16-9/18)**

We successfully checked in all our luggage at Hartsfield Jackson airport. The flight was delayed in Atlanta for about 2 hours.We had a smooth flight to Johannesburg, SouthAfrica.
We passed through customs without any hindrances.None of our luggage was opened and the airport staff helped us transport our luggage out of the airport.
We were met at the airport by Pastor Paul and his team.
It two hours to figure out how to load our many boxes and personnel but by the grace of God, everything fit in the bus and the hitch on trailer, exhausted but grateful to God.
The trip lasted over six hours, we arrived in Lesotho at 5:am on 9/18/2016.

**Day 1 Sunday 9/18/2016**
Morning devotions was conducted by Sis Tosin:She shared with the group that God wanted us to rescue, recover and restore to the Lord the people we were going to minister to.. She emphasized the need to focus on our assignment .
After breakfast and rest time, we went to Eagle's Path International Welcome and Bricklaying Ceremony for the proposed “Center of Excellence For Development”.

The program was attended by several local dignitaries including the head of district health management, Dr Ranyali. The Principal Chief of the Area, Morena Masupha Seeiso addressed the crowd. He Thanked the members of Arms of care for coming to Lesotho to bless his people.

The members of Arms of Care were formally introduced to the community.

Rev Paul preached about the Problems of Africa:devaluation,Greed and Jealousy.He urged us to change the way we regarded Africa.
“The way you see a country is the way the country will be”

The head of district health management, the principal chief and members of Arms of Care laid the first bricks for the orphanage.
We returned home and labeled the medications we had on hand.
We worked wonderfully well together until 10:23pm, Sister Joko quoted Ephesians 2v10. She charged us to go out the next day and do good works.

**Day 2 Monday September 19th**

We set out for our Mission location in Maseru after Morning devotions and breakfast.

We set up our stations and were joined by two Cuban Trained interns, Letsela Keitumetse, Letsika Ramahloli and a local Bangladeshi born attending doctor,Dr Hassan Mobashshar.

The site was visited by several dignitaries including the Minister of health, Honorable Dr Molotsi Monyamane and several Chief’s of surrounding areas.

We were also interviewed by a local Newspaper reporter.

We saw a total of 129 people.

We gave out rollators, walkers and canes. It was quite a sight to see what a difference equipment such as wheelchairs, canes and walkers made in the lives of the people who received them.

Over 20 people gave their heart to the Lord during counseling. Several more raised up their hands to accept the Lord during the Health talk/devotions.

**Debriefing:**

The team discussed what could have been done differently.

We decided if possible scoping out future locations the night before.We were unable to do so this instance because of the ceremony that occurred in the mission location the night previous.

We also discussed using colored coded paper to signal to counselors patients who may need extra counseling.

We also decided to make up a travel bag for the next mission try with the following items:

3 blood pressure cuffs.

Sharps container

Eye chart

Hand sanitizers

Gloves

Bandages

Alcohol pads

N-25 masks

Ziplock bags

Tape measure

Office tape, pens

Scissors

Bibles in the local language

Tracts with follow up information on it

**Day 3 Tuesday September 20th**

We set off for the mission site after Morning devotions and breakfast.

Dr Aderibigbe gave a health talk on Pediatric conditions and Dr Olatidoye gave an altar call.

Majority of the crowd raised up their hands to accept the lord.

We were joined by the local doctor, interns and a local ophthalmologist.

The majority of patients had both general consultations and ophthalmologist evaluations.

Dr Malaika Syphertt distributed over 50 school supply care packages.

We also gave out clothing donated by the Women's Fellowship at the African Christian Fellowship.

We gave out wheelchairs, walkers and eye glasses.

We had to cut off registration at 200.

Most Patients saw both General Medicine and Ophthalmology.

The eye doctor saw: 149 patients.

Salvation: many raised their hands during altar call. The counselors reported 7+

Documented salvation,

Dr Malaika reported several cases where she prayed for healing and felt that a palpable change had taken place.

We gave out Honoraria to all the volunteers, drivers and local coordinators.

**Day 4 Wednesday September 21 (Travel Day)**

We met with the Minister of Health, Honorable Dr ‘Molotsi Monyamane at his office.

It was a successful meeting.

He pledged to respond to our memorandum of understanding.

He also mentioned a desire to partner with Arms of Care to help empower the youth of Lesotho.

The meeting concluded with the minister giving Arms of Care his personal email address for us to contact him.

We embarked on a 6+ hour trip back to Johannesburg.

We stopped at a restaurant in a mall to eat before heading to the airport.

**Summary**

Patients seen for General consultation : Day 1: 149, Day 2 : 200, Total : 349

Patients seen by ophthalmologist: 149

Salvation: Day 1: 20+, Day 2 : 7+: Total : 27 plus over 30 people raised out their hands each day to receive Christ during the health talk.

**Testimonies.**

Rev Paul got to the airport two hours late because of difficulties arranging transportation in Maseru, however, he got there just as we arrived in Johannesburg because we were delayed for two hours in Atlanta. God worked out the delays on both ends to our favor.

All our luggage arrived safely and intact. We were not questioned by customs, our luggage was not searched.

God healed the team from gastrointestinal upset.

So many people gave their lives to the lord including the female intern, and domestic staff at the hotel.

Journey mercies. We traveled to Maseru from Johannesburg and back, 7 + hours each way, we did not experience any car trouble or accidents on the way.

Mabel prayed with the king's brother and brought a word in season that impacted his life.

Joko conducted marriage counseling with a couple changing the course of their marriage.

Malaika prayed with people to receive healing and felt breakthrough in the Spirit.

Amara took control of registration, organized it, and ran it efficiently.

Charmaine worked tirelessly in the pharmacy.

Rita took charge of triage, with grace and efficiency.

Godwin took care of all the logistics.

Drs Aderibigbe and Olatidoye worked hard

The team worked together seamlessly. Everyone made an impact.Everyone executed their role with excellence.The grace of God helped us to work as an effective team.

God gave us favor with the minister of health.