

## Beautiful Times

Newsletter of Beautiful Gate Lesotho  
December 2009



### Time to Celebrate.....

It's quite possible, wherever you are right now, you may be hearing and seeing the signs of the upcoming Christmas season.

#### ....His birth

For us it's always a time to reflect and celebrate what the year has brought. More especially it is a time to think of, be thankful for and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus over 2000 years ago. It's because of Him we run this ministry and give thanks for all He has done in and through our lives.

....with **Letlotlo** who has been at our centre longer than

any other child. Due to a number of obstacles over the years Letlotlo's adoption has been delayed. His new Mom Angie, first saw him about 5 years ago here at Beautiful Gate and somehow knew he was going to be her son.

We rejoiced with Angie and her husband Justin from Dallas Texas as they came, spent time bonding with Letlotlo and flew out this week to begin their new lives together with Letlotlo's younger brothers waiting for him in the USA. This is real cause for celebration as a little life that

came to us in distress over 5 years ago, recovered, grew strong and became the big brother of the children at Beautiful Gate. It was precious to see his face as he hugged his new parents and so obviously was ready to go home with them. This is what our work is about and why we do it!



**Letlotlo and his proud new parents**

#### ....Little Feet Pre-school

Along with Letlotlo, 21 other children graduated from our Little Feet pre-school this year. It was wonderful to celebrate this achievement with them, the majority of whom are from very disadvantaged backgrounds. We have 13 double and 10 single orphans amongst the 50 children in our preschool. It was a joy to watch them all enjoying singing, dancing, reciting and eating in celebration of their successful completion of Pre-school. Our school administrator and teachers have worked hard and instilled biblical values and teaching into these precious lives and the fruit of this is obvious. Next year we plan to make room for more children from our community who need an affordable and good standard of preparation for school. We are also especially grateful to Tanya Snelgrove who implemented the curriculum and trained our pre-school teachers in August 2007.

She has also monitored the progress of the program and continues to offer ongoing training of the teachers and administrator. This ensures a high quality of education combined with the love of the teaching staff towards the children.



**Graduates from Little Feet with teaching staff**

Beautiful Gate Lesotho shares 5 intrinsic values with the other associates within Beautiful Gate Ministry International. These are

1. Christ Centred
2. Respect
3. Team work
4. Accountability
5. Excellence

**Thank you to all the friends and supporters of Beautiful Gate Lesotho for your giving, prayers and encouragement throughout 2009**

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.beautifulgatelesotho.org](http://www.beautifulgatelesotho.org)

or remember to check out

[www.beautifulafrica.org](http://www.beautifulafrica.org)

to read updated stories

**.....the amazing provision throughout 2009.**

As we reported in our September newsletter, we had a sudden influx of 15 extra children into our centre in June. They are all doing very well, have fitted in and are showing definite improvement from when they arrived. Many were malnourished and in bad physical, let alone psychological condition. This brought our number up to 56 and since then we have risen to 60. We were astounded at the wonderful response we received from supporters all over the world and are very grateful for all who gave in our crisis.

Our challenge continues as we strive to give the best care possible to the children. We all know the world has gone through tough economic times and we are not immune from this. We continue to walk day by day, trusting for the finances to run our centre and pay salaries to 40 local staff. The recent news of withdrawal of funding from a well known international donor who have given about 18% of our monthly funding for some time, has presented a major challenge to us. We are grateful for their previous giving, but the fact that

we provide residential care for only 60 exclude us from new criteria of the funder. To give the level of care and development we offer to the children at Beautiful Gate, we employ committed, loving and skilled local staff. These staff, including a play therapist, social worker, nurse, teachers, administration and maintenance staff etc. We also provide good nutrition and medical support to the children.

Recently in a meeting with US embassy staff, including the ambassador, social workers and other stakeholders in adoption, the Director of Social welfare in Lesotho made the following comment. "Beautiful Gate is the best care facility for babies and toddlers in Lesotho. They are the model of how it should be done."

I share this, not to be proud, but to affirm our commitment to best practices and levels of care of our children, staff and facilities. However maintaining these practices needs ongoing funds and we are grateful to all who have given in the past and we challenge others to partner with us in caring for these children. The different fund raisers ,

**Beautiful WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, Beautiful Run and Higher notes** mentioned in our last newsletter all went off very well, raising much appreciated and needed funds.



**Sue (in the shoe) and Ray Haakonsen with the charming "Pink Ladies" from the Beautiful Women Fundraiser in Oklahoma.**

03/17/

Beautiful Gate Support Organisations:

**The Netherlands:**

[info@beautifulgate.nl](mailto:info@beautifulgate.nl)

Account Name: De Schone Poort Dokkum  
Account Number 38.83.11.509  
Ref: Beautiful Gate Lesotho  
Using the Dutch account within the Euro zone, please quote the following codes:  
IBAN: NL 60 Rabo 0388 311509  
BIC: RABO NL U2

**United Kingdom:**

Reg. charity # 1119311  
address : 3a Crockerton Road,  
SW17 7HE

Account Name: Beautiful Gate Ministries International UK

Bank: Barclays Bank  
Branch: Plaistow  
UK Sort Code: 20-67-88  
Account No: 53500527

NB: Ref: Bgate Lesotho for any Lesotho donations

**USA:**

American Friends of Beautiful Gate Ministries International  
501(c)3 nonprofit organisation  
6950 Edison Ave.  
Chino, CA 91710

Account details:  
Bank of America  
Victoria  
7387 Day Creek Blvd  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA  
909.865.2424  
Account #: 29711-72823  
Routing #: 122000661

**South Africa (only for SA Donors)**

Beautiful Gate Lesotho  
Standard Bank  
Ladybrand branch  
Branch Number 055633  
Acct number 240560558

Bank address:  
P.O. Box 115 Ladybrand, 9745  
Telefax: +27 5192 411114  
Phone: +27 5192 0679/80/81

## Key position

As we have grown and developed and face our ongoing financial needs it has presented a challenge to find a person/couple to take on the role of Operations Director to release the Co-director (Ray Haakonsen) to be more involved in the overall vision of the ministry as well as developing the PR and fundraising areas of Beautiful Gate. Doing both has been manageable at a stretch, up to now but the growth and future of the ministry calls for changes in this regard.

We would appreciate your prayers, thoughts, or suggestions of possible candidates around this move. This is a vital position calling for a person/couple with a heart for this ministry as well as skills to continue the high standards and will need serious consideration and decision.

## The numbers.....

It's amazing for us every time we look back at the numbers of children who were especially vulnerable that we have had the privilege to care for. Since June 2001 we have cared for 220 babies, 90 who have gone to adoptive homes, 34 to families, 27 passed away and we have 60 in residence. We have also run a pre-school for 50 vulnerable children for the past 2 years as well.

We recently had a team from a church in Michigan USA that did landscaping, loved on babies and also gave funds and helped our local staff (who proudly did most of the work) build a memorial wall to dedicate to the children who have passed away whilst in our care. The 27 names have been engraved on marble plaques and a beautiful plaque engraved with a scripture and poem of remembrance to these children. Thanks to the team for a great job and for the creativity of the designer!



## Plaque

If you look closely you will see a moon and dove in the centre and Jesus holding a baby at the bottom right, superimposed into the design. Great job!

Please Note:  
Very Important

Overseas direct electronic donations may no longer be sent to our South African account with immediate effect.

These donations should be sent to our Lesotho Nedbank account listed below:

**South Africa** (only for SA Donors)

Beautiful Gate Lesotho  
Standard Bank  
Ladybrand branch  
Branch Number 055633  
Acct number 240560558

Bank address:  
P.O. Box 115 Ladybrand,  
9745  
Telefax: +27 5192 411114  
Ph +27 5192 0679/80/81

**Lesotho:**  
For direct electronic transfers)

Bank: Nedbank  
Beautiful Gate Lesotho # 2  
Cheque Account  
Acc. # 021000043165  
Branch: Maseru  
Code: 39 01 61 40  
Physical add: Kingsway Rd.  
Maseru  
Swift address: NEDLLSMX

## Vision for 2010.

We expect 2010 to be as busy and challenging as this year, but also hope for more great stories of hope and joy for those we serve here in Lesotho. We have a number of projects we would like to continue with some of which we list below.

### God's way Playground:

As mentioned before we have a plan to erect playground facilities for our play group age children, to help develop their motor skills etc. We have some funds allocated for this and hope to procure and erect these playgrounds early in the New Year.

### Skills training project:

We hope to research, raise funds, train, and implement the skills training project for orphans and caregivers in the first quarter of next year, receiving assistance and funding from interested supporters.

### Building project:

We still have 3 buildings we need to erect on our present property that will complete all required buildings. These 3 buildings are 2 houses, one to use as an indoor play centre for our play Group and the other as a hospitality house. The third building will be used for accommodation and training for children and adults.



**New Skills training building**

### Beautiful Gardens:

We have a 4 acre site 5kms further out Of town from our current property. We need to research, plan and decide on a project/s to produce income to help sustain our current care centre.

### Praise items:

- Provision of finances through year
- Good health of children in our care
- Growth of management team
- Continued growth of funding base
- Committed partners worldwide .
- The opportunity to provide a high standard of care to the children in our centre.

### Prayer requests:

- Continued transition of new care structure implemented in December.
- Recovery of our Building Supervisor (Allan) after back surgery.
- Continued financial provision
- Unity and sense of vision amongst staff
- Continued adoption and returning of children to families

In closing, we want to thank all those who are significantly partnering with us in this vital work. We also give Glory to God for all He has done in our midst.

[Ray and Sue Haakonsen and staff and children at Beautiful Gate Lesotho](#)