



beautifulgate

Together Bringing Hope to Children & Families

Lesotho

# Beautiful Times

Newsletter of Beautiful Gate Lesotho  
March 2008

## Beautiful Gate values

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**

(Each newsletter we will focus on a different value. See page 2 for 5<sup>th</sup> value of Excellence)

## Special Interest Articles:

- **New Season, new Logo –** Beautiful Gate no longer operating under Youth With a Mission.

Beautiful Gate organisations in South Africa, Lesotho, Zambia and Beautiful Gate International will operate under a new logo

- **2008 Year of Consolidation** Phenomenal growth in ministry

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## New season, new logo

This newly designed letter (with great new logo above) is an introduction to a fresh season for Beautiful Gate Lesotho. We share below an official statement in this regard.

Beautiful Gate Ministries International, an association of organisations for children in need, is no longer part of the mission organisation Youth with a Mission (YWAM).

"Over the past 14 years Beautiful Gate has been part of YWAM but has also more and more developed its own unique identity as a separate Christian organisation", say Toby and Aukje Brouwer, directors and founders of Beautiful Gate Ministries International. "After years of prayerful reflection and consideration we felt that it's time for Beautiful Gate to fully embrace that new identity to be enabled to move into the next season."

After a year of consultation

with various levels of YWAM leadership and the associates, the decision was officially made by BGMI during the international board meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2007.

Although the new association of Beautiful Gate organisations in South Africa, Lesotho, Zambia and Beautiful Gate International will operate under a new logo, it will largely continue to work within its existing vision and mission.

The members of the association will not only continue to work alongside each other, but have expressed the will to collaborate globally with Christians responding to the plight of the children and their families. This includes YWAM ministries who reach out to children in need and help seeing their lives and that of their families and communities changed.

Beautiful Gate Namibia has decided to stay within the YWAM family of ministries. This is due to its close working relationships with Youth with a Mission in



Namibia which they would like to continue. Beautiful Gate Namibia will therefore not be part of the association and will continue under the name Beautiful Kidz Namibia. This change will not in any way effect the current ministry of Beautiful Gate Namibia. BGMI and Beautiful Kidz Namibia will continue to work together in the same spirit which they have done over the past years.

Beautiful Gate wants to state that we are grateful to YWAM for believing in the vision and allowing the ministry to grow and mature under their covering for the past fourteen years.

All Beautiful Gate organisations are looking forward to continue the relationship in the future and hope that this new form of collaboration will be a fruitful one.

## 2008 – year of consolidation

Since our start in June 2001, we have experienced amazing growth, highlighted by our move to our own center in June 2007.

Our move from 1 building to the beautiful newly completed Centre comprising 8 buildings has been very exciting, growing from **15 babies being cared for to 35.**

We have also opened a pre-school for children from struggling families in our community, starting with **17 children in August 2007 to 58 in January**

Our **local staff** compliment as a result has risen since June 2007 **from 25 to 64, including relief staff.**

This phenomenal growth, combined with our new season together with other BGMI organisations has brought us to a time of consolidation.

We desire to build on our organisational structure and ensure that our foundation for further growth as a ministry is sound.

At the same time we will work towards the sustaining of our current and projected programs through building PR capacity and partnerships with interested donors.

We will also be working to develop and promote our local staff to ensure ownership and

sustainability of our ministry.

We are currently as staff in a period of Strategic planning and a Canadian Volunteer (Benno) has been successfully engaged in helping to structure and develop our Child Care staff.

After the last 3 years of building and growing, we will be reviewing our current vision, mission and objectives. From there we hope to put an organisational and business plan in place for the continued sustainable growth of our work with children and their families. Another exciting year ahead!



Little Feet at play



Welcome to our school!

## "Little Feet" grows

After much planning, training of our teachers and completion of our Pre-school building, Beautiful Gate Lesotho opened the doors to our pre-school (Named Little Feet), on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2007. Our new care centre is situated in the middle of a very needy village on the outskirts of Maseru, the capital of Lesotho.

Following the interviewing of 500 families in this village, the neediest children were identified. Pre-school aged

children from this community not able to go to pre-school due to lack of funds were chosen and accepted into our pre-school. We began with 17 children from the community on the 15<sup>th</sup> August. After a few days most had settled and began enjoying the loving teaching staff and well run program. The teachers are using a Biblically based curriculum and pour love and a high standard of early childhood education into these children.

It is a tremendous joy to now

see 58 needy children having the opportunity of attending a quality pre-school as from January this year. Our goal to bring children in need justice, a future and a hope is being lived out before us. Anyone wanting to give to or help sustain this uplifting program can contact us on [pr@beautifulgatelesotho.org](mailto:pr@beautifulgatelesotho.org). As most of the children can only give very little in school fees, we are reliant on ongoing donations to keep the program running.

## Care Training continues

We subscribe to 5 values as an associate within Beautiful Gate Ministry International. One of our key values as a caring ministry is to strive to do our work with excellence and professionalism. As we have grown we have seen a need to continually better the quality of our program. With this in mind we have welcomed outside help in our training.

Amongst other areas we have had a volunteer (Suzie A.) train our staff in baby massage. This has been met with enthusiasm and eagerness by the care staff. This program along with a Play Therapy program introduced by

a local staff lady (Me' Matsepo) has greatly enhanced the care and stimulation of our children.

This continual learning experience is an asset both to the development of our staff and the betterment of our health and growth of our babies and toddlers. We will continue to seek training opportunities for both caring and administrative staff at Beautiful Gate.

We believe our desire to please God in the way we care will be borne out by the improvement in condition and happiness of our children.



Suzie training in baby massage



Me' Matsepo &amp; Play therapy trainees

### Beautiful Gate Value of Excellence:

*"We are committed to excellence and ongoing learning that will continuously improve our standard."*

## Beautiful gate staff profile

Since we began Beautiful Gate our main emphasis has been on reaching children in crisis situations and from the start we have employed local staff as primary caregivers of our children.

Over time we have recognized the contribution of these staff members who themselves have acute challenges living in a country impacted by severe poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Many of these ladies are widows, providing for their own children and many caring for the orphaned children of their extended family as well. The

byline under our new logo is an integral part of our mission. The wording **"Together bringing hope to children and families"** captures our desire to touch not only the lives of vulnerable children, but also families in crisis.

Traditionally it has been difficult to secure funding for salaries for these dear ladies giving care to our children. Donors frown on "residential care models" however presently in Lesotho, these children in our care would most certainly die without intervention. Our desire

is for the children to leave us and go to caring homes but this is a slow process. In the mean time the problem continues and the staff care for our children.

We will be continuously seek donations specifically for these salaries and trust there will be understanding.

A recent quote from a supporter:

*"After contemplating the face of the crucified Lord, how can we not recognize Him and serve Him in those who are suffering and abandoned"*

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## Phase 1 building project complete

*View of Eastern section of Beautiful Gate, including preschool and garden*



*View of Middle section of Beautiful Gate, including chapel and baby houses*



*View of Western section of Beautiful Gate, including baby houses and offices*

*“We are very thankful to the many different individuals, companies, churches and donor organisations who have given to make this amazing reality possible.”*

**Three and a half years** after breaking ground at our new site we have completed the buildings of Phase 1 of our new care and training centre building project.

We are very thankful to the many different individuals, companies, churches and donor organisations who have given to make this amazing reality possible. Our current site now contains 3 children’s houses, big enough for 60 children, a medical clinic for our own and community children, a preschool for the community, an administration building and workshop and garage area.

At this stage the site and buildings have cost +- R5, 500,000 and as can be seen in the pictures, are wonderful. Our grounds and structures, thanks to our Australian Building manager (Allan) and his staff, are in great condition. Barren pieces of land have been transformed into what has become an oasis and place of safety and care for children from our community. A vegetable garden has been set up and rows of fruit trees have been planted.

We do still have some challenges regarding services and completion of landscaping, plus furnishing of our new offices before us.

We still seek connection of municipal power and a solution to our current costly sewerage removal. It is also our desire to pave some areas of our facility, especially our entrance to our facility leading to our office and parking area. Other areas (such as in front of our Pre-school) still need grass and we are still wanting to plant more fruit trees and shrubs, gardens, etc. to make the facility an even more welcoming centre than it already is. We also have 4 buildings to complete on this site in Phase 2.

So what does this mean?

## Beautiful Gate Lesotho

PO Box 13763  
Maseru 100  
Lesotho

Phone:  
+266 22321680 or  
+266 22314256

Fax:  
+266 22314256

E-mail:  
pr@beautifulgatelesotho.org

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

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*"There are no problems we cannot solve together and very few we can by ourselves"*

## Current needs

Various friends and donors who have partnered with us up to now have asked how they can be involved in the future. At this time we have a number of immediate and ongoing needs to enhance our current level of care and stimulation towards our children and staff. These needs (not exhaustive) are listed below.

### Pre-school:

Meals for children (Per annum)	<b>R 30,000</b>	<b>Vehicle</b>	
Salaries (Per Annum)	<b>R 62,000</b>	Bus for staff	<b>R 250,000</b>
Activities (Per Annum)	<b>R 20,000</b>		

### Landscaping:

Paving	<b>R 50,000</b>
Long term Sewerage solution	<b>R150,000</b>
Plants, trees, grass etc	<b>R 30,000</b>
General	<b>R 50,000</b>

### Building Phase 2

Fence for "Beautiful Gardens"	<b>R 50,000</b>
Skills and shop building	<b>R120,000</b>
Apartments	<b>R300,000</b>
Training centre	<b>R600,000</b>

### Operational costs for 2008/ 2009 : (based on average of 40 children in residential care)

Child-care and salaries	<b>R1, 200,000</b>
Admin and overheads	<b>R 200,000</b>
Maintenance	<b>R 70,000</b>
Vehicle expenses	<b>R 120,000</b>

### Future development of Beautiful Gardens

NB: More about this in next newsletter.  
Watch this space

## Extreme Gratitude

It is with a sense of extreme gratitude to God that we look back over the years since we started in a small rented room with 7 babies and 10 staff in June 2001, and recall what has transpired since then. We are thankful to the staff, both local and volunteer, who has served Beautiful Gate over the years. We are also very grateful to all our partners, who have given to this ministry in finances, expertise, time and prayer.

We have faced (and still face) many challenges and obstacles along the way, sometimes getting it right and sometimes failing. However we have made a significant difference to the lives of many children who have come through Beautiful Gate. We recognize the need for partnership in this endeavour and believe the following: "There are no problems we cannot solve together and very few we can by ourselves". It is our desire to impact children and families with hope and a future, both now and for eternity.

We trust you will continue to walk this journey with us as we follow God's call "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of one of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matt 25: 35-40)

*Ray, Sue, staff and children of Beautiful Gate Lesotho*