



beautifulgate

Together Bringing Hope to Children & Families

Lesotho

Beautiful Times

Newsletter of Beautiful Gate Lesotho
September 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 the value of being **Christ-Centred**

This month's Articles:

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Welsh 3000- 15 Peak hike
7 hikers set out to raise funds for Beautiful Gate Lesotho.

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Year of consolidation continues
Services part of consolidation process

Birthdays birthdays!

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With gratitude

To staff and friends

Welsh 3000 -

The 15 peak Hike

Dear friends and supporters,

Greetings to you as we welcome in Spring this week! Green shoots push through our lawn and buds appear on the trees here at Beautiful Gate. We look forward to our first rains and the warming up of our baby houses.

We begin this newsletter with a wonderful story of how the efforts and heart of one person has resulted in a significant partnership between numerous people in the UK and Beautiful Gate Lesotho. Let Matt share his story:

"In June this year I set out with 6 friends from London to the Welsh mountains. Our objective was to climb the "Welsh 3000s" – the 15 Welsh mountains above 3000 feet - within 2 days. After 22 hours of walking, scrambling and climbing we had achieved our goal – we had just raised £10,000 for Beautiful Gate.

Seven months earlier I had been in Lesotho with a trip organised by my church (River Church, Maidenhead UK). Whilst in Maseru we spent a couple of days at Beautiful Gate. Some of my friends had visited a couple of years back and had even helped clear the land for the new buildings. I quickly saw why this was so dear to their hearts. It was wonderful to play with the babies and to be mobbed by the pre-school children.



James, Etienne, Matt O, Tim, Matt D (Anthony took photo)

As a Father of 2 children under 3 years old, I felt such mixed emotions: hope, helplessness, homesickness, to name a few... and I was compelled to do something to support Ray, Sue and the team and set a personal goal of raising enough money to run Beautiful Gate for 1 month.

There are countless "good causes" to which people can give their time and money. Personally I was struck by two things that motivated me to do something to help Beautiful Gate:

1. *I believe that if Jesus was here today he would be amongst the vulnerable and needy. The babies that Beautiful Gate care for are abandoned and affected by HIV – how more vulnerable and needy could you be?*
2. *I am inspired by Ray, Sue and the team – that they are undaunted by obstacles and relentlessly pursue their ambition to care.*

I decided to base the fundraising effort on a physical challenge – the Welsh 3000s as described above. I nagged some of my friends to join me and set an initial target of £5000. Including the UK tax benefits of Gift Aid, we actually raised over £10,000, mainly through a large number of small donations.

I was humbled by the response to our appeal with a huge number of people giving so generously. A secondary benefit was that many people became aware of and

interested in Beautiful Gate and I was able to talk to them about my time there. We also had a great time completing the challenge (despite the pain and blisters) and a fantastic sense of achievement!

I would like to encourage more people to set up a fundraising challenge for Beautiful Gate and would therefore like to share some of the elements that worked well with our "campaign".

PS: See these tips on last page Matt Oldham (Maidenhead, UK.)

Since our establishment in June 2001, we have seen how people have used traditional and not so traditional means (like this one) to raise awareness of and give support to Beautiful Gate Lesotho. We are thankful to all of you who have been involved with us over the years and hope you are as inspired by this project as we have been.

Perhaps you have an idea of how to support us? Please let us know.

Well done intrepid hikers and may your blisters heal enough for you to take on your next challenge.

Thank you!

Year of consolidation continues



Andrew (Aussie Volunteer) turns on the power

Beautiful Gate Value of being "Christ Centred"

Our lives and conduct will be in line with His Word. We are a faith-driven organisation

As shared in our previous newsletter, we are using 2008 as a year of consolidation and putting our structures and personnel in place to enable us to look at further growth in 2009. One part of this practical strategy is to get utilities set up on our property.

The 3 major utilities needed were water supply, electricity (we have been using a generator since moving in June last year)

and sewerage removal. Praise God the water and electricity are in. We await further work for the sewerage need to be done.

The picture left shows the "turning on" of electricity! This may seem a minor thing to some, but it is a BIG victory for us as we have waited over a year for this to take place and it has cost us heavily to run the generator.

We thank God we have the

generator though as there are "power outages" every day for up to 3 hours in Lesotho. These services can be so taken for granted in more developed countries, but are very much appreciated here.

Consolidation of our vision and future work is also still in process as we look forward to 2009. Being focused on those things will be critical for us to be effective in our work.

Birthdays, birthdays everywhere!

Having between 35 to 40 children under the age of 5 in residence means we have many birthdays. Like all children, ours at Beautiful Gate, love to celebrate and as can be seen in the pictures, love their cake as well.

We see the birthdays as a simple act of making a fuss of a child and giving them a sense of value and dignity as they live with us. And besides it's fun for us all as well ☺



What a cool cake for us all!



Wow that tastes good!

Basotho Staff

As mentioned in our previous newsletter the byline under our logo "Together bringing hope to children and families" is an integral part of our mission. Our local staff numbers have grown to close on 60. Each of these dedicated staff has acute financial challenges and many commit themselves to the care of our children despite nominal payments. It is our desire to see a program set up where we

raise funds to pay the staff better salaries and enable them to take care of their own families. Watch this space as we plan towards this and please consider getting involved in uplifting their situations. Thank you!



Training and Developing

As part of our ongoing plan to train and develop our staff and organisation, we have recently experienced 2 different and special days.

Firstly, we recently equipped all of our buildings with fire safety extinguishers and safety blankets and embarked on a training day for our local staff. The day was greeted by much anticipation and excitement, as well as some fear as many had never done this before.

After lectures on the use of the equipment the staff was given a chance to try their hand at using the equipment. Much fun was experienced by all as they learnt vital information to provide better care for our children. The picture below shows the staff in action!



Staff Fire fighting training

Fish introduced into ponds

A couple of days before the first day of Spring, we introduced a first batch of fish into our 3 ponds at Beautiful Gate. We are hoping these fish (and ducks to follow) will add to the welcoming atmosphere at our centre as well as provide a small income for Beautiful Gate when the fish and ducks are harvested in the future.

At this time the fish are still small (and ducks are still to come) but hopefully will grow and also provide fun and a learning experience for all of our children at and visiting our Care Centre.

Showing the children the ponds being stocked with fish



Beautiful Gate Basotho Staff profile

58 staff

6 male

52 female

Care staff

4 Team leaders

1 Play therapist

1 Nurse

28 Care Givers (shifts)

3 Cleaners

4 cooks

2 laundry staff

Admin staff

1 Project manager

1 bookkeeper

1 supervisor

1 household manager

Maintenance crew

1 Supervisor

2 Maintenance

1 Gardener

1 Driver

Pre-school

1 Administrator

4 Teachers

Family situations

15 single

29 married

2 separated

12 widowed

160 dependants and children

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Tips from Matt Oldham for fundraising idea from Page 1:

Cut through – There are so many calls on our charitable giving that it is important to make an impact with your fundraising marketing. Make it personal and interesting. I set up a simple website (www.15peaks4bg.co.uk) which cost £5.99 for the URL plus a few hours of my time.

Communication – We sent a link to the website with a short introductory email to our entire address books 3 weeks before the event. We sent 2 more chaser emails prior to the event and a further email after the event (N.B. 15% of giving came after the event.)

Convenience – Make it easy to give. I used an online giving site (JustGiving.com) that allows people to donate online and claim back Gift Aid tax relief. This worked really well for my “target base” but may not for yours – just think about how can you make it simple for donors to give.

Collective – I could not have done this challenge on my own – the walk or the fundraising. Inspire your friends to help you and share the challenge!

Current needs

In our last newsletter we listed our needs. Below is a list of our continuing needs as well as capital costs needed. Items that have been pledged or paid for previously have been lined through. We are encouraged that various items have been covered

Operational costs for per annum : (based on average of 40 children in residential care)

Child-care and salaries	R1, 200,000
Admin and overheads	R 200,000
Maintenance	R 70,000
Pre-school:	
Meals for children (Per annum)	R 30,000
Salaries (Per Annum)	R 62,000
Activities (Per Annum)	R 20,000
Landscaping:	
Ride-on lawn mower	R 24, 000
Paving	R 50,000
Long term Sewerage solution	R 150,000
Plants, trees, grass etc	R 30,000
General maintenance	R 50,000

eNew Vehicle

Bus for staff	R 250,000
(Possible donation for bus in October)	
Vehicle expenses	R 60,000

Building Phase 2

Fence for “Beautiful Gardens”	R 50, 000
Skills and shop building	R120, 000
Apartments	R330, 000
Training centre	R600, 000

Future development of Beautiful Gardens

(Watch this space!)

Sustainability planning

As we have grown rapidly as an organisation and we have taken time this year to “catch our breath” and consolidate, we have seen a need to develop a plan to enable our work to be financially sustainable.

With this in mind we are trusting God to help us develop a marketing plan to enable supporters to partner with us in this vital work with children and families. Initially a team from the US will be visiting us in October to be exposed to our work and see how they can help to look at ways to raise regular income for our ministry.

Continued Thankfulness

We continue to give thanks to God and all of you who have, in one way or another, been part of the success of Beautiful Gate over the years. We realise the tremendous impact your partnership with us has made and we hope you are aware that you share in the joy and rewards that come with giving a second chance to these children. Thank you very much for your much needed and appreciated involvement and commitment to our ministry.

Special thanks are due to Benno (from Canada) and the management team and staff of Beautiful Gate Lesotho, who ran the ministry in the absence of the founders Ray and Sue. The latter were on a much needed and fruitful PR and R & R trip around the US from May to July and the team at Beautiful Gate handled the challenges and every day running of the work with diligence and sensitivity.

With many thanks to all and glory to God,
Ray, Sue, Beautiful Gate staff and children.