



*This Thanksgiving, we invite you
to join us in celebrating
the harvest...*



Lesotho, Southern Africa

Listen to the tick-tock. It's barely perceptible above the din on Bay Street, moans at the gas pump, the clatter of Thanksgiving plates.

But time is running out. Global food prices are steadily rising, and the poor are suffering most. In Africa, roughly one in three people are cutting back on meat, vegetables—entire meals so they can afford just one bowl.

August and Anita Basson feel the urgency in their bones. And they represent a growing team of AIM missionaries on the front lines of agricultural ministry.

“This is a tool God has given us to reach out to unchurched, undisciplined people,” says August.

Where they work, in the remote highlands of Lesotho, misguided farming practices and bad weather have turned once luxuriant fields into wasteland. Seven years ago the Bassons learned conservation techniques that restore soil fertility. They assembled a team of nationals to teach these principles and today Basotho farmers are witnessing a miracle.


“The average crop yield in Lesotho is 400 kg per hectare,” says Basson. “We are now seeing two to four—even six tonnes per hectare.”

But Basson says this isn't the real success story; “it's people living with dignity,” he says. People like Michael Molahlehi.

In 1994 the young Basotho farmer got drunk at a local bar.



Small farm homes dot Lesotho's mountainous landscape.



**AIM missionary
August Basson
and his teammates
are introducing
better farming
methods to farmers
in Lesotho.
As crop yields
steadily grow,
they're seeing God
change lives.**

A Life Changed: God used Basson's agriculture seminars to get the attention of Micheal Molahlehi, a convicted murderer and local drunk.



Stumbling home, Molahlehi passed a small church where a youth meeting was taking place. A fight ensued. And before he could be stopped, Molahlehi drew out his knife, senselessly killing a man.

He spent eight years in prison before returning to the village, an outcast. Molahlehi supported an alcohol addiction by dealing drugs. He slept around, alienating his wife and three kids. But one day, hearing a missionary was teaching people to farm, he decided to investigate.

"Soon he was there at every one of our Monday seminars," says Basson. "He was touched by God and his life turned around 180 degrees."

Today the gruff, middle-aged family man is Basson's good friend and trusted colleague, supervising the work of 40 farmers.

"People say," says Basson "if this man can change like this, God can do anything!"

Molahlehi is one of many Basotho now living in dignity and hope. The Basson's ministry has proven so successful that in 2008, associated farmers will sell 30 tonnes of surplus crops to the U.N.'s World Food Programme, generating revenue for low-income farmers and feeding Lesotho's most vulnerable.

This Thanksgiving, please give to AIM's agriculture fund. And join farmers like August and Anita in celebrating the harvest.

Today
Basotho
farmers are
witnessing
a miracle.

To make a contribution...

Please use the enclosed response card and return envelope to send your gift to the AIM Agriculture Fund.

All gifts are tax deductible.

At left, Basotho farmers threshing sorghum.

