



The Latest News from August and Anita Basson

January 2009

Good Bye to Tebellong



After 15 years at Tebellong we eventually had to say goodbye to a very special place.

On 12 September we left Tebellong and moved to Maphutseng, where we have temporarily moved into the oldest-standing house, built by the first missionaries.

Tebellong remains an important part of the Growing Nations work and ministry and we have left behind a core team led with passion by Letlala Joshua Ramatlali.

It has been wonderful to see how the team have all developed and to realise it was the perfect time to move. The Agriculture has struggled a bit, but the team are doing wonderfully well and we are so proud of them.

Agriculture News

At this stage we have the best crops in the whole country and this is no understatement. Praise God for the testimony that goes from our fields.

We hope to touch many lives through this but are tied up in a bit of a drought, so please pray and ask God to provide us with the rain we need.



The 2008 harvest provided us with the best results to date with yields between 2 and 6 tons

per hectare, with 30 tons being sold to the UN World Food Programme for distribution within Lesotho. Praise God for this.

Maphutseng Developments

Infrastructure

We are currently busy with the overall planning of the development of the Maphutseng infrastructure. We have already restored some of the old buildings and considerable progress has been made on the future classrooms.



Team

The Lord has given us a wonderful team of people to give hands and feet to the vision.

- **John and Gillian McCartney**, from Australia, are in control of finances and administration.
- **Mike and Julie Francis** from Bristol (UK), have come to help for 8 months with the practical work. Their two children, Sam and Anna, work just as hard as they do.
- **Stefan and Chrisna Boshoff** from Kloof (SA) join us in February. Stefan will be the project manager.
- **The Dalton family** from the USA will join us in February finances permitting. Fred will help with the practical work relating to the development of the buildings.

- **Jaap and Ilona Knot** from Holland. Jaap will be doing training and networking for us on the Maseru side.

Praise God for the team and pray for our team building week during 17-20 March.

Curriculum



One of the key aspects that must be developed during the following year is an appropriate curriculum. Much of the material already exists and the challenge will be to give it to our farmers in a workable format. This includes the spiritual as well as the farming divisions.

Finances

On 7 February we are having a meeting with the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) from Rome. If all goes well they may give us up to \$200 000 towards the training. They are unable to give us anything for the infrastructure but it will enable us to get our training program off the ground.

On 25 February we have group of people coming from AIM Canada with the possibility of getting funding from CIDA (Canadian Government).



Pray with us for these meetings. We are working on our finances as hard as we can, but we also have a promise from God to keep moving with what we have and He will provide when the time comes.

Financially, we are still OK for the project until June.

Discipleship through Agriculture

In Matthew 28 Jesus tells us to disciple the nations. We use agriculture to execute this command of Jesus. By promoting "Farming God's Way" we are also carrying out the creation command to care for God's creation.

Lesotho

The Lesotho Evangelical Church, for whom we work in Lesotho, decided to use "Farming God's Way" (FGW - conservation farming with an evangelical input) as an official part of their outreach work in Lesotho.

Their vision for Lesotho is to train ministers with the aim of implementing FGW in their congregations and so make a difference on a practical level in their lives. Furthermore, we shall equip groups of farmers by disciplining them and teaching them FGW.

We are already busy co-operating with the Agricultural Department on a local and national level.

The Lord has truly opened the door for us to make a difference in Lesotho. We believe that Maphutseng will become a place which will influence people on a national level.



Africa Here We Come

We have always believed that the Lord is going to use us on a wider scale than just in Lesotho and the doors have recently opened for us in Uganda, Chad, Kenya and Tanzania.

From all these countries we have received invitations from Bible Schools, Theological Schools and individual missionaries. Most of the training facilities are already offering agricultural courses and it will be a wonderful opportunity to share with them the principals of "Farming God's Way".

In the future we would like to bring the students to Maphutseng for intensive training, but this can only happen when everything is in place with the training facilities. The wonderful thing is that in all cases there will be good follow-up and within a year or two, all the students will be serving and thousands of people can be influenced through this. We are truly grateful for this opportunity.

Our New Home

Good and steady progress is being made on our new home. The builder is suppose to hand over the house 20 March, so we will see.



We have given him a bit of grace not to rush things. Please pray with us that this will happen so we are able to move into the house no later than May, before winter sets in.



We hope to be able to receive some of you in our house soon. So if you have plans to visit just let us know.



Family Life



It's not always easy to start at the beginning again, but the opportunities are great. As Anita puts it, "We are camping at the moment". Everything is temporary and the visitors increase daily. The most wonderful thing is to know that we are in the Lord's plan for our lives.

We have a deep sense of satisfaction and happiness in the work that we are doing and strongly believe that God has called us to it and is firmly behind all of it.

We are really enjoying living in Maphutseng and whilst it is very different from Tebellong, it is in a sense more satisfying.

The other big change over recent months has been our boys, August Jnr and Gustav, going to school in Kenya. Africa Inland Mission (AIM) has a wonderful school there which is very affordable and we are grateful for the opportunity that our children have to study there.

Academically they are doing well and both have a great average. Emotionally they had it hard for the first few months, but following the Christmas break things are going very well.

We all realised it will be hard for the first year but we can also see that they are developing both spiritually and emotionally.

Anne' is doing really well at home with her schooling but, unsurprisingly, she misses her brothers. Please pray that she will grow as well and for God to give us guidance on whether or not we should send her to Kenya too.

We can see God working in our kids so thank you for your prayers and also to those who have made contributions to their school fees. It is much appreciated.

Prayer Requests

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you all, organisations, churches and individuals for your continued spiritual and financial support.

We would value your prayers for the work of Growing Nations over the coming weeks and months as the project continues to develop, especially for:

Thanks -

- To the Lord for all the doors that have opened for us in Lesotho and in the rest of Africa.
- For the team that God has built around us and the team in Tebellow.
- For the fantastic harvest in 2008 and for the impact that Growing Nations has had on peoples lives.

The Project -

- Safety as I travel to Kenya, CHAD and Uganda in early/mid February.
- People's lives in these countries would be touched and changed. We are also looking for people from those countries to bring to Lesotho for intensive training. Ask God to give us the right people.
- Rain and optimum weather conditions to enable the crops to develop and for yields to be maximised.
- Wisdom to use the opportunities we have in the best way and to focus on the things that are truly important. We often feel overwhelmed.
- The Boshoffs and the Daltons who are preparing to join us.
- Finances, to get the project going and the meetings with IFAD and CIDA.
- Good relationships in the team. Counting our Basotho fellow workers, there are 6 nationalities represented.
- The health of our team.

Personally for the family -

- For our kids, for protection and a closer walk with God and for Anne' at home with us in Lesotho missing her brothers.
- For Anita and myself for a great relationship between us and for spiritual and emotional growth. The move has been stressful but we are doing OK.

God Bless

August and Anita Basson, Growing Nations

New Mailing Address

Please note our new mailing address is:

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