

What poverty means in practice

In past editions of e-MOHO we have explained that the LINK is involved in helping child headed households to be more self-sufficient in providing vegetables by helping them to build key hole gardens. You might imagine that the staff in Lesotho have grown accustomed to the desperate plight of so many children, yet sometimes they see things which move them deeply. What follows is the experience of one of our senior staff members, Martin Habaka, in his own words....

It was during the second phase of the Child Headed Household project at Ha Jane (a rural village) of building key hole gardens. Late afternoon we went to the other house to build and when we got there, there were two houses build with stones but the other one had fallen down. They were left with a very small one. It is a family of four people, mother, one girl aged 5 and two boys aged 7 and 16. The seven year boy is in his first year at school and the brother is in class seven (last year at primary school).

I then saw a young boy polishing his school shoes, I approached him trying to talk to him but as we were talking he was responding in a way that showed that he was not happy. He was also trying to hide the shoe he was polishing. I then discovered that he was polishing the shoes with a tooth brush and using Vaseline and then wiping off with a small piece of cloth.

Later when we were still busy building key hole garden, it became cold and I saw him putting on a jacket and when the sun goes down it was very cold and he took off the jacket and gave it to his younger sister and he only had a short sleeves T shirt. Amazingly this was the only house hold that had collected enough materials for the key hole garden. Before we leave the place going back to Maseru, I bought them shoe polish and brush hoping that I will have chance to meet with the mother but they were not there.

I visited them on one weekend taking some clothes for them and sadly found that the mother had left the two boys on their own as she went to South Africa to look for a job (taking her daughter with her). She managed to get money for transport only and had to share the food that they had in the house so that she can have something to eat while still looking for a job. When I got there, the boys were left with only the maize meal and told me that they only had cabbage and 500g of beans. The mother had gone for a week. It was my first time to get inside the house only to find out that the house is empty with few old blankets at one corner and the other side was containers that they use to fetch water, three pots and few plates.

On the way back, I visited the leader of the support group who helps the Link in identifying orphans to talk about the situation and she said that there are two households that needs serious assistance but the one that I visited was worse and showed that the other one the problem is that the grandmother is always drunk and is not easily approached. She even refused to collect materials for the key hole garden.+

We thank God that the LINK is able to do something to help children like this and that the hearts of our staff are not hardened. Please pray that the project will be able to expand so that more children can be reached.



The children's house



Its entire contents



Equipping Lay People for Ministry

Imagine living in a parish where you rarely see a priest, either because your home is in a remote, inaccessible part of the country or because there are simply not enough priests to cover all the parishes. Sounds unlikely? Not in Lesotho which is why the work of the Lesotho Diocese's Christian Education Department is so crucial. Along with a small team Fr. Joseph Morenammele has been running an Advanced Lay Ministers training course to train lay ministers.



So how does it work? It is a four phase course and the first three parts have been conducted three times across the three Lesotho archdeaconries reaching a good number of people. Inevitably a number of participants have dropped out by the third round, as they realised they were not suitable candidates in terms of their educational qualifications.



What does it cover? The course has covered doctrine, Christian leadership, New Testament, church growth and preaching. The fourth and final round of the course will be held in spring drawing all the lay ministers from the different archdeaconries together. That phase will be a review of all the material covered and an assessment, at the end of which there will be a graduation ceremony and the lay ministers awarded a Ministry Equipping Certificate.



Who are these lay ministers? What is their background? In the next issue of e-MOHO we hope to bring you photos of the graduation ceremony and interviews with some of the lay ministers. Meanwhile please pray for them as they reach this latest stage of their training for their ministry.



Canoe-dling Afloat!

You may be familiar with photos of the many youngsters participating in outdoor activities through the various programmes which the LINK runs. But this photo shows an imaginative use of canoeing by the LINK staff as an income generation side-line for the LINK!! Wedding receptions at the LINK site have been popular for several years because of its attractive location but now the chance to have your wedding photos taken whilst afloat is proving to be very popular! Please note that even in Lesotho sometimes it rains on the big day!



PRAYING FOR LESOTHO

Please continue to pray for Lesotho as the country goes to the polls next month. The election has been brought forward because of political turbulence. Please pray for a peaceful democratic process whose outcome will be accepted by all the people.

Give thanks for the partnership between the Christian Education Department in Lesotho and Cranmer Hall and for the opportunities it gives to develop and enrich the education of both lay and ordained ministers in Lesotho.

Give thanks for the successful camps run by the LINK for Child Headed Households and pray that the theme *ōi am specialō* will take root in their young hearts.

Please pray for wisdom for the Durham end of the LINK as we seek to raise a fresh awareness of the LINK across the diocese.

Contacts

Rob & Margaret Bianchi 0191 4170852

Email dleo.bianchi@tiscali.co.uk

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