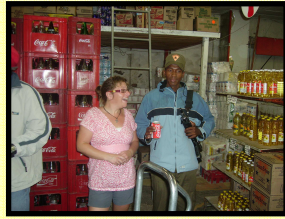


Family Life

We have had a busy month as a family. Suzie Dobson came to spend a week with us, and on the same day and after much prayer and paperwork, Rorisang joined our family. She is nineteen months old and a wee character!



Then, at the end of the month Auntie Beth came to meet her new niece and spend some time with us.



Mindset and Attitude

Having been here for some time now, I am continually reviewing and adapting what I think and my understanding of African culture and the way things work. Recently, I have been very struck by planning. In the west, we plan for a life lasting seventy plus years, worrying about pensions and preparing and saving so that we can live comfortably in our twilight years. Here in Lesotho, the average life expectancy is now 35 years. There is no such planning. Youth who stay in school and tertiary education until they are in their late twenties are looking at seven or eight years in their career (on average). I am challenged sometimes when working with people to encourage them to plan for the future - to put some aside so they can buy more next month or to save so that they can improve and invest. I struggle with the appropriateness of this typically Western mindset, but it is the one that I understand that might help break a cycle. Any advice or thoughts on this would be appreciated.

Prayer Points

- For boys who are abusing substances on the street
- For our family as Rorisang continues to settle
- For staffing at the unit and the issue around this
- For our ongoing safety in our home and out and about

Gardens and Doors



In answer to the plea in last month's newsletter, we were able to utilise a team

from Johannesburg who spent a day digging and preparing three beds at Tsepiso's home. In these we have planted moroho, spinach and potatoes.



Another team who were visiting asked if they could do anything to help. I suggested that they might fix up Matsebang's door, which has been propped up on no hinges since I knew her. They happily agreed.

Four weeks ago, Tsebang moved off the street and went back home. When I asked him what had made him go back home, he answered that the door had been fixed. Incredibly, something as simple as this made all the difference to him and it has taken me ten months to work it out! Who knows what he and his family were living with and enduring because of an unsecure door.



The Unit

Tsebang spends most of his days at the unit and in the new year we hope to help him go to school

Tankiso and Tsepiso are both doing well, and both have end of year exams in the next couple of weeks. Tankiso's report from the school he attended before he lived on the street placed him continually first in his class so we have high hopes for him.

I like to think of his mother looking down on him and praising God for where he now is and for how well he is doing.

In the near future, we hope to be able to take another boy in to the unit. Our biggest concern is that he is into substance abuse and this will affect him in ways we will need support with. I am looking into working with the Blue Cross on this.

For more information and contact details, check out www.robysinlesotho.wordpress.com