

MORIJA TIMES



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“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.” Psalm 125:2

Dear Friends,

The mountains are never far from you in Lesotho. Even in the lowlands around Morija there are majestic plateaus rising up and providing scenic views of the landscape below. Just as Lesotho is completely surrounded by South Africa, so her people are surrounded by natural mountain fortresses which proved so instrumental in helping the country remain independent.

This element of being surrounded is what comes to my mind in looking back over nearly 22 years here in Lesotho. During my sojourn here I have indeed been surrounded by God’s love, faithfulness and protection. I have been surrounded by prayerful support from family, friends, churches, readers of my newsletters and staff members of Global Ministries. And I have been surrounded by the love, faith and friendship of the Basotho people, especially among those with whom I have worked with in the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA). Thank you to all of you!

These last few months have been a time of farewells and lasting memories. At the end of May the LECSA’s Morija Theological School came to the end of its academic year and it was time to say goodbye to the students who have been my next door neighbors for the past six and a half years. I’ve especially enjoyed attending chapel services with them and being blessed through the music of the school’s choir (*right*).



Back at the end of April the

LECSA Synod held its annual meeting and I was given an opportunity to bid farewell to the delegates. More recently, I was invited by the Executive Committee of the church, which governs the operations of the church on behalf of the Synod, to receive their thanks for my service, and I, in turn, expressed by thankfulness to them for having the opportunity to work, walk and live alongside the church and its members these many years.

One of the benefits of working in Maseru, the capital city, is that I frequently run into former students from my years of teaching at LECSA's Masitise High School. I'm especially fond of the group of students I taught for five years from 1997-2001. Earlier this month I was surrounded by a number of them as we reunited and relived memories of our Masitise years. I also heard firsthand what they are now doing. I was impressed by their accomplishments and felt extremely blessed and honored to have this time with them again before I leave.



almost two dozen pupils. This year, as shown in the picture, the enrolment has exceeded sixty. And it will almost certainly be larger again next year.

It is hard for me to think of Lesotho without thinking of, to my mind, the most scenic place in the country. This would be Maletsunyane Falls near the mountain town of Semonkong. I've visited this place more than any other in the country and have spent many an hour sitting in silent sublime wonder at the beauty of this place. One cannot help but feel humbled and admire this awesome and powerful display of God's glorious creation.



No matter where we go, how far we travel or how alone we may feel, we, as people of faith, are always surrounded by God's love. We are also surrounded by the faithful witness of those who have gone before us, those with us today and those following in our footsteps. As we move on in our lives, may these words from Hebrews encourage us: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."* (12:1-3).

Yours in Christ,

Mark Behle
3220 W. Taro Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85027

