

FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

newsletter



FALL/WINTER, 1988

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Associated Press

NATIVE DRESS — Pope John Paul II dons a traditional Basotho hat and blanket presented to him by youths at a rally at Pitso Ground in Maseru, Lesotho, during his African tour. The pontiff visited the tiny mountain kingdom to beatify Africa's first saint, Father Joseph Gerard, who is believed to have restored the sight of a blind Basotho girl 14 years after he died. The girl saw a vision of Father Gerard in a dream.

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MEMBERSHIP

by Don Spicer

Recently Friends of Lesotho passed a milestone ... 200 members. Now for the bad news. 1988 dues are still needed from approximately 50 members. Please!!! If you have not paid dues for calendar year 1988, **DO SO NOW!!!** We can only afford to send the next newsletter and directory to those who pay their dues.

On the subject of dues, 1989 is here. We are really trying to increase our activity as a group, including expanding our outreach to Lesotho, and need the \$10 each year. We are really doing our very best to continue to justify your support.

Basotho in the United States as students are automatically included on our membership roles, and we recently learned of 75 new students. They have been sent complementary copies of our newsletters and directories. We hope to keep this list as current as possible, so if you have any knowledge of Basotho in your area, please let us know.

We continue to solicit new memberships from all sources, and the Peace Corps office in Maseru continues to provide all returning volunteers with information about FOL. We have also automated all our membership lists, and are able to sort them in a variety of ways. If you would like a specialized list, please let us know.

Regarding Dollars and cents. As of September 30, 1988 we had a working capital balance of 1,725 dollars and 87 cents. We also have a separate account of \$2,500 for special development assistance projects which can also draw from our operating balance. We are now in good shape. But we still need your support.

LESOTHO MEDICAL LIBRARY UPDATE by Kekeletso Lowe

(Editor's Note: In the last issue we reported that **Ralph Yodiaken** and **Naomi Baumslag** had identified the need for medical literature in Lesotho and had sent an initial box of basic texts and journals. However, their efforts had been slowed due to lack of manpower and funds. **Kekeletso Lowe** has been working to get this project off the ground. She gives us this report.)

We have been able to establish that the medical journals will indeed be useful to the medical community in Lesotho. We are finally going to have a contact person in the Lesotho Ministry who will be committed to this service.

At this stage, we are grateful to **Mrs Thahane** for donating her collection of journals; enough to make a small shipment. She has been able to provide us with information since she was once part of the medical community in Lesotho.

Once we get this particular shipment off, we will start working on the next one by allocating duties to volunteers (as members of a committee) for collection, shipping issues and coordination of related activities. I will be calling those of you who have expressed interest in this project.

**THIS SPACE
IS RESERVED
FOR YOUR
CONTRIBUTION**

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

VISITORS

The Embassy has over the reporting period been honoured by two important visits from Lesotho

The Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. L.B.B.J. Machobane is on a tour of North America from November 13th to December 15th 1988. His first week was spent in the Washington DC area between the 13th and 20th of November, 1988. The purpose of his visit is three-fold:

- o To consult with donors such as ADF, Ford Foundation, etc. as well as development cooperation partners about future forms of cooperation.

- o To consult with the USAID, World Bank, and the CIDA on current and future education projects.

- o To visit selected universities in the U.S. to meet faculty members and all Basotho students in those universities.

The Hon. Minister visited Atlanta, Tuskegee (AL), Berea (KY), Athens and Columbus (OH), Amherst and Boston, and will end the U.S. tour in New York where he will also visit the U.N..

Between 11 and 15 Dec he will be in Canada where he is expected to see the CIDA officials. The Senior Planning Officer of the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Mathabang Makakole accompanied the Minister for DC meetings and has since gone back to Lesotho.

The Honourable Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, Dr. M.M. Safali was in the U.S. between 21 and 24 Nov 88. The objective of his mission was to talk to U.S. Government, private, corporate as well as institutional officials and donor agencies regarding the coming Donor Conference in Geneva 12-13 Dec.

In the DC area the Minister had meetings with the ADF, Africare, World Bank, Equator Bank, USAID and the State Department. He also visited New York and Canada. A Senior Official in the Ministry of

Planning, Mrs. Majoele Makhakhe accompanied the Minister.

Other important officials from Lesotho who were here on a training program paid a courtesy call at the embassy. These were Messrs. K.M. Moshoeshoe of the Central Bank in Lesotho, Thabo Nyepetsi from the Budget Office of the Ministry of Finance and Ms. Binnie Mochochoko also from the Finance Ministry.

DELTON MOTLALEPULA ALLEN HOSTS A BIRTHDAY DINNER FOR MOM IN KEYSER, WV

by the embassy staff

Delton Motlalepula Allen went to Lesotho around 1980 as a Peace Corps Volunteer and has been there ever since. He now has taken a job with the USAID sponsored LAPIS Project as a District Administrator.

Customarily in Lesotho most children are named after major events that happened at the time of their birth or named after their ancestors or close relatives. Motlalepula literally translated means "Rainmaker."

How Delton got his name, I don't know. What I know for sure is that in the two occasions that he came to the DC area it rained despite the long droughts that we have been experiencing. In fact I do recall Delton telling me that the first time he got to Lesotho, it rained. I dare say that it certainly must have rained again during the week of Dec 6th when he got back to Lesotho.

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Delton is such a remarkable person that it does not take one more than a few seconds to feel at home with him. How much this has to do with his obvious interest to live in Lesotho I can't say, given the fact that the Basotho are renowned for their hospitality. At least one certain thing is that he and Lesotho are on the same wavelength.

On 29 Oct 88, Delton and other family members hosted a covered-dish dinner at the Piedmont Mid-Rise Community Hall in Keyser, WV where Mrs. Pauline Allen was guest of honor. She was celebrating her 65th birthday.

In attendance were all her friends and relatives including members of the staff of the Embassy. This turned out to be a very memorable occasion where Delton more than proved himself worthy of the Lesotho Ambassador.

The literature display in the hall together with posters and photographs attracted even the embassy staff who looked pretty much like tourists themselves.

The hospitality of the little town of Keyser proved to be pretty much like that of the Basotho. It was a pity we had to come back to DC the same evening. It was obvious there was still a lot of partying to do if we had the energy. We all enjoyed ourselves nevertheless.

continued next column

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR FOL

In its membership drive for the Friends of Lesotho (FOL) the Embassy initiated an exchange of letters, telephone numbers and newsletters between FOL, the Center for International Education in Massachusetts (who are sub-contracted by the BANFES Project), the LAPIS Project in Arizona, the American AG International also in Arizona and the Academy for International Education, who are based in DC.

Both the Center and LAPIS keep an up-to-date list of Basotho students in education and agriculture training respectively. LAPIS also has a regular newsletter.

All the students and friends of Lesotho should feel free to keep in touch with these network of contacts and contribute articles. FOL is in a position, particularly to act as a unifying factor for all of them.

More and more addresses are coming through. It is always useful to bring the existence of FOL to your friends or people who have anything to do with Lesotho, and also to ask them to submit their names and forwarding addresses as well as sending their contribution to help with the ever escalating mailing costs.

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Congratulations to Rich Bauer and Marguerite Buck who are proud parents of a beautiful baby, well we don't really know what it is , abuti kapa ausi, or what its lebitso is, but we know its beautiful.

The following are the addresses of the respective organizations that I referred to above.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ATTN: Mr. Fred Munger
UMASS BANFES Project Coordinator
Hills House South
Univ. of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
413-545-0465
Telex 955355

ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL DEV. (AED)
(BANFES CONTRACTOR)
1255 23rd St., NW #400
Washington, D.C. 20037
202-862-8815

LAPIS Project
ATTN: dr. Amir I. Ajami

LAPIS Training and Campus Coord.
University of Arizona
1520 E. Mabel
Tucson, AZ 85721

AMERICAN AG INTERNATIONAL
2201 N. Indian Ruins Road
P.O. Box 32048
Tucson, AZ 85751

AFRICAN - AMERICAN INSTITUTE
833 U.N. Plaza
New York, NY 10017
212-949-6429
Telex 666565

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND THE LEC
by Rosemarie Clark Faulkner
RPCV Lesotho '71-'73

On November 10, 1988, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Division of Overseas Ministries hosted a one-day Lesotho seminar in Indianapolis, Indiana. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss current issues in Lesotho and how that affects the Lesotho Evangelical Church (LEC).

Author **Robert Edgar** lectured on Contemporary Issues in Lesotho, prefacing with a brief history of the country and moving on to the government since Independence in 1967, the relatively peaceful overthrow of **Leabua Jonathan** in 1986 and subsequent military rule. Mr Edgar further commented on the nation's deteriorating relations with South Africa and the economic repercussions of possible U.S. sanctions against that country. Incidentally, Mr Edgar is author of Prophets with Honor.

A video, "Songs of the Adventurers," focused on the plight of Basotho migrant workers as depicted in their song and dance. This was followed by an interesting slide presentation about the LEC Commission of Inquiry. The Commission found that all over Lesotho the concerns of the people are the same.

Is there any "project" which could be initiated to advance the role of women in Lesotho? The LEC is a male-dominated church in a female-dominated society. Are there any useful relationships the Christian Church could pursue with Friends of Lesotho? Should they sponsor someone from Lesotho to come to the U.S. to learn word processing skills to take back to Lesotho? Can the Church change the white dominance in the Church in Lesotho? These questions were raised in Indianapolis.

The LEC is a significant Church, a significant part of the governed people, and there are great expectations for change in the LEC.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
by Scott Brumburgh

It's become evident to me as our membership nears two hundred that we are attracting the interest of Americans who know Lesotho under a wider range of programs than I previously thought existed. In just the past few weeks alone I've been contacted by two institutions unknown to me with strong links to Lesotho, who have heard of us through FOL members, and are interested in linking up with our program.

* The Center for International Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, which sponsors Basotho college students in the U.S. under a federal entitlement program, and

* The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA, which has a partnership arrangement with the Lesotho Evangelical Church and the Christian Council of Lesotho to conduct people-to-people programs through their church systems. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

Coincidentally, I also just learned from FOL member **Bob Edgar** at Howard University that at least one Mosotho, **Bethuel Setai**, is teaching in the U.S. educational system. Mr Setai is a visiting associate professor of economics at the University of Vermont. (See his column in this issue's LESOTHO IN THE PRESS.)

This came to my attention at about the same time we received our first membership from a Mosotho college student on the West Coast, **Leisanyane Khotso**, expressing his desire not only to make contact with other Americans who know of Lesotho, but to help carry back home next year his connection with us for the benefit of others who may follow in his footsteps in the years to come.

I mention these recent contacts to say they probably represent only a portion of the many sustained contacts made between Basotho and Americans in the U.S. that have influenced FOL's efforts to create a useful and appropriate place to operate in this very special network, especially as we have sought to create our initial programs.

I therefore think you will be interested to know that our first grant program, the Lesotho Students in America Program, is targeted to meet a common need of U.S. projects which bring Basotho students and faculty here: a program to help Basotho better and more quickly adjust to living in our culture, and enriching their experience by expanding the opportunities to meet with interested Americans.

Through a 2,500.00 dollar grant from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan, arranged by the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, FOL will conduct a year-long program to support up to five Basotho students in their first year of studies at U.S. high schools or colleges. FOL will hold orientation sessions with their American sponsors, assist student travel to other U.S. cities to meet with interested FOL members and community groups, and assess the impact of the student's stay on people's understanding and attitudes toward the U.S. and Lesotho.

The year-long project will be headed by FOL member **Bill Reed** who is a training manager for Manufacturers Hanover Trust in New York City. **David Bertocci**, who directs the FOL Hospitality Program out of Alexandria, VA, will assist him.

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I expect that this is but the first of a number of efforts Friends of Lesotho will initiate or piggy-back upon with activities of members of our group and other established organizations to expand the quantity and quality of contacts between Americans and Basotho. I hope this start pleases each of you as much as it has those who worked to get this first effort off the ground.

HOSPITALITY

by Dave Bertocci

Since our beginning, the Hospitality Program has been called upon most frequently to provide information to new PCV's as they prepare to leave the U.S. for Lesotho, and we will continue this assistance to new volunteers on an individual basis as requested.

We have begun discussions with PC Washington, and have sent a representative to the most recent INTER-LOC conference to assist new volunteers during their pre-departure group training.

In conjunction with our Lesotho Students in America Program (LSAP) we are contacting Basotho students studying all over the country through assistance from Lesotho Agricultural Production and Institutional Support Project (LAPIS). From this group we plan to choose from three to five students as the first recipients of grant moneys received from the National Council of RPCV's in conjunction with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

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Through LSAP we will raise public awareness of Lesotho and the cultural values of the Basotho through meetings and discussions between the students, their hosts, and educational/community groups where the students live.

A second goal of the program is to promote understanding of developing countries and development issues. Here we plan to organize and financially support travel to U.S. cities outside the students' host areas with FOL members who will arrange meetings with other student and community groups. Results of all these meetings/discussions will be written up and published.

Lastly we are attempting to assure that all Basotho in the U.S. are personally contacted this coming Holiday Season by members of FOL.

We are seeking regional organizers of all our hospitality programs and volunteers all over the country to help. With your assistance we can really make contact and move ahead toward attaining our goals.

PUT
YOUR
PERSONAL
HERE

We recently had a nice visit with FOL member Delton Allen who was in the States on home leave. Delton, who has served in Lesotho in many capacities since 1981, was very enthusiastic about Friends of Lesotho and will be our in-country contact there.

Have you ever associated Indianapolis as a center of solidarity with the Basotho? Probably not. It's unlikely that many of Lesotho's citizens have even heard about the Indianapolis 500 or other Hoosier specialties.

Yet, on November 10, 1988, thirty persons interested in Lesotho gathered for an all-day Lesotho Seminar at the International Headquarters of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA and Canada in an Indianapolis suburb. For over twenty-five years this predominantly midwestern American mainline church has related to the lives of the Basotho through modest people-to-people programs, technical assistance and advocacy. Its institutional partners in Lesotho are the Lesotho Evangelical Church (LEC) and the Christian Council of Lesotho.

The objective of the seminar was to provide an update on the current social, political and religious developments in Lesotho.

Highlights of the meeting were:

- A lecture by Dr. Robert Edgar of Howard University titled "Contemporary Issues in Lesotho";
- Viewing of the award-winning Constant Spring Inc. video "Songs of the Adventurers" which focuses on Basotho oral poetry traditions; and
- Reports on recent developments in Lesotho's churches, especially the Lesotho Evangelical Church and the Christian Council of Lesotho.

Nearly all of the thirty participants had travelled or lived in Lesotho or at least somewhere in southern Africa. One participant was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho during the early seventies who had lost contact with the situation in Lesotho. Others came to the event from as far away as Iowa and Kentucky.

Newsletters and descriptive items on Friends of Lesotho were distributed to all participants. Everyone expressed appreciation for the networking the seminar afforded and for the possibility of future solidarity with Lesotho that the Friends of Lesotho promises.

RPCV Wisconsin PEACE CORPS Calendar

Once again the Wisconsin group has produced a calendar with photos from countries where Peace Corps Volunteers have served. This calendar is recommended highly!! Last year's calendar was very beautiful and included a photo from Lesotho. Each calendar costs \$6.50 and \$1.00 must be added to each order. Make checks payable to RPCV'S of Wisconsin c/o Rose Ann Scott, Calendar Coordinator, 2714 Oakridge Av., Madison, WI 53704

We recently received a nice postcard from Brent Schaeffer who is now with USAID on a four year assignment in Pakistan. He sends his hopes that any FOL member traveling through his new stomping ground will stop by. Brent can be reached c/o USAID/Islamabad, PSC Box 4 or 8, APO New York, NY 09614

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"South Africa: the road ahead." Africa Report, 33: 13-65, March/April 1988. A collection of articles and interviews, including a piece on U.S. media coverage of South Africa.

Suckling, John and L. White, eds. After Apartheid: Renewal of the South African Economy. London: James Currey Publ., 1988.

Tomlinson, Richard and Mark Addleson, eds. Regional Restructuring after Apartheid. Athens: Ohio University Press, 1988.

George Packer's The Village of Waiting (New York: Vintage, 1988), although set in Togo, tops this list off: profoundly engaging but never comfortable, this account by a former Peace Corps volunteer offers a sharply observed critique of "development," a portrait of an uneasy confrontation with oneself, and, from a vantage point essentially estranged, as moving and vivid an evocation of African life and lives as can be put to paper.

Congratulations to Tom Stone who was recently married to Gina _____. In true "Stoner" fashion, Tom celebrated his wedding with a little of the old black jack and needless to say failed to break the bank. However, when contacted recently, Tom claimed that although he had lost a few dollars, he had finally struck the jackpot. Isn't that cute?

PROGRAMS FOR PCV'S AND RPCV'S

by Cory Bent

RPCV/Lesotho 1982-1984

Friends of Lesotho provides a forum for programs available to Peace Corps Volunteers and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Inclusion of these programs here does not necessarily mean endorsement.

Two-Year Scholarship for RPCV's at The Monterey Institute.

The Monterey Institute has full- and half-tuition, two-year scholarships (\$8700 - \$17,400) exclusively for RPCV's who have completed their full term of service. They offer the following professional graduate programs:

- o International Management (MBA)
- o Intl. Policy Studies (MA)
- o Intl. Public Admin. (MPA)
- o Language Studies (MA)
- o Teaching Eng. to Speakers of Other Languages (MA/TESOL)
- o Teaching Frgn. Lang. (MA/TFL)
- o Translation and Interpretation (MA)

In addition, students who have completed their first two years of college may enter an upper division honors undergraduate program in Language Studies or in International Relations.

Questions for admissions: Admissions Office (408-647-4123). Questions re scholarships: Financial Aid Office (408-647-4119). Admissions and scholarship applications must be received by March 1, 1989 for the 89-90 academic year. For more info contact:

Monterey Institute of International Studies
425 Van Buren Street,
Monterey, CA 93940

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USPC and Boston University

Master of Public Health Degree.

Boston University School of Public Health and the U.S. Peace Corps announced a new joint program integrating PCV service in health projects with the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree at BU.

Applicants to the Peace Corps may apply for this M.P.H. degree which combines course work with PC field experience. If accepted by the PC and BU, PC assures an assignment as a health volunteer to one of the several designated Peace Corps/Boston Univ. program countries.

The deadline for applications for Sep 89 is 15 Apr 89 and the deadline for Jan 90 is 25 Oct 89. Contact:

Director of Admissions
Boston University School of Public Health
80 East Concord Street
Boston, MA 02118-2394
617-638-5052, and

The United States Peace Corps
10 Causeway Street, Room 466
Boston, MA 02222-1099
617-565-5555
800-424-8580

Volunteers in Development Education.

The U.S. Peace Corps has established a program to better realize President Kennedy's hope that volunteers would return home from their service to promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

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Under the sponsorship of each state's Governor's Office, Volunteers in Development Education (VIDE) brings specially-trained RPCV's to local communities to share their overseas experiences with students, scouts, members of civic organizations and church groups, and local media.

Recently returned RPCV's participating in this six-week program receive an honorarium. Funding comes from various agencies, trade councils and foundations. Host communities cover participants room and board as well as local travel expenses. Logistical arrangements are handled by the Peace Corps. For more info contact:

United States Peace Corps
VIDE Coordinator
Office of Private Sector
Relations
Washington, DC 20526
800-424-8580 ext 276

The Peace Corps Fellows

The University of the District of Columbia and the Peace Corps have announced a new cooperative program through which graduate students of the Department of Adult Education College of Education and Human Ecology enter the Peace Corps and the degree program simultaneously in preparation for assignments in Kenya.

Students must be accepted into both programs at the same time. The first year will be spent with the Adult Education Department. The second two years will be spent in-country in Kenya.

Continued next column

The program is seeking persons with baccalaureates interested in adult education and training in developing countries. Some of the areas include: agriculture, environment, women's issues, health and technology. For more info contact:

Dr. Beverley B. Cassara, Director
Peace Corps/UDC Program, or

Dr. Clarence Blake, Chairperson
Department of Adult Education

Univ. of the District of Columbia
2565 Georgia Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
202-673-7142

Other Scholarships for RPCV's

The Peace Corps has other advanced degree programs with the following schools:

- o Univ. of South Carolina
- o Rutgers Univ.
- o Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham
- o Colorado State Univ.
- o Yale Univ. School of Forestry
- o Texas Woman's Univ.

For more info contact:

United States Peace Corps
Returned Volunteer Services
Washington DC, 20526
202-254-8326
800-424-8580

CHARTER AMENDMENT REFERENDUM

The IRS has returned our application for tax exempt status!!! There complaint is Article Three, the Purpose Clause, of our Articles of Incorporation which rather than "fight," we are "switching" so as to more closely track the language of the IRS Code.

The amended Purpose Clause, which the FOL Board of Directors voted to adopt on October 25, 1988, in order to satisfy the IRS, reads as follows:

ARTICLE THREE

PURPOSE CLAUSE

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious educational and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the International Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law).

As you can see, the proposed revised Purpose Claus does not say anything about fostering friendship with the people of Lesotho. However, this is covered by the Purpose Clause of the FOL Bylaws. Also, while we do not intend to engage in "religious" or "scientific" activities, those words have been inserted in the proposed revision both to track the Internal Revenue Code language and because we may engage in activities with/or fund projects through religious or scientific bodies.

This type of amendment of the Articles of Incorporation must be approved by the membership of FOL. Accordingly, we are convening a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **MARCH 14**, 1989, to vote on the proposed amendment and to discuss any other matters that members wish to raise. The meeting will be held in Room 3000, General Services, 7th and D Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. Clearly most members will not be able to attend. You will, however, be able to vote on the proposed amendment by marking the ballot below and sending it to FOL, 2801 Spencer Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. The ballot must be received no later than **MARCH 14**. The FOL Board of Directors urges you to vote YES so that the processing of our application for tax exempt status can proceed expeditiously.

BALLOT

Resolved, that Article Three of the Articles of Incorporation of Friends of Lesotho, Inc., shall be amended in the manner provided for by the Board of Directors of the Organization on October 25, 1988.

YES NO ABSTAIN YES NO ABSTAIN

