



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

June 15, 2007

### A New Way to Survive

At nine years old, Teboho has already faced many of the harsh realities of life. His father died three years ago, leaving Teboho, his mother, and his two younger siblings to manage on their own. Not that life had been easy before. His father worked as a miner in South Africa and as a migrant laborer. He was often away from his family for long periods of time. When he was laid off, matters only became worse.



Cindy Easterday

*New gardening methods secure meals for Lesotho families.*

Living on the outskirts of a town in Lesotho, Teboho would often go to town to look for food for his family. Some might call him a street child as he pandered for food or money. His mother found only occasional work doing laundry or cleaning for others, but never made enough to keep the children in school. They often went hungry.

Subsistence farming and gardens are a key means of survival in Lesotho, where only 10 percent of the land can be farmed. But gardens are expensive to plant. Teboho's mother would have needed to buy fertilizer, pesticides, and seeds with money she didn't have. In the midst of a countrywide drought and dependent on costly imports from South Africa, there seemed no way out of the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Recognizing that most families need gardens to survive, with help from Geneva Global funds the Joining Hands network in Lesotho —Kopano ke Matla (Unity Is Strength)—has been training its members across the country who in turn train others in their communities in alternative farming methods. Rather than buying costly fertilizer, pesticides, and seeds, they are taught to develop and use natural resources such as compost piles and animal dung and to cultivate seeds



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and to plant in ways that will produce the greatest yield.

Teboho and his mother learned these methods and with their garden are now able to provide for themselves and to sell to others. This family has a new beginning in life. The children now attend school. Teboho no longer has to go through town searching for food. His mother sees a future with some promise and is personally invested in learning and doing more with agriculture.

It's just a beginning, but hope has been renewed and life has improved for Teboho, his mother, and his siblings. Please pray with the children of Lesotho:

Christ,

The greatest bearer of witness to the light that shines in the darkness of all hearts, that gives hope as a gift of life, has defeated the power of Hades, to awaken all life, and to give new spirit to distorted hearts, give us courage to see the missing body and the empty tomb not as a sign of barren negligence, but as a striding power to walk out of darkness and to believe that you are our hope.

Today, we live in a world that is overwhelmed by poverty, with sickening voices of children crying for mercy. But we believe that Christ, who gives hope to the world in the midst of distortion and deadliness and whose resurrection from the dead is a true symbol of life in abundance, appeals to the rest of the world to join hands and joyfully renew life.

Jesus, give us courage and new spirit to employ our servitude to the world that is desperate for re-creation. May your mighty act of dying on our behalf and rising from the dead renew us ever and ever more. Amen!

Material was provided by Cindy Easterday, PC(USA) mission worker and Joining Hands facilitator in Lesotho. Prayer is by the Rev. Mojaki Kometsi, Lesotho Evangelical Church, Lesotho.

To donate to the work of the Joining Hands initiative, visit the Web site at [www.pcusa.org/joininghands/support.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/joininghands/support.htm).

*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*

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