



Hope for Grieving Children-Africa

2016 Summer of Empowerment!

HGCA Trainer of Trainers: Lesotho

We had the opportunity to conduct yet another successful training in Lesotho. This was a two day, “train-the-trainer” training in the curriculum *How to Love a Grieving Child*. The participants were from various ministries throughout the area who minister specifically to orphan children and young adults.

The curriculum was well received. We enjoyed great participation from attendees as they processed through their own grief, situations they were currently facing with those they care for, and strategically thinking how they could improve their care and effect towards the orphans. We saw them healed emotionally, enabling them to progress and move on into healthy and fulfilled lives.

It is always a beautiful thing to witness the Love of God ministering to participants and see themselves strengthened for the hard work caring for orphans they do daily. We had amazing testimonies of participants being relieved of guilt, un-forgiveness, emotional healing, and restoration within families. Much of this occurred within the few days we were there. God truly blesses those who genuinely care for the needs of the orphan and widow.

Ernest Shaka: Story of Empowerment

Ernest attended our very first How to Love a Grieving Child Trainer of Trainers workshop In Lesotho last year. Ernest serves as the Director of Counseling for Baylor Children’s Hospital in Lesotho. In his capacity, Ernest coordinates all counseling efforts for mother and children who have just received a positive HIV diagnosis. *I knew grief was a root cause of every addiction and medicine compliance issue faced by those I counseled so I determined to use my new skills in every session. The results have been more than I could have expected!*

Ernest not only uses his new training skills with those he counsels, but trains all incoming hospital clinical staff in the HGCA curriculum. Ernest also uses the HGCA training with mother to mother support groups he runs for mothers with HIV+ children and has begun to use his skills in teen support groups he administers called *Teen Club*, (for 11-18 year old youth) and *Wise Ones* (for 18-24 years old youth). Most of these children are orphaned or dealing with very vulnerable family situations. Says Ernest; *these kids struggle. They don't know why but I help them see and then recover from their emotions of losing parents and the pain of their HIV+ status. This training has helped me so much!*

Ernest has done more than 20 trainings involving more than 200 participants who care for more than 1,000 orphaned children.. He has plans for several more trainings in Lesotho this next year. His creativity and passion for the people of Lesotho and for the mandate of Hope for Grieving Children is amazing. Well done Ernest we are inspired by you!



Lesotho Trainer of Trainer Graduates

I've been in many workshops around Lesotho but I've never felt so built up... so refreshed and excited about possibilities.



Vocational School for Young Adult Orphans

We enjoyed an opportunity to meet up with all of our MASTERS students! It was encouraging to see these young people greet and hug each other as they entered the room and cheering for each other as stories of personal triumph were shared. The sense of camaraderie and encouragement these students have formed with each other was palpable, where as they were once alone and destitute, it was now beautiful to see their unity. They reported on businesses started, jobs acquired, and school funds met. They testified to the goodness of God of transformation in families and the ability to support siblings and relatives spiritually and financially.

Of the thirty students who graduated eight of them have started new businesses, sixteen are running a business, as well as working a job, two are attending college thru resources gained in their small business ventures; sixteen are facilitating siblings or relatives thru school thru resources gained in their work/businesses; eight have been promoted one or multiple times in their jobs; all continue to grow spiritually and are active in church life. These are exciting realities.

Gibson's Story of Family Redemption!



Gibson is a third-year MASTERS graduate. Typical for most students his life was hard and his family impoverished. His father was an alcoholic, frequently abusing Gibson's mother and siblings. Gibson carried tremendous pressure to give security to the home.

As he learned the promises of Scripture and his identity in Christ, he applied these principles in his family situation. Understanding the power of prayer and the redeeming power of Christ, Gibson regularly



MASTERS Reunion Gathering

spent entire nights at home fasting and praying for his father and his family. Upon graduation, Gibson received a small business grant. He managed to purchase 2 used X-box video controllers and 2 very used TVs along with 2 video games. He collected odd pieces of lumber, cardboard and used plastic to erect a shelter and open a makeshift video arcade. Each child paying a small amount of money for 30 minutes of video gaming, got more than they expected. Gibson often would pray and encourage the kids while waiting for their turn at the games. His prayers for his family also paid off. Impacted by the transformation in Gibson, his father has since been freed from the grip of alcohol, has gotten a job with the bus company and the family is beginning to thrive. Well done Gibson. You are indeed bringing the redeeming power of Christ to your environment!!



MASTERS Student's Market Stand!