



A GROWING NUMBER

LESOTHO / PEACE CORPS



The experience will serve you throughout the rest of your life





Lesotho is unique. It is an independent country totally surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. Lesotho has a mystique that seems to act as a magnet attracting people from all parts of the world to share in the development of the country.

Once a protectorate of Britain, Lesotho gained its independence on October 4, 1966. It has struggled through many difficulties of development. Despite the effect that the Republic of South Africa has on the economy, family structure, and the political system, the country retains its identity as a kingdom. King Moshoeshe II is the Head of State. The Basotho National Party, led by Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, is the governing party.

Peace Corps has a significant role in recruiting volunteers who will commit themselves to sharing their talents with the Basotho people, especially in the areas of agriculture and education.

Mingo Guerra, a volunteer who lives in the mountains, says that his role at this particular time and place is simply to understand the forces that shape a developing country, to adapt to them, and then make attempts at creating goodwill. There must be a blending together of purpose.

Another volunteer states that if you survive the eight to ten weeks of cultural orientation, intense language instruction, and technical training for your specific job



Top left: Jerry Carlisle has decided to serve a third year.

Middle: Amelia Clay Leballo at her office at the Teacher Training College.

Bottom: Shirley Roper working with colleagues at the Teacher Training College.

Top Right: Delton Allen with the elders in his village.

Bottom: Vikki Thomas preparing a lesson.

Cover Photo: Delton Allen (center)

Translation (Sesotho): Stay well, our friend.



s can be helped."

King Moshoeshoe II

assignment then you will feel prepared and ready to give the best service possible.

During your two years you may be fortunate to live with all the conveniences of home; or, better still, learn to adapt to a very basic style of living which is more typical of the Peace Corps lifestyle. This could mean no electricity or running water, having a horse (or your feet) as a means of transport, doing without your favorite food, and being isolated from friendships you made during the gruelling training period.

Lesotho's economy is based on food production and animal husbandry and it is from the raising of Angora goats and sheep that the main exports of mohair and wool come. There are few natural resources and the development of industry is still in its early stages. Many Basotho men, therefore, migrate to the Republic to work in the gold and diamond mines to supplement the income of their families.

Some do not see their families more than twice a year. Those times are when they return to plant maize, sorghum and wheat, and then again at harvest time. In the meantime, the women tend the crops. The produce from vegetable gardens and handicrafts provide a small income to help sustain the family.

In the few months since coming to Lesotho, Delton Allen has made an impact upon the young people in his village. They have become more interested in knowing about improved farming methods and subsequently formed a group called Balemi Ba Bacha (The Young Farmers). Delton says that he feels 'right at home' and rarely leaves his village. Learning Sesotho is helping his integration into the community.

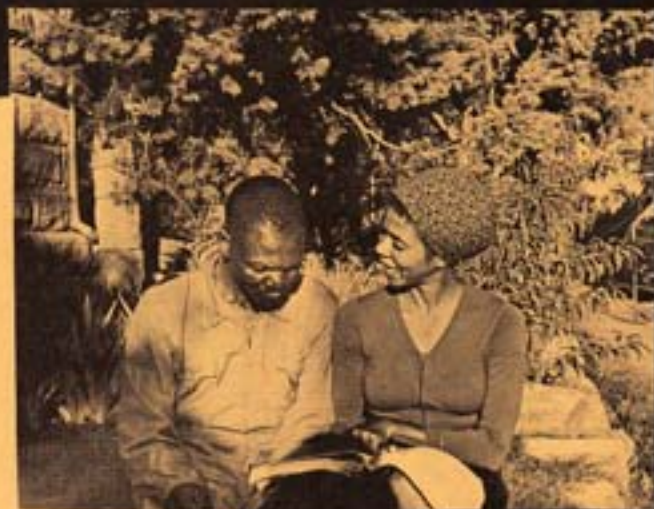
Volunteers do have a fair share of frustrating moments. Vikki Thomas, who teaches at a secondary school, laughs as she recalls the first time she arrived in Lesotho. She was mistaken for a Mosotho and the Basotho who greeted her continued to speak in rapid Sesotho and then, regarding her confused look, they realized they had 'lost' her. At that particular time her knowledge of Sesotho was limited to only the greetings. Other Volunteers have had similar incidents. Sometimes hilarious events follow due to some misunderstandings. But, if one has a sense of humor in learning how to deal with one's language inadequacies, then the initiation into a new culture is less painful.

Top: Millicent Brandstetter
a time for giving and receiving.

Middle: Clarence Sandoval
returning home in the mountains.

Bottom: Mingo Guerra at his home.

Translation: Peace! Rain! Prosperity!



KHOTSO!

PULAI

NALAI



"You are here to serve Lesotho. Only your best is good enough."

John G. Healey

Lesotho is considered to have one of the healthiest climates in the world. The range of temperatures and varying altitudes, between 4,500' and 11,500', stave off diseases which are common to tropical countries just north of Lesotho.

The climate is similar to some parts of America. During the winter those living in the mountains have snow for a much longer time and can enjoy it if they don't thermal underwear. In contrast, during the summer months the temperature may reach 100° F.

The importance of education in Lesotho is much more pronounced now than it ever has been. This is an area in which Peace Corps has made the greatest contribution.

Clarence Sandoval is a supervisor of teachers in the mountains. The mountain schools offer a special challenge. Scattered populations and poor lines of communication add to the problems encountered by students and teachers. At times the work calls for immediate evidence that a specific technique works, such as a new teaching method. He finds that his involvement with the teachers and the community is providing him with experiences that make him more aware of his responsibilities as a volunteer.

Caje Gutierrez expresses the sentiments of all of us. Adaptability, sensitivity, the commitment to serve the best way one can, and learning the language, are prerequisites for an enriching two years.

There is a lot to see, do, and enjoy in Lesotho.



Charles Blake Peace Corps Administrator of Education.

Caje Gutierrez Supervisor of Teacher Trainees.



Greg Harrington a nutritionist.

editor: Millicent Brandstetter.
assistant editor: Gale Gruza.

"He could have added fortune to fame but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world."

G.W. Carver

