



## Close Connection Partners

February 2011  
Partnership Bulletin

Dear Close Connection Partners and Friends:

It's no longer as hard to write 2011 and things are shaping up for a challenging year of ministry in Botswana. I trust that you will enjoy reading about the continuing work there. More importantly, pray about where God would have you serve.

For those of you that have been working in Botswana for a few years, you'll see evidence of how OBC is becoming a "sending" church more than a "receiving" church. God has richly blessed this fellowship with numerical, spiritual and missional growth. It is also a great privilege to have two Close Connection missionary couples on the ground in Botswana...Jeff and April Sukup, South Tampa Fellowship; and Scott and Tonya Shipes, Alice Drive Baptist Church.

**New ministry opportunities are available.** If your church or ministry is interested in expanding your ministry in Botswana or beginning a ministry there, please contact: Donna Chisam (d.pchisam@gmail.com); Jeff Williams (jeffreywwilliams@aol.com); or Jeff Sukup (jeffs@stfchurch.com).

We would like to extend a warm welcome to a new partner, Highland Baptist Church (HBC), Florence, Alabama. They are partnering with Open Baptist Church GWest, a mission church of Open Baptist Church. John Brock is the Senior Pastor at HBC. The mission outreach is capably handled by Chris Underwood, Associate Pastor. A team of college students will travel this summer to help with a variety of sports and children's ministries.

Ministering to Botswana in 2011 are:

1. **Alice Drive Baptist Church**, Clay Smith, Senior Pastor and home church of Scott and Tonya Shipes. They will be continuing their work at Naledi Baptist Fellowship.
2. **Call to Africa**, Ken Galyean, President. They will be working in Mosojane.
3. **Freedom Fellowship**, Greer, SC. Donny Kauffman, Missions Pastor. They too will be continuing their work at Naledi Baptist Fellowship.
4. **Fresh Start for All Nations**, Steve Peterson and Brad Thomas. They will be teaching at Face the Nation.

5. **Johnson Ferry Baptist Church**, Ricky Wheeler, Missions Pastor; Jeff Williams, Executive Director of Partners to the World.
6. **KGEA**, Kelly Green Evangelistic Association. Pastor's Conference, August 2011.
7. **South Tampa Fellowship**, Craig Rees, Senior Pastor. This is the home church of Jeff and April Sukup. Craig will be teaching at the Pastor's Conference.
8. **Student Leadership University**, Jay Strack, Founder; Brent Crowe, President. They will be leading Face the Nation training and community outreach programs.
9. **True Love Waits International**, Paul and Sally Kline. They continue to be a key player in the discipleship arm of Face the Nation.
10. **Valley View Church**, Louisville, KY. Joel Carwile, Senior Pastor. Joel led the Week of Prayer at OBC during the early part of February.
11. **Whitesburg Baptist Church**, John Crocker, Missions Pastor; Dr. Terry Herald, Sr. Associate Pastor. Sponsor of Face the Nation, 2011.

The ministry highlights for Q1 2011 are:

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### **Mosojane**

This is a small village of about 1000 in the North East of Botswana. It is about a 45 minute drive from Francistown, the second largest town in Botswana. The village borders the African Trade Route and is plagued by many social ills. The Chieftain has deeded a piece of property for a Baptist Church. She has personally invited Close Connections to help transform her community for Jesus. The property is centrally located and is a very desirable piece of land.

A small team from OBC recently traveled to Mosojane to follow up with the local pastor, Andrew, the Chieftain, Mma Mosojane, and the Village Council. Previous visits by OBC and CC partners took place in October and December 2010.

There are a number of positive outcomes from the most recent visit. Here is the report that we received from Jeff Sukup.

*The Mosojane trip was very productive, having discussions with Pastor Andrew, Mma Mosojane, her VDC (Village Development Committee) and the Mulambakwena chief and VDC.*

*The second day care facility in Mulambakwena is all ready to go into operation and should occur within the month. Our purpose in meeting with Mma Mosojane was to build on what you (Donna) had started by getting their specific thoughts of how to move forward.*

*Their comments (desired outcomes) were:*

*a) maintain the pre-school and re-establish to 60+ (vulnerable) children which were lost when the Catholic ministries pulled out.*

*b) invitation to yourself and others (Close Connections) for leadership training with VDC in future.*

*c) creation of work opportunities, suggested brick making and sewing (OBC uncertain of success, particularly the brick making).*

*d) development of present youth center which is presently under utilized, train social worker and others.*

*e) development of a pensioner retirement day care center, to benefit the elderly and provide work for others to operate and maintain.*

*f) building of physical church or other ministry building on donated land parcel.*

*g) solution to Jr. & Sr. Secondary school transportation issues (children have to walk roughly 10 kilometers one way morning and afternoon to attend, this has caused failing grades, increased dropout rate, youth loitering, unwanted pregnancies and drinking and disrespect in community, with youth wasting their lives as Ma Mosojane said it). We took Andrew a large amount of food staples for the day care center. The OBC Missions Committee has decided to give Pastor Andrew P5,000 of seed money to assist with second day care start up and P4,000 per a term to help subsidize child enrollment at the centers. The student transportation issue must be resolved otherwise a continuous stream of students will enter this undesirable stage of life. The community is best to solve this as explained in the book "Building a People of Power" and we have the curricula "A Biblical Introduction to Community Organizing". Desire the leadership to teach the VDC as soon as possible.*

*Need partnership to obtain sewing machines and materials to start up sewing curriculum. The VDC welcomes anyone willing to come and serve for an extended period to develop the youth center or any other program, they will provide housing at Botswana standards. A partner would be welcomed that would want to invest in the church building or senior day care center. Sooner would be desired on all these items and certainly within the next two years.*

*Call to Africa (Ken Galyean's ministry) is looking at hosting a pastors conference and a venue in Masunga at Pastor Abraham's church. There are also soccer fields available should they pursue a sports clinic. I'll step up communication with Ken Galyean shortly. Pastor Norman, Scott Shipes and myself were in this group. Scott spent some time with the children while we were there. Pastor Norman led a bible study with 15 people many of which were younger. Scott drove his Chevy vehicle. We stayed at the Stop Over in Thesebe which was adequate. I understand the Mosojane request for information survey was taken and a copy is needed at OBC which I've asked Scott to provide.*

## OBC Mission Outreach

Below is the appeal that went to members and attendees of OBC. It is exciting to see their mission work touch Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.

*From our visit (to Mosojane) we came back to OBC and challenged the congregation to donate supplies for the new pre-school center. Those would include: educational posters, small paper scissors, crayons, coloring books, pencils, paper, Koki pens, and Balls.*

*Also to all those which signed up to serve in missions at last year's missions conference and the last two Sunday's were we handed out response cards to do the same, we sent the following:*

- *You have indicated your desire to serve in missions with Open Baptist Church.*
  - *We are excited about what God will do through you as these opportunities unfold.*
  - *Below are several for you to consider at this time, others should be forth coming in the future.*
1. *Serve with **Family Connections** ministry mentoring a school teacher in one of the many public or private schools in Gaborone or the surrounding villages. May require a once a month meeting with follow up through the month by phone, text or email. These teachers are facilitating the teaching of Godly values, positive moral behavior and the Gospel in their classes. Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe lead this ministry.*
  2. *Serve with **Reaching the Unreached** by assisting in building the church (not a physical building) at the village of Mantshwabisi. Volunteers would travel on Sundays to the village to assist in conducting bible study, worship, sermons and every other facet such as prayer and consoling. A commitment of a number of months would be desired and car pooling for the group should be considered. Angie May leads this ministry.*
  3. *Lead a cell group at the **Roads Maintenance and Training facility** on the right of the road to OBC. Reach out to our neighbors that live and work right next door. They have been praying for someone or group to come and lead them in weekly sessions.*
  4. *Join in **facilitating chapel service** in one of many local businesses. Share your testimony, lead in prayer, singing and a devotional; were ever your gifts, talents and the Holy Spirit lead you. Chapels are less than 30 minutes, occur right here in Gaborone, vary in time from as early as 6:30am and throughout the day. Herrick Hussein oversees this ministry.*
  5. *We have a couple of openings available on the **short term mission trip to Zambia** occurring from April 10 – 18. This is a teaching team and if you are gifted in this area we would be interested in talking with you about the opportunity. Participants will be responsible for roughly 50% of the cost of this trip. Pastor Norman is leading this team.*

When Jeff Williams spoke at the November 1-2 partner's meeting, he noted several things that are worth review.

A. What binds us (Close Connections) together?

1. Purpose.
2. Projects and strategies and
3. Priorities.

B. To optimize the power of the partnership we must be **cohesive, communicative and collaborative**.

C. Our ministry criteria remains that we give priority to ministries that are:

1. Sustainable
2. Empowering
3. Measurable
4. Fruitful
5. Replicable.

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### **Praise and Prayer Requests**

1. Praise for a successful Week of Prayer and Fasting at OBC with Joel Carwile.
2. Praise for a productive time with key religious and civil leaders in Mosojane.
3. Praise for the extraordinary opportunity to minister in Botswana, a civil country with an openness to the Gospel.
4. Prayer for Norman and Gabi Schaefer as they travel to the USA and for the time they will have with family and at Alice Drive Baptist Church, Sumter, SC.
5. Prayer for Face the Nation. Government school schedules and financial challenges require major re-design efforts.
6. Prayer for the teams that are preparing for summer ministry in Botswana, especially, but not limited to: JFBC, HBC, STF, KGEA, SLU, Fresh Start, Call to Africa, TLWI, and others.
7. Prayer for new partners to help build sustainable ministry in Mosojane and elsewhere.

You are invited to visit [www.closeconnections.org](http://www.closeconnections.org) for detailed information about Close Connections.

**Reminder: Please ensure that your travelers do not wear any camouflage clothing.**

### **Wire Transfer Information and Donations**

The sending resource for financial transfers to Botswana is:

Partners to the World  
%Lynda Hunnicutt  
1000 Johnson Ferry Road  
STE E-150  
Marietta, GA 30068

Visit [www.partnerstotheworld.org](http://www.partnerstotheworld.org) and click on Botswana.