

First two months of 2011 in Botswana

Week of Prayer

Pastor Joel Carwile joined OBC for our week of prayer February 1st – 6th leading the staff every morning with teachings on unity, succession, and leadership skills. Continuing every evening with prayer services attended by upwards of 100 OBC members for a joyous time of worship and prayer points which encouraged and expanded one's understanding of drawing closer to God Almighty. Pastor Joel was on fire even for African standards allowing the Holy Spirit to move through him and bless us.

Mosojane Mission Point

First trip - Pastor Norman, Scott Shipes and Jeff Sukup made way to the village of Mosojane on February 9th & 10th. 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 Donna Chisam 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). 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. OBC and Close Connection partners may not be able to assist in all these areas, although we now know what concerns are a priority to the community leadership.

Call to Africa (Ken Galyean's ministry) is looking at hosting a pastors conference at a venue in Masunga at Pastor Abraham Banda's church. There are also soccer fields available should they pursue a sports clinic. 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 5 of which gave their hearts to God.

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. A call went out to OBC's congregation to collect and bring in supplies for the pre-school.

Second trip – Jeff Sukup, Onneetse Samakabadi (Kez) and Charlotte Ott returned to Mosojane to deliver to the Mulambakwena pre-school a refrigerator, classroom tables and chairs, school supplies donated by OBC members, food stuffs, children's clothing, wheel chairs and the first disbursement to help subsidize some of the children in the community. It was an amazing time as the Chief called a meeting in the tribal court with all the disabled in the village to share the good news of those that would receive one of these specialized wheel chairs. A young boy of 11 born with mental and physical challenges and a 38 year old man which suffered from a stroke 3 years ago were the recipients. There are several others there that can use a P.E.T. wheel chair and our prayer is that more will make their way to Botswana. Anyone interested in partnering with P.E.T. International to help with the shipment would be welcomed; please contact Jeff Sukup through Close Connections or OBC.

The team also assisted in painting wall murals in the pre-school classrooms and spent time with the children at the Mosojane pre-school. Through our vehicle we were able to coordinate the health inspectors travel so Pastor Andrew now has the permit and approval to open the Mulabakwena school.

A tour of the Mosojane Community Youth Center proved the possibility of lodging future teams there as well as the discovery of two lodges in Masunga for ministry in that village.

We visited the donated church property to survey the land and pray over it. Pastor Andrew has an aggressive vision of 5 buildings someday on it to include a worship center, Sunday school hall, pastorate, guest house and restrooms. We obtained a plot drawing for future planning purposes.

Charlotte Ott, dear friend and unofficial adopted child of and staying with Jeff & April Sukup for nearly 3 months began on February 22nd. Charlotte holds a degree in literature, with creative art talent and the love for children. She will be spending time with many of OBC's missionary partners to broaden her worldview of missionary life and its call to serving God. On her third day in town she was sharing in front of 300+ children at one of Gaborone's primary schools with Herrick Hussein of Industrial Missions. As noted above she was an integral contribution to our Mosojane mission trip and for 5 days next week she will spend time in the desert villages of Diphuduhudu and Mantshwabisi with Angie May of Reaching the

Unreached. Later throughout her stay she will join in many other ministry outings. We look forward to what the Lord will do in her life.

OBC Mission Jars

At the half way point of last year we started to hand out collection jars for members to place their daily loose coins into. At this point the Lord has made possible for over P40,000 (U.S. 6,000.) to bless the missions outreach of OBC. These funds were used to pay for the Mulabakwena and Mosojane pre-school efforts just inacted. This past Sunday, Feb. 27th there was a call for all remaining jars to be brought in. Another 200 jars will be available for OBC members to once again answer the call of supporting missions in Botswana and beyond.

OBC Development

The two soccer fields are under development as the first one is graded out. The watering system has been set in place as well.

The golf driving range (World of Golf) is working on completing its club house. The grass field is looking in excellent shape with the warm summer weather.

The remainder of the back lot is under way to becoming a very nice park for the future enjoyment of all that would come.

Excitement is growing as planning is underway for the annual Zambia Pastors' Conference that OBC hosts in Kabwe Zambia. We have a great group of OBC folk going and Bob Curchell from Tampa FL will be the only US partner coming.

We appreciate you prayerful interest and support of what God is doing in this corner of the world.