

Gakuto Outreach Report

13-19 June 2011

Introduction

Scott and Tonya Shipes are National Children's Missionaries to Botswana working to help as many churches or communities as possible take their next step by establishing a sustainable Children's Ministry. Their ministry values are: 1. All children matter to God. 2. All children have a purpose. 3. All children need a place of grace and significance.

Gakuto Information

Gakuto is a rural village 30 kilometers North of Gaborone, with over 300 children between the ages of 6 and 12 struggling in school because of limited resources and difficulty comprehending and reading English. The village has limited sources of income other than a few tuck shops and rental housing.

Gakuto Leadership

Chief Abdul Letlamba, Gakuto; Leslwa, Head Master Gakuto Primary School; Moruti Mothusi Adam, Pastor Gakuto Baptist Fellowship; Moruti James Mpopang, Pastor Naledi Baptist Fellowship

Outreach Goal

- 1) Provide resources for the school; encourage the teachers and help the church to reach the children with biblical truth.
- 2) Provide opportunities for income; small enterprises for income are needed so we are networking to find possibilities to assist in this area.

Outreach Activities

A team from Naledi Baptist Fellowship and from Millbrook Baptist Church, Aiken, SC, USA worked in the school and church to equip the teachers and children. A Bible school for the children was held at Gakuto Baptist Church after the Primary/Secondary School released the children in the afternoon. The Bible School began with a meal at no cost to the children. This was done with the blessing and hospitality from the Gakuto Village, Gakuto Baptist Fellowship and cooperation with the Primary School and with funds provided by Millbrook Baptist Church, Aiken, SC, USA. This Bible School through the church provided counseling, feeding, sports activities, crafts and Bible lessons that emphasized the importance of faith and trust in God.

Provisions

- 1) School supplies, teaching resources and sports supplies were given to the Primary/Secondary School.
 - a) A teaching specialist worked with the teachers to help students read English and comprehend what they are reading.

- 2) Repair work to church:
 - a) Hung mesh screen over open brick crosses (3)
 - b) Replaced broken windows (6)
- 3) Bible School:
 - a) Registered 288 children
 - b) Fed lunch and drink to 288 kids
 - c) Bible School program
 - i) Daily Bible Lesson on Faith and Trust
 - ii) Worship/Music
 - iii) Craft
 - iv) Recreation and team work
- 4) Encouraged HOPE to a small village through the love of our Lord Jesus Christ

Successes

- 1) Large number of children arrived daily after school.
- 2) Teachers felt encouraged and benefited from the supplies and teaching aids.
- 3) The teams were blessed with a meal prepared by the teachers and entertained by the assembly of children celebrating African Child Day. The traditional food, songs and dance were educational and enjoyable for all.
- 4) Sunday church service was full of children and adults.
- 5) Over 150 children wanted to take their next step in faith with Jesus Christ and 5 adults also made the same commitment.
- 6) Sponsorship to keep a pastor fulltime in Gakuto.
- 7) Provided 5 bolts of cloth to begin a sewing business.

Challenges

- 1) Currently, the pastor does not live in Gakuto.
- 2) No sport supplies at the church for Saturday Kids Camp at 2:00.
- 3) Funding for the church to support full-time pastor.

Looking ahead

- 1) A weekly bible study will be held Tuesdays at 2 PM at the school with the teachers.
- 2) Gakuto Baptist will hold a children's day camp every Saturday at 2 PM.
- 3) Fabrics will be provided to the women in Gakuto to start a sewing business.
- 4) Millbrook Baptist Church will partner with Gakuto Baptist to provide financial support to allow a pastor to be full time in Gakuto.
- 5) Networking to find small enterprise opportunities for the village.

Respectfully submitted

Scott Shipes, National Children's Missionaries to Botswana