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Farmers in Lesotho plant their corn hoping for a good harvest.

“Growing Nations” Video Released

By Rod Dixon

Few things compare with the joy and excitement we feel when we get to release a completed project like the Growing Nations video. The process of planning, shooting and editing stories like this all pay-off when we get to share the work with audiences like you! (To see this video yourself, visit our website)

The Story Behind The Story

Clearly, there is much more to the stories than we can include in the final video so I'd like to share some of the details we had to leave out.

Consider this as you look at the photographs in this issue: all of them were made within several days of each other while filming was underway. Yet you see dramatically different stages of the farming process. Images on this page show two fields, one just being plowed (below) and the other (above) being planted.

Our conversation with the farmers above gave us startling insights into

the problems they face. They had paid someone who owned a tractor to plow for them - a process described in the video as soil inversion - and now they were planting. We asked them about the crop yield they expected from this field and after some quick calculations we discovered their expenses would exceed their anticipated proceeds by over 20%. When asked why they were bothering to plant knowing they would lose money, they simply replied, “We are farmers. This is what we do.”

Although deep plowing makes it possible for the Basotho people to farm larger plots of land, the unintended consequences include lower crop



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This farmer has only just begun to plow his field in preparation for planting.

yields and devastating soil erosion like that illustrated in the image to the left.

The contrast could not be more dramatic as you look at these other images. These fields were prepared and planted following the methods taught by Growing Nations. Crop growth is way ahead here, allowing the plants to fully develop and produce yields that not only sustain the farmers, but also exceed their own needs so they have grain to sell. This has a significant economic impact for the farmers. The added benefit is that there is no erosion on these fields during the same rain you see in the top photograph.

Sound Ministry Strategy

The work of Growing Nations is about much more than soil preservation and increased crop yields. Those are noble goals in themselves and they meet the very real and pressing needs of the Basotho people, however, they are just a means to a much more important end. In this film, Missionary August Basson tells us, *"The final goal is to see transformed lives. People living in a new relationship to God, to themselves, to others, but also to nature. People's lives tell a story that God is present in their lives."*

Stories Like This

It is stories like this that compel us to continue our efforts to give viewers around the world a glimpse into the work God is doing in and through the lives of His dedicated servants. Those who use their knowledge and skills to bring hope and deliverance from bondage to those who have not yet come to faith in Jesus Christ. It is through such stories that we can learn more about God's character and His love for His people.



Missionary August Basson of Growing Nations examines soil loss during a light rainfall on a plowed field.

Did You Know?

Kingdom Of Lesotho = official name
Lesotho = the country
Basotho = the people
Masotho = one individual person
Sasotho = their language

Lesotho's highest point is 11,424 ft. above sea level. It's lowest point is 4,953 ft. above sea level which is the highest low point of any country in the world.

HIV/AIDS infection rate is 23.2%, third-highest in the world and projected to increase to 36% in next 15 years. (U.S. Department of State, Nov. 5, 2010)



Advanced crop development in field employing principles taught by Growing Nations.

Use of only small amounts of fertilizer helps accelerate plant growth and increase crop yields.



2011 Ministry Update

There are a lot of similarities between a ministry like ours and any other business, but we continue to learn about the world of non-profit organization development and operations. Moving forward this year has mostly meant developing relationships with potential ministry partners (aka Clients) and foundation grant sources.

We are also working on creating critical tools for project management, story development and digital media asset management. The projects we have completed or are working on take up over 241 GB of data storage not counting any of our still photography. These tasks are necessary to ensure we can sustain our work for the long haul.

Some of our projects are about foreign missions, but there are also several pending domestic ministry projects that will be produced right here in the States - some even here in our "hometown" of Dallas, TX. These projects are generally less expensive to produce since they require little or no funds for travel. Another benefit of domestic projects is that they can be produced and released fairly quickly so sponsors can see the fruit of their support in relatively short time-frames.

One such project will look at often overlooked consequences associated with abortion. We realize this is a controversial topic, but our society tells us

that we can cover up poor choices and suffer no repercussions. In this video, we plan to examine the truth, specifically as it impacts the lives of men who are suffering symptoms similar to post traumatic stress and how it effects every other relationship in their lives.

Our goal is to raise awareness of this issue so that pastors, ministers, Christian counselors and leaders of men's ministry, recovery ministry and couples ministry will understand this potential underlying contributor to unhealthy behavior.

In the end, we expect to address the path to healing, restoration and forgiveness afforded through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Be sure to visit the "Pending Projects" link on our website to learn about this and other sponsorship opportunities. Please let us know if ministries you know about or are involved with have stories that need to be told using video.

Finally, we would appreciate it if you would pass this newsletter on to your family, friends, small group, church and favorite ministries. Encourage them to visit the website and sign up for the newsletter so they can receive future issues.

Once again, we continue to covet your prayers. - Rod & Nancy Dixon

Prayer Requests

Read Matthew 14:22-33

That God would remove barriers.

The wind and waves made the going tough for Peter. Ask God to calm the storm for us.

That we would faithfully discern God's leading.

Peter first asked Jesus to "command me to come". Ask God to make the way clear.

That God would provide needed resources.

Jesus didn't calm the storm till they were both safely back in the boat. For the unseasoned, this may seem like a bad time to get out of the boat to start a ministry, but we will trust and obey the Lord in these uncertain times.

That our gifts and talents would be fully dedicated to God's work.

Even the most gifted among us can accomplish more when depending on God.

You Can Help

We want to accomplish things that require God's help and when successful, only He will get the glory. Partner with *Daylight Media Ministries* to have a part in telling these amazing God stories. To help sponsor our work, make your tax deductible check payable to:

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Shooting during a rain storm from the shelter in the back of an SUV.