

The Vennel I -a scoop

OCTOBER 2005

A Day With The Doctor Team

As I approached Matekane I was already on edge because of the wind, airstrip location, turbulence and other characteristics that set it apart from many others. I had the

Doctor team on board which consisted of Ntate Tetteh, a doctor from Ghana who is employed by the ministry of health to be the Lesotho Flying Doctor. There was also Ntate (Mr.) Machai, the “dentist” or shall I refer to him as the one checked out on pulling teeth?

Then there was the animated Me’ Connie, the pharmacist, the one partial to my father-in-law as he shares the same profession. And last but not least, the accountant, Motebang who takes the money.

Since Matekane is just a health post and not a bonafide clinic they do not have a nurse who can collect the fees. I sat mostly by Motebang, collecting. As I watched the 40-50 patients, over half with infants and mostly all women, I realized that without the service of

MAF these lovely people would not have gotten to see the doctor today.

My heart just broke time after



Matekane airstrip is 1920 feet long at 7550 feet above sea level.

time as I saw older ladies come in stooped over because they had overworked in the fields and had hurt their backs. There were many mothers of small children carrying babies close and as I heard the coughs of some of these little ones who were malnourished and under-sized as a result of it, again my heart ached. My position by the bookkeeper allowed a close up to the patients that revealed not only their sickness but also their desperation of poverty. Some of them clutched the R2.50 per child

or the R5.00 per adult fee as if it were something they had worked weeks to obtain. And for some this may very well have been the case. Just to give you

an idea of the value it was the equivalent of 30¢ per child and 70¢ per adult. My toast and jelly with the glass of milk I had for breakfast cost more than that.

Even though Matekane is one of the most dangerous airstrips we fly to here in Lesotho, when

you know that

these patients were given help it makes it all worth it! God has allowed us to serve Him here, knowing that what we count as cost, pales in comparison to what Jesus, himself, paid! He paid that price so that all men, women, and children including those at Matekane, could have eternal life. Thank you for helping the ministry of MAF and in particular our family be able to serve in this capacity.

Jim and Joneja



Above: Natalie on her 3rd birthday.

Right: The girls sitting in a tide pool at Sodwana Bay, South Africa on our vacation.

Below: A very bold giraffe approaching our car.



This was the most vivid pictorial warning sign I have ever seen in my Africa years.

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Tonya and I want to thank you again for all that you do on our behalf!! From financial support to prayer support, we are blessed to have each of you on our team!!! May the Lord bless you for giving to Him!! As we close out this letter we would ask that you pray for our upcoming weeks. From scheduled maintenance on the airplanes to new ministry opportunities, we would ask that you pray for the Lord's leading in our lives.