

## **New Classrooms have been built at Motati Primary School, Lesotho**

This is an excerpt from a letter to Martine Lunke and Barb Menzies (at Deep Cove Elementary School) from Stephen Kendall, Help Lesotho's director of programs:

“The previous buildings were completely dilapidated – the roof of the biggest building that housed most of the classrooms had caved in and the structure was in such poor condition that it could not be rebuilt. For most of last year they had to send the children home every time it rained or when it was too cold. The school property is at the top of an almost impassable dirt road at the top of a rocky hill and in the middle of a field.

The new school consists of about six new buildings each housing two classrooms. Even the pit latrines at the back of the property are new. The school has a wonderfully warm principal, Me' Mpho, and a dedicated staff of about 12 teachers (who all call themselves educators, and the children learners). They are so thrilled to have started the New Year last month in new buildings! And they are so proud of their Deep Cove banner, which hangs prominently in the main administration area. But there are still about 450 children to be housed in the school; most classes have between 50 and 70 children in them.

The children walk miles to school and most have only the meal that is served to them at lunch. We were there for lunch and watched them eat from their small bowls, containing cornmeal (the call pappa) and perhaps some beans or cabbage – very few nutrients....

Their needs remain great: uniforms for the orphan children (especially needy of track suits, now that we are about to see the end of summer here), books (virtually all were destroyed when the old school collapsed) or seeds to grow in the garden. Whatever you send is so valued and needed here. Your kindness and generosity continues to make a difference to small children impacted by poverty and the impact of HIV and AIDS. ... Our meeting ended with another moving song that included a prayer for their friends in Canada.”



Motati School – roof destroyed by winter storms



Motati School – new classrooms opened January 2009, with new garden plot in front.