



# LESOTHO

OPERATION  
WORLD

the definitive prayer guide to every nation

15 - 18 May 2017



Known as “The Kingdom in the Sky”, Lesotho’s mountainous terrain makes it the only nation in the world to be more than 3,280 feet (1,000 meters) above sea level. Lesotho is also known as “The Hostage State” for its dependence on the Republic of South Africa, which completely surrounds the small nation. Originally inhabited by Bushmen and survivors from 19th century tribal wars, the nation became a British protectorate in 1865 called Basutoland. After its 1966 independence, the nation adopted a constitutional monarchy and the name Lesotho.

[WATCH & PRAY](#)

[GIVE THANKS](#)

**Christianity is the largest form of religion in Lesotho with 89% of the population claiming to be Christian.**

Lesotho has a free-market economy and depends on South Africa for trade. Because of poor soil quality, drought, and rapid erosion, barely ten percent of the land is arable, a condition that has mired the nation in poverty. Forty-nine percent of the population live below the poverty line, and unemployment is high (45%). The HIV/AIDS infection rate of nearly 24% is among the world’s highest. Wealth in the small nation is measured not in currency but in cattle. Many cultural rites are centered around the sacrifice of a cow, and villages are typically built around a cattle pen.

Christianity is the largest form of religion in Lesotho with 89% of the population claiming to be Christian. Islam and African ancestor worship are also practiced. Catholicism is the largest Christian segment, and society does not accept the idea of being bapolosoa, or born again. People are commonly pressured by family members and friends against accepting the Gospel. The church also struggles with syncretization, and some churches incorporate balimo (ancestor worship) and other African traditional religious practices into their services. Christian leaders need solid, Bible-based theological training and great discernment to root out traditional beliefs from those seeking to follow Jesus. Additional Christian literature is also needed in the Sesotho language.

[PRAY FOR:](#)

- HIV/AIDS infection rate is among the highest in the world.
- Family breakdown, poverty, unemployment and limited access to water frustrate daily life.
- Pray for wise leadership and creative ways to improve quality of life.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to cleanse and bring new life.
- Pray for believers working in HIV/AIDS related ministry to spread hope through Christ.
- Pray for the mighty hand of God to banish animistic traditions in the church.
- Pray for more Christian workers with adequate resources for ministering to IV drug users.

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**THE UNREACHED**

*Although there may be a few believers or even a few churches, they are a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people group.*

**JOSHUA PROJECT**

**A total of 0 People Groups are Unreached –**  
**0** people who have limited or NO access to the Gospel.

The mountain people are much less reached because of their isolated location.  
Christian radio reaches many in the lowlands, even non-churchgoers.  
Pray for fruitful ministry in this needy land

**REDEMPTIVE GIFTS OF THE NATION**



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**NOTES**

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