



BULEMBU BEAT

Faith

Hope

Love

An aerial photograph of a residential area, likely a boarding school, set against a dramatic sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow over the landscape. The houses are clustered together, and the surrounding area is filled with trees and greenery. The sky is filled with wispy clouds, some of which are illuminated by the setting sun.

Headlines

Teams

Boarders are open and we can't get enough of our international friend's visits.

Caregiver's Awards

Long service awards, was all about celebrating aunties who have been with us for a very long time.

Soup Kitchen

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." - Matthew 25:35.

We Appreciate You.

Caregiver's Long Service Awards



By: Dube Ntombilenye

Awards are a way of making people feel that their work is valued, showing gratitude and appreciation for a person's good work. It makes people aware that good work will be rewarded and that is why childcare celebrated our caregivers through Caregiver Long Service Awards. Those awarded were from 5 to 15 years of service to the ministry. One could tell just how they felt from the loud cheers to the way they dressed.

We showed them just how seen they are, that the work they are putting in is visible and we are appreciative of them. 'They just couldn't contain their excitement, mostly because the ministry is recognizing them for all the work they are putting in,' said Phumlani Sihlongonyane, a social worker.



Teams

By: Michelle le Roux

We had the privilege of hosting a team from Mission Discovery (USA) at the beginning of August. As always, this team brought a breath of fresh air with them, lots of laughter, and hearts that do justice to their tagline, "To love is to serve". For some on the team, it was their first introduction to Africa, let alone Eswatini! For the returnees, it was a joyful reunion with those here in Bulembu whom they've built connections with over the years. Considering that for some returnees it was their 12th trip to Bulembu, it's easy to understand just how special those reunions were!



With a good mix of new team members and returnees, it was great to show them around Bulembu and be reminded ourselves of just how much God has done in the three years since the last Mission Discovery team came in 2019. Some members of the team got to work on pouring concrete on a portion of the road to the Dvudvusi 1 dining hall where rain often causes havoc. One team member brought her 42 years of experience in Special Needs Education and assisted in various ways with Primary School children, while a couple of others served the team by driving around to the work sites and making sure they had enough water and fresh doughnuts from the Bulembu Bakery!



The children were delighted to see the return of some familiar faces on team. There was much excitement during Clubs, Sports and the Friday afternoon dining hall visit where the team got to spend time with the children.

Something that has undoubtedly become a highlight of a Mission Discovery visit over the years, is the Aunties' Tea party. This is aimed at blessing the caregivers and Childcare staff for their selfless sacrifice in caring for the children in Bulembu's care. Each aunty and Childcare staff member received a cup of tea, a 'moorish' bran muffin baked by the lodge, and a gift bag filled with goodies. A devotion was shared and of course there was the customary dancing to the "Chicken dance"!

To say that we are thankful for borders being open again and teams returning, is an understatement! If you would like to explore visiting Eswatini as a part of a team, emails us for more info of teams that will be visiting from your country!



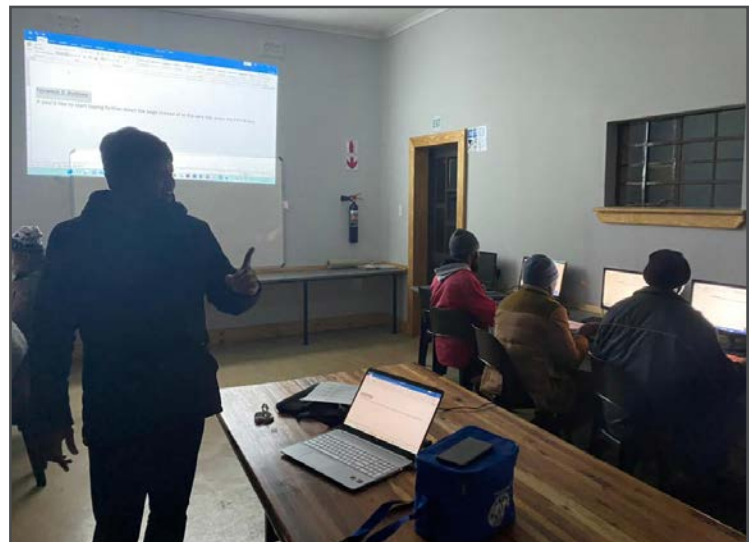
Computer Literacy Classes

Empowering our employees!

By: Ntombilenye Dube

We are offering basic computer literacy night classes every Tuesday for those employees who would like to broaden their skillset. Knowledge is valuable, builds-up and creates opportunities and this is what we want for every employee.

They started a computer literacy class where they are teaching the employees the basics of computer studies. Some of them have never touched a computer or had lessons on computers before, so this initiative came just at the right time. "This is a very good initiative, ever since it started, I can see progress and they are enjoying the program as they are learning because it's something new to some of them," said Terrence Bothma, their IT teacher.



Volunteer

Making a Difference



By: Ntombilenye Dube

We are so excited to have teams and volunteers back in town. Alyssa Doucett, a volunteer who has come to love Bulembu, has returned after a long covid wait.

Let's start with your name.

It's Alyssa Doucett and I am 26 years old.

What did you study?

I studied early childhood education with linguistics and speech pathology and English as a second language. I tried to create my own deaf education major since my school did not have it. So, I did like teaching language and it all took me 4 years.

What do you like doing with your free time?

It has to be field hockey. I get to play it even when I'm here in Bulembu since the Royal Rangers have hockey sticks - it's always fun. It's like my favorite sport in my favorite place.

Do you have a pet?

I do, her name is Ellie, a husky mix and I usually go hiking with her.

How many siblings do you have?

I have 2 siblings, and a nephew who is my best friend. I taught him sign language and he's one and a half. He already knows 20 signs - he's super smart.

What's your highlight?

The people. My first year I came to Bulembu, some of the children said hello and some were shying away; but since I keep coming back, even those children who seemed not to want anything to do with me, they are talking to me now and opening up. The relationships that I build are 100% my highlight about Bulembu.

So, is that one of the reasons why you keep on coming back?

Yeah, I feel like I need to see everyone. The 3-year break was awful enough. It's so hard reading and writing the letters because they aren't the same as the actual and real connection.

What's your favorite food?

Shredded Fried chicken. I like cooking, mostly trying new recipes to see what works.

Bright Future

By: Ntombilenye Dube



We are so proud of Mduzi, one of the young adults who has graduated with a certificate in metal work-ark & gas welding! This is what he had to share with us:

When did you arrive in Bulembu?

I arrived in Bulembu in 2008.

What did you study?

I studied Welding at Codec College and National handicrafts training center at Ezulwini.

What kept you motivated during your studies?

It's the job itself since I'm passionate about it.

Is it something you've always wanted to do or is it a new-found passion?

I wanted to be an electrician but as soon as I finished my form 5, I interned in every department here in Bulembu and when I got to the welding part of it, that's when I knew that this is something I want to do for the rest of my life.

What is your next step?

Starting my own welding business, in Nhlangano, my home town. It has already started, I run it as a mobile welding business, getting to where my clients need me to be and doing work for them.

What is your dream?

It's to get to a point where my business sustains itself and it creates job opportunities for other people.

What advice do you have for people who are coming after you?

It's to follow their heart and not forget the bigger picture which is God. If you involve God in every decision you make everything becomes easier and it gets easier to identify what you're created for.



What is one thing you wish was told to you growing up?

I wish I got the chance to be told about welding at an early stage.

Do you still play a guitar?

A lot. It's more like a hobby. Every Sunday I make sure I'm in the worship team playing it.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

I like doing music and socializing with people.

What is your favorite food?

I don't have any, I just enjoy meat.

What is your favorite movies?

It has to be The God's must be crazy.

Describe yourself in one word.

Humble

Mobile Soup Kitchen *all the way from Durban.*

By: Bianca Puttkammer



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...” – Matthew 25:35.

We were tremendously blessed by the Shoprite in Durban, South Africa who sent a mobile soup kitchen to Swaziland. They visited a number of schools before coming to Bulembu and blessed children with delicious soup and bread. It always is such a blessing to receive hot soup and bread on a cold winter's day and we are thankful that Shoprite came out all this way to bless us!

Sizakele

Sithole-Khumalo

one of the new social workers who have joined the childcare team had this to share with us:

By: Ntombilenye Dube

What is your job description?

I am a social worker by profession and my task is to enhance human wellbeing so that they can meet their basic and complex needs; in particular, those who are vulnerable, oppressed or living in poverty.

How did you come to know about Bulembu?

I knew Bulembu through Social media; I was following Bulembu Facebook page and also through Potter's Wheel church where I used to attend services with my relatives.

What is one thing you love about Bulembu?

Well, because you have asked me about one thing I'll stick to that, otherwise there are so many things I like about Bulembu. One thing I like is that Bulembu has joined hands with other stakeholders who are assisting the Government of Eswatini in providing a safe place for orphaned and vulnerable children and transforming them into future leaders.

Where did you study?

I studied Bachelor of Arts Social work at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and I am currently enrolled with the Caverndish University of Zambia for Master of Social Work (MSW).

What are your hobbies?

My Hobbies are gardening and socializing with all human forms who are in all levels of life.



What do you like doing with your free time?

During my free time I read a lot. This helps me to stimulate my imagination as well as gain knowledge and stay updated.

What does your job entail?

I am one of the Team Leaders in the Child Care Department. My responsibilities entail coordinating different support, preventative and post care interventions and ensuring that all the interventions are for the best interest of the children and that their needs are met.

What does being a social worker mean to you?

It means that it's not about me but about the people that are around me; to make them feel validated and not judged.



PRAYER REQUESTS

For teams to come visit
Eswatini.

For job opportunities for
the form 5 graduates.

For peace in Eswatini