

P. O. Box 1141, Mbabane, Kingdom of Eswatini
 Telephone +268 - 2410 5509 / +268 - 2404 8101
 Email: helen@cmswazi.org Website: www.cmswazi.org

Dear Friends and Family,

As I write, it's Thanksgiving week in America. What a perfect time to reflect on God's goodness to us here in Eswatini. We have **so much to be thankful for!** The last couple of months have definitely held some momentous moments for us at Challenge Ministries Swaziland.



October kicked off with our Potter's Wheel annual **One Love 5k**, on the 1st of October. It's safe to say it was the best one yet, with over 360 participants braving the climb up Emafini mountain. Whilst the tough up-hill was certainly a bonding activity ... in which to encourage one another in perseverance..., it was the fun fellowship afterwards that made the day especially wonderful. We are thankful beyond words to be able, once again, to **build the church family through such special times of playing games, dancing, eating and laughing together.**



We are very, very thankful that travel has opened up again!! This brought the long awaited green-light for our fabulous **Hope and Glory Choir** to **visit the UK**. The choir was a lovely representation of the ministry family at large, being made up of young people from Bulembu, as well as the Teen Challenge Men's and Women's Centres. Their first week was spent in England, followed by a very busy two weeks in Northern Ireland. It was a fantastic experience for them all, filled with too many highlights to mention here. We are deeply grateful to all who made their tour possible, and to those who so lovingly hosted and cared for them throughout their trip, providing each one an opportunity to expand their horizons and to see God's love in action. We're happy to have them home!



The Northern Ireland family not only hosted the choir, though; they simultaneously continued to work tirelessly in order to pack and send us yet **another container!** Filled to the brim, it's already on its way to us now. We're thankful for every person in this tremendous team effort to bless CMS in this practical way.





Travel re-opening meant that at long last our international **Board Meeting** could be held **IN-PERSON in Bulembu** for the first time in 3 years. Our Zoom meetings throughout that period were just not the same! It was so wonderful to regather, and to catch up with dear friends. We are thankful to each member of our amazing Board for their wise, discerning guidance, particularly in these especially challenging times.

An extra blessing was that, along with the Board members, came teams from their different counties: England, Canada & the US, all of whom engaged in work projects and sports with the children. It's both

a joy (and a relief!) to have teams visiting us again, bringing their much needed helping hands and enthusiastic encouragement to our children.

The CCV team from Phoenix delighted us by introducing Pickle-ball to Bulembu. If you've never played Pickle-ball, you're missing out. A cross between tennis and



table tennis, it's easy to

learn and SO much fun. The Bulembu children are loving it. And we loved it, too, that Joshua was part of the CCV team 😊



We are very thankful also to dentist Myron Roth and his wife, Patty, who returned to us from Canada to serve for 2 weeks by doing **dental work** for our children. They brought with them digital X-ray equipment, which has made all the difference in the dental service that can be provided. In 13 days of consultations they were able to do dental work on 233 of our children. Two of Bulembu's young adults who are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field were also able to "intern" with Dr. Roth during the dental clinic. They gleaned valuable knowledge and insight into this part of the medical field. What an incredible blessing!



On 10th November, all **COVID restrictions to travel were lifted completely**. There is no longer any requirement of testing or vaccinations in order to enter or leave Eswatini!! We are extremely thankful for the freedom of movement this restores. However, tensions in Eswatini do remain, and **political unrest** does necessitate caution and wisdom when travelling in our little country.

But the unrest did not deter **Pr Stan Tharp** from his recent visit to us. Stan Tharp pastors the church of Dayton CLC that has been the wind under our wings in developing the **In Community By Community** projects over the past decade. We are so thankful that Pr Stan could come to see for himself the progress of the past 3 years. We are in awe of the growth God has brought about through the support of Dayton CLC. We now **care for over 800 orphaned and vulnerable children, and reach over 2000 people each week through the churches in our 28 ICBC's** scattered throughout Eswatini's rural areas.

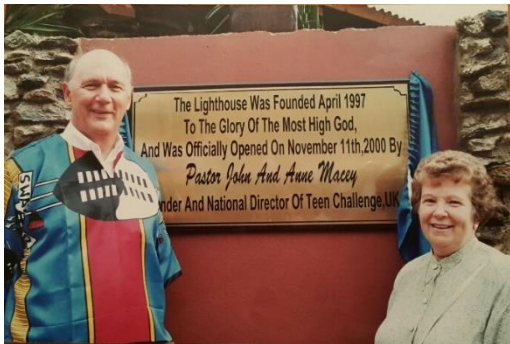


Personally, our favourite part of Pr Stan's visits is the time he invests into our leadership in imparting strategy and team-building with our staff. He's not one to let us just sit and listen.



There's always a giant flip chart involved in his sessions, and lots of fun interaction. He's also a great teacher - his very helpful and timeous sermon shared at Potter's recently on 'No Pain, No Gain' is one not to be missed. *(Available on YouTube.)* We are very thankful for Pr Stan's mentorship and help in planting and growing our church family.

Through the years, God has brought wonderful, wise mentors into our lives. We are so thankful for each one.



John Macy, founder of Teen Challenge UK, became Kevin's mentor for the TC discipleship centres, from the very early years of CMS. We look upon him as a spiritual father, and certainly one of God's generals. Sadly, John went to Heaven on 31st October.



He ran his race well. We honour John for the amazing impact that he had on our ministry; he played a huge role in our development of the Teen Challenge centres of CMS. We would certainly not be where we are today, doing what we do, without John Macy's faithful encouragement and support. It was John who helped Teen Challenge Eswatini really get going. He inspired us, encouraged us,



taught us and supported us. Through him, Teen Challenge UK purchased Hawane Farm for CMS to build homes for children in a safe, family environment. John's legacy is far reaching. Many, many young people have been saved into God's Kingdom from all over the world through the dedicated, sacrificial work of John, his love and his obedience to the Lord's call. **May his life be an inspiration to all of us for**



how far reaching your impact can go when you live all out for Jesus. We had the privilege of attending John's funeral in Wales, to celebrate his amazing life, and giving us the blessing of reconnecting with dear Teen Challenge friends from across the globe, *(Phil Hills from TC UK, and Bernie Gillott from Global TC pictured here)*. What a man of God! John will never be forgotten! We are forever grateful for his investment into our lives.

How fitting it is that this very week we can see the ripple effect of John's legacy being tangibly passed on, to the young men and women in our care, as we **celebrated the**



Graduation of 15 young men, and 13 young women from the Teen Challenge Centres this weekend!! What a joy to witness Kingdom transformation, one life at a time, and to hear their victorious testimonies that prove the truth of what John taught us – that Teen Challenge is a place of which can be said, **“Hope lives here, Freedom is found here, Changed lives leave here!”**. We are so thankful for the honour of being part of what the Lord is doing in the lives of the young people of Eswatini.

We were **so proud of Tengitile for bravely sharing her difficult and heart-breaking testimony.** What a powerful illustration of God’s love and hope and promise of a future, through Jesus. This is her story of transformation. It may be difficult to read:

I’m a lady of 18 years old. I grew up without my birth mother, for when my mother gave birth to me she left me under a bridge. I was found by strangers, who took care of me until I could walk. I was not told about my mother or father and I never asked, because I thought that the family I lived with was my only family. When I started pre-school the man I thought was my father started touching me inappropriately and I never shared with any one because I didn’t know it was wrong. Later he progressed to raping me. This affected my behaviour negatively.

When I started primary school, a woman came and took me away because the neighbours were complaining about my behaviour. I stayed with this woman, who I later discovered was my grandmother. She was loving, caring and did everything she could for me. But the only thing she couldn’t do was spare me her time. This led to deep sexual abuse from the neighbours. This behaviour continued without my grandmother’s knowledge.

A few years later, when I was in Grade 6, I was introduced to my birth mother, and this brought happiness to my life. I spent quite a lot of time with her. But by this time I was already drinking and smoking due to the wrong crowd I was following. My mother had no idea I was doing this until the family hosted a welcome home party for her, at which everyone was drunk, including me. Two days after the event I realised something was different. I didn’t recognize the people around me; the clothes I wore were also different. I was in a different environment, but my uncle, mom and cousin were there too. I asked where my gran was and my mom told me I would never see her again and to just move on because I was old enough. At that time, I didn’t mind because I wanted to spend time with my mother. It still hadn’t registered on me that I’d been trafficked to South Africa. I just wanted to stay with my mother. But soon started the



routine - around 7 pm each night, my cousin and I, and other girls my age, were taken to beautiful places where we smoked weed and cocaine and slept with different men. I was in a drunk and numb state so I couldn’t differentiate between right or wrong. Food was scarce so survival mode kicked in and I stole food. This happened for 2 full years, until one evening during working hours, a man asked if he could pay extra money for extra hours for me and my cousin. They let us go with him without supervision and this helped because he was able to ask if we wanted to go home to Swaziland. At first I said no; I didn’t want to disappoint my mother. But my cousin was able to convince me to come back home. We stayed with this man for about a month without seeing any of our relatives. We were scared of rejection and that my mother might be arrested for what she’d done, so it was our secret. But eventually my cousin and I were separated. She went back home, and by God’s grace, I found my way to Elusitweni, where I’m healing day by day. I have invited the Lord Jesus to be my personal saviour; I’ve learnt to forgive and love myself and everyone around me. I have reconciled with my granny and I am praying that my mom will come back and fix things the way God wants us to. Today I am a God fearing lady and

I’ve been cleansed by the Blood of Jesus Christ.

As she graduates, please continue to pray for Tengitile’s protection and blessing for her future. God has a plan and a purpose for her, and He gives her a hope and a future. But she will greatly appreciate your prayers, please.

What a joy to see Muzi graduate from the TC Men's programme, and at the graduation to hear his powerful testimony:



My name is Muzi. I am a 34 years old. I was born and raised at Siphocosini, in the outskirts of the Capital City, Mbabane. I completed high school in South Africa, KwaZulu Natal. After that I started working as a shop assistant in Mbabane. My life was very good as I started working and in a short space of time I managed to buy myself a car and build a house at home. I was a very responsible person at home and even in my community. I also started my own screen printing business, in which I was doing well. As life went on, I began to indulge in alcohol and drugs. I started being disrespectful and being harsh to other people. In the process, I became bankrupt and I lost my car and job. My life deteriorated and I felt very useless and unwise. Fortunately, God used my fiancé, who was a pillar of strength at the time, to encourage me to better my life by joining the Teen Challenge Men's Centre program. After giving the

whole idea some thought, I felt it was necessary for me to accept the need for change, and I was admitted to Men's Centre. In my mind I was telling myself that Men's Centre was an ordinary rehabilitation centre that would only help me quit alcohol and drugs, and nothing further than that. To my amazement, I found that the Centre at Hawane was a place of hope, care and restoration. I gave my life to Christ as I was doing one of the 14 subjects' classes. Ever since I gave my life to Jesus, I feel a sense of peace and stability. Even though I face challenges from time to time, I am able to surrender all my burdens to God. I am also grateful to God that whilst doing the program I have learnt to use the brush-cutter, which is a skill I will continue to use at home and I even hope to start a business of maintaining people's lawns for a living.



Right now my life has completely changed, as I know how to treat others with proper respect. I have learnt to be calm and considerate, putting other people's feelings above mine.

I am now a free man in Christ, and my life shall never be the same again. My favourite scripture in the Bible is found in Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus".

Please pray for Muzi as he steps out of the Centre and into the next part of his exciting journey, following the Lord.

December is upon us, and we are looking forward to **celebrating Jesus** in style, throughout this special season. There's no better way to celebrate Jesus than to celebrate His children, enjoying fellowship together, sharing testimonies and showing **gratitude for all that God has done!**

In this final stretch of the year, **may the Light of Jesus shine brightly in each one of our hearts and homes as we fix our eyes on Him this Christmas time.** May He be glorified, as Jesus, Light of the World! We are immensely grateful to the Lord for bringing us through this year of 2022, and thankful to each person who has walked with us, and supported us – strengthening us from behind, encouraging us from alongside, and urging us forward by imparting wisdom to guide us. We look forward to 2023 with hope and joy. God's peace and strength to you. May all His promises to you be yes and amen!

With our love and appreciation,

Kevin, Helen, and all of the CMS family

