

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,

In Eswatini, Spring has arrived and we are **full of hope**, as we prayerfully hold onto God’s promises, trusting Him to bring us into a new season. Today, according to the ‘COVID Live Worldometer’ we currently have **only**

#	Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases
138	French Polynesia	76,542		649		N/A	N/A	N/A
139	New Zealand	74,086	+95	314		73,639	+218	133
140	Eswatini	73,374		1,422		71,945		7

7 active cases of COVID remaining in the country! Masks came off in mid-July, at last, and it’s a joy to breathe in the Jasmin-filled air ... and drink coffee together at church on Sundays. That indeed is a big thing to be celebrated!

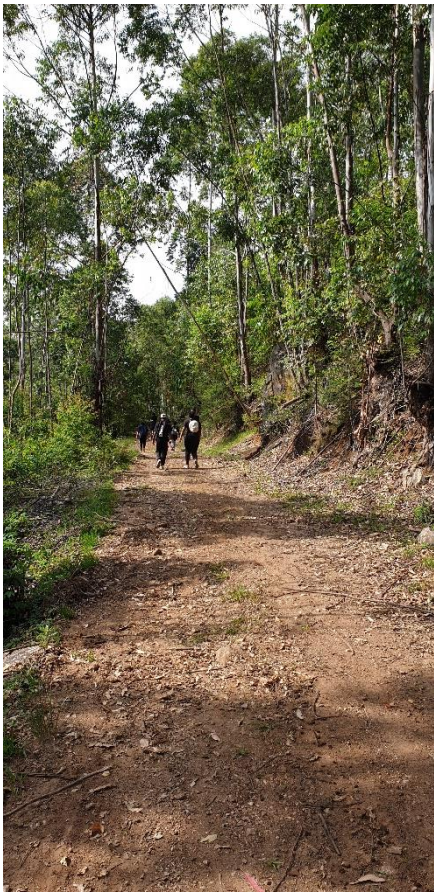
We are thankful for God’s goodness and faithfulness. In the midst of all the difficulties, there is so much to celebrate. The **Bulembu border re-opened** just a few weeks ago. What a difference that is already making to our Bulembu families, no longer needing to take the long way round for SA trips. We are hopeful that now international travel is easier, that **Mission Impact** will soon be hosting many more visiting teams again. It has been wonderful to have several of our old teams back with us already. In July we were blessed by a visit from the Northern Irish team – so good to see old friends again, and to meet a few new ones too. We have so missed our visiting teams! I don’t know if you realize quite what a positive impact a visiting missions team has on the morale of those in our care. We are so grateful for these outreach visits. We also continue to hope and pray for the Bulembu border to one day be granted commercial status, which would be tremendously helpful for our Bulembu enterprises.



At the **Teen Challenge Women’s Centre**, we celebrated **Mcebo’s 10 years of faithful service**, working alongside Make Thobile. Mcebo is a gem, and the ladies at the Centre are thriving, with her loving guidance. So is their fresh produce – of strawberries, vegetables, and chickens!



One of the TC young ladies was willing to share her powerful **testimony of transformation** with us:



"My name is SB. I am 31 years of age and I have an 11-year-old son. I attended Sifundzani High school, which I completed at the age of 18. In my gap year I met a guy who I thought was my everything, and I fell pregnant. He was abusive to me, physically, mentally, emotionally and also towards my son, causing him trauma and sleepless nights. I was depressed and lost. This man would beat me so much that I couldn't walk, talk or eat. Many times I was admitted to hospital because of the injuries he caused. But every time a police report was needed I would lie and say I was in a bar fight, because I would be smelling of alcohol when I gained consciousness. I lied to protect him because I had no job at that time, and I didn't know how I could raise my son without his help if he was arrested. I was afraid of going back home because I had run away when I found out I was pregnant, and he knew this.

One day he cut me badly on my right hand with a wine glass. I needed stitches and for months my hand was not functioning; I couldn't move my fingers or hold a cup, or even write with a pen. I was prescribed strong pain tablets but I ended up misusing them, consuming 25-30 pills a day, leading to addiction. My body was numb and most of the time I was out of it, making it very difficult for me to take care of my son. I couldn't hide the abuse from my parents any longer.

All this led to my parents taking my 2-year old son away from me for his own safety. They agreed to care for him, with the condition that I would let go of his father. But I thought I was in love. You might ask yourself how I could have thought that, looking at all I was going through. But people that abuse you have a way of

making you believe it was your fault. So I stayed with the father. And I got into heavy drinking, smoking weed and popping pills for 7 years until my son was 9 years old. My mom told me I needed help and she brought me to the TC Women't Centre, Elusitweni. But I didn't believe that I needed help. I stayed for 7 months and then made my way back into the world. I went back to the same old ways; drinking and smoking. I spiralled out of control, worse than before because I went back to my ex-boyfriend and he beat me close to death, leading to the loss of my unborn baby. I sat in that pool of blood crying and crying. I was ashamed of myself, I hated my life and who I had become. Then, I remembered Elusitweni. I got up from there a different person. I remembered that at Elusitweni I found peace and I was able to pray and I felt loved and safe. I remembered that the Lord doesn't leave or forsake us but he forgives and restores what the devil tries to take away from us. The devil tried to take away my right hand hence I would not be able to write or draw, but because God is a God of time and mercies he gave me grace, my hand works perfectly and I'm able to do my paintings and my drawings. My eyes and passion for art is restored, my confidence is restored, my health is restored, my body is stronger than ever because the devil tells us lies, that make us believe he is right yet he only wants to destroys us completely. The devil had stolen my identity, happiness and joy, he had stolen my smile but because the Lord loves me I'm happy again and I have inner peace. The Lord touched my parents and they forgave me and I went back home. My son is in a good school. He is smart, happy and healthy, all through God's grace. I am back at Elusitweni to rekindle my relationship with my Father God because I know how He loves me and that He has good plans for me.

My Lord took away the spirit of fear, because that's not from Him. He took away doubt, because He is faithful. He healed me inside and out, because He loves me. Because of His warm embrace, I don't need the comfort of substances or drunkenness. God blessed me because I didn't have withdrawal symptoms; I just stop smoking and popping pills.

I live a life of favour; I'm a walking miracle. I have the power of God to speak life to my own life. I know who I am: I am a child of God as I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Saviour of my life. God is using Challenge Ministries and Potter's Wheel church as tools for my transformation. I truly appreciate God. I know my life will never be the same again and I believe I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

Please pray for the precious young women of Elusitweni, that the Lord will continue to bring **healing transformation** to each of them, in body, soul and spirit.



At Hawane the **pig project** is doing very well, overseen by Julius. They are now on target to have 30 pigs ready for market every month. The new deep litter system works like a dream, with now little to no smell, or flies. Julius has just started a **sheep project** too, with 12 ewes on Hawane Farm, and hoping to build this up to a breeding flock of 100 ewes in the future.



The ICBC's continue to progress. We are in the final stages of construction of **ICBC site number 28**, at Lushikishini, near Sicunusa. This should be completed in next 30 days. Julius is hoping to do **2 more boreholes** this year to help communities that need clean water. Please pray with us as we trust God to help the Missions Team to



plough in the ICBC's. We see this **Ploughing Project** as a critically important outreach to provide food security for rural communities, especially in light of the current economic situation of hyper-inflation. Potter's Wheel has been able to contribute significantly towards the ploughing, but more help is needed.

August was school holidays for many of our young people at Potter's Wheel. So, the **Youth** took a day of their holiday to go and **serve at the Hawane ICBC**. Pastor Tim connected the Youth to a wonderful woman in the Hawane community, called Aunty Joyce. Aunty Joyce and her 6 children had had to move house abruptly due to the COVID pandemic. 32 Youth members turned out for the day and all worked together to help make some finishes on her new home. We had one team working on plastering inside her home, another team building a toilet, and a team helping to put the roof on a chicken coup. The Youth gave it their all, and by the end of a long day their one day of work had amounted to 1 months' worth of work for Aunty Joyce and her family. The whole day was a very special experience for them all as they realised that at their young age, they are able to serve and make an impact. Aunty Joyce was a wonderful host, and the Youth thoroughly enjoyed hanging out with her, and her children as we worked. For us as a Potter's team, it was great to also see the Youth catching a heart for the ICBCs. We hope to do more outreaches in the future.



Making the most of the more relaxed travel requirements, Thobile and Thembeke had the amazing opportunity of attending a **worship conference in Florida** this month, to learn more about song-writing and worship-leading. Since the start of COVID, Thobile has led worship at Potter's Wheel every single Sunday. It was really about time for her to have her own tank filled for a change. Potter's Wheel funded the trip. We pray that both Thobile and Thembeke return to us refreshed, revitalized, and overflowing with creative ideas to share.

Whilst Thobile was still away, her second born son, Samu, also travelled to the USA. Samu recently graduated from Chef-school in the top-5 of his class, and was privileged to earn the opportunity of a year-long **chef's internship** at a resort in Alabama. He bravely set-off on his new adventure last week. Please keep Samu in your prayers, as it's a huge and somewhat daunting step in his journey of life. But we are thrilled for him to spread his wings and have this experience.



Yes, it's been a hard season. But wow! Just look what the Lord is doing! He is good. And we are grateful to Him, and grateful for you. Thank you for walking with us. Thank you for caring. And thank you for your prayers – they make all the difference.

With our love and appreciation,

Kevin, Helen, and all of the CMS family



Be still and know that I am God - Psalm 46:10