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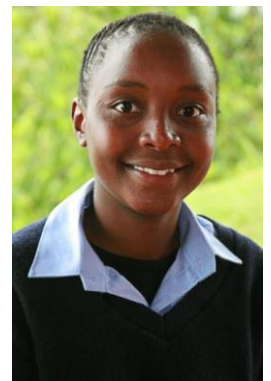
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Dear Friends and Family,

Intense, would be a suitable adjective for first quarter of this new year. Time and time again God has carried us through difficulties, and met every need. He has provided, protected and blessed ... beyond what we could imagine. We know it's a team effort, and that the Lord uses people to be His hands and feet here on Earth. So we are thankful for all who have prayed and given of their time and their blood, sweat and tears for us, as well as materially and financially too. Every drop, every crumb and every cent is appreciated and has made a difference.



You may remember the **urgent call for help** when one of the Bulembu teenagers, Bongekile, was involved in a freak car accident in Bulembu in February. She needed 9 units of blood to save her life – after-hours, and when the Blood Bank was closed. Through the prayer hot-line, the rapid response of the church family rallying to donate blood that night, and the dedication of the medical teams at the various hospitals involved who worked through the night to keep her alive, her life was spared, and her leg has been saved. Bongekile's journey back to full recovery may be a long one, but we are eternally grateful to all who played a part in preserving her life and her leg.



Blood is often in short supply in Eswatini. Bulembu has responded to this crisis by committing to hold regular blood-drives, inviting the national **Blood Bank** to travel to Bulembu several times a year. Additionally, Potter's Wheel has an active WhatsApp group of willing blood donors who can be called upon in emergencies. No matter the time, or the distance they have to drive give their blood, they have proven to be selfless. What a church family!



The accident happened whilst we were in Phoenix Arizona for the **Tenors Concert**, with Vernon and Leigh and four of the Bulembu young adults. Despite everyone's underlying concern for Bongekile, the concert was fantastic. The Tenors were brilliant, and so encouraging and kind to the four young people as they all sang together. Our team sang with their hearts and gave a performance of joy that brought a standing ovation. It was really an uplifting, feel-good evening, and an amazing experience for the four. We're so proud of them, proving to be such great ambassadors for the children of Bulembu. And we're very thankful to the Tenors for holding Bulembu in their hearts. We can't thank them enough for so graciously and generously investing their time and talent for the benefit of Bulembu. It is so much appreciated. **Partners In Action** hosted the event. For us it was lovely to see Joshua growing in his new role of Executive Director of PIA, and serving CMS & Bulembu from across the ocean.



Meanwhile, back in Eswatini, God has been busy **growing** things ...



-The ICBCs are growing. The **24th ICBC** is now well established. With a plan to plant 4 more churches by the end of 2022.



-The **maize fields** of the ICBCs are growing, some of them helped along by new wells with solar-driven pumps. Water-capturing systems are now functional on all 24 sites.



-The **pre-schools** are growing. We now have 20 of them. In total, they are caring for **over 780 orphaned and vulnerable children in the ICBC sponsorship programme**, providing nutritious meals for the preschoolers throughout the week, and distributing rice packs to families in dire need.



-In this first quarter of 2022, approximately **240,000 rice meals** have been distributed through ICBCs, which amounts to almost 1.8 million meals since last July. These rice meals come to us from Dayton CLC, who sacrificially give their time and resources to provide and pack them for the ICBCs throughout Eswatini. This year, some of the Potter's Wheel congregants happened to be in Dayton just at the right time to help with the packing!



-The number of ICBC pastors in Bible school is growing. There are currently 29 pastors in training. They spend 1 week a month at Potter's Wheel doing ISOM. Since inception, **65 pastors have graduated through the ISOM Bible school**, 21 of these, to degree level. We're thankful to Dayton CLC for funding the pastor's training too



At the beginning of February, we held a joyous ISOM graduation ceremony, with 31 graduates, comprised of ICBC pastors along with Potter's Wheel congregants. Shaun and Alison Finlay and Khosi Manana do a marvelous job of running ISOM. This year they already have 72 students on the programme.





- At the TC Men's Centre, **the piggery is growing**. There has recently been rapid multiplication, thanks to some new breeding sows, so we now have **148 pigs at Hawane**, and Julius is looking to double that in the future. He is introducing a new deep litter system which seems to be beneficial for conservation of water and for waste disposal. Best, I think, must be the benefit that the pig pens now 'don't smell at all' (or so they say)☺.



- The TC Women's Centre is growing in power. **Solar power!** This came as a generous gift from Standard Bank, who officially unveiled this exciting new project in early March, on International Women's Day. It's going to be a big cost-saving for the Centre, and is a great blessing.



-In the Bulembu forest, the eucalyptus trees are growing too. The new **Bulembu Essential Oils** project was launched in 2020, as Bulembu's biggest sustainability project yet. The trees are growing well, and we were excited to have our very first bottles of lovely oils produced by the start of this year! God is so good. Your prayers for this vital sustainability project will be much appreciated please.



- Our faithful friends from Northern Ireland have again blessed us with a container filled with wonderful goodies. These thoughtful donations enrich the lives of our children, our young people, and rural church congregations, by growing their skills and confidence through opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have access to. We are grateful to the **Northern Ireland 'Container ministry team'** for their investment into Eswatini in this practical way.





It was **Potter's Wheel's Sweet Sixteenth** in February. After letting our birthday slip by almost unnoticed last year due to Covid restrictions, we were determined to mark the milestone properly this year. We celebrated safely and suitably, with a fun family hike up the Emafini mountain, followed by a 'bring-your-own picnic' on Potter's lawn, accompanied by dancing and donuts, of course – the two things we are known for as a church family. It was goooooood to fellowship together again after so long.



March 2022 is the **2nd anniversary of Covid** arriving in Eswatini. We had our first case in the country on Saturday 14th March 2020. Sunday 15th March was our last church gathering at Potter's Wheel for a while - although we hadn't known it at the time that Lockdown was about to begin. ... Yet by Sunday 22nd



March, with no experience whatsoever, we held our very first ever '**Church-Online**'!! Wow, how our media team have grown since then! For all we have learnt, we are grateful. For the

opportunity to now be reaching people all over Eswatini through national TV with our Children's Church programmes and our main services (by their invitation, and free of charge to us) we are amazed at God's grace. We continue to pray for the Covid restrictions to ease, and for us to be able to return to church fellowship, more like what we were used to. We trust, and rest in faith, hope and love for 2022.



April this year will mark **25 years for CMS**. We are in awe of all that the Lord has done in the past quarter of a century! It's a privilege to be on this journey, and we are so, so grateful for each person who has been part of the journey thus far. We look forward to many more miles and many more years of growing together. Thank you for walking with us.

With our love and appreciation,

Kevin, Helen, and all of the CMS family

