

UPDATE for July 2021

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Dear Friends and Family,

We are **so gratefu**l to you for all the prayer cover we have received for Eswatini and Southern Africa during this very challenging past three weeks. Having lived 55 years in this beautiful

Daily New Cases in Eswatini



peaceful country, we never imagined things could turn so quickly into the heart-breaking destruction that we have just witnessed. In the face of a rising third wave of Covid, as if **two concurrent devastating pandemics** were not enough for our country to be dealing with, now **civil unrest**! But God is great, and loving, and merciful. He never fails us. And throughout the upheaval, **His presence and miraculous protection have been felt**, unwaveringly.





The Women's Center experienced a few disturbances. Being in a hot-spot, they had rocks thrown at their

gate, and fire lit just behind their wall. Praise God for the level heads of the staff, and strong leadership of Thobile, who managed to maintain calm in the Centre, despite the chaos and gun shots just outside their walls. The ladies dedicated time to prayer, morning and evening, and the Lord gave encouraging words regarding our nation through both students and staff.



At such a time as this, with food supplies endangered, it's more important than ever for our centres to be



producing food. The vegetable garden at The TC Women's Centre is coming on well. So are their indigenous chickens, that will be used for consumption and at a later stage, also for selling. It's been beautiful to see one of the students, Nokuthula, naturally stepping up to take a leadership role in the farming projects.





The **production of cleaning materials** by the ladies is really coming on well too. They are now making liquid soap, bleach, all-purpose liquid surface cleaner, and floor polish. The aim is for the TC Women to be able to supply these products to all the other residential centres, including Bulembu. It's an empowering life-skill for the TC ladies, as well as practically helping to provide for the monthly needs of the ministry family.





Daily **morning exercise** is also a regular activity at the Centre. The ladies look forward to working out, and have faithfully continued, despite the unrestful times. Again, it's been great seeing another student taking the lead on this, and

encouraging the other students to keep fit.





After all the stress of the past three weeks, what better way to cheer the ladies up than with a new dress each?! God showed up as a Father to give gifts to His daughters, when we received the lovely surprise of a local retail shop blessing our students with two **beautiful new dresses** each! Brand new clothes are a rarity. What indescribable joy and excitement amongst the ladies. It was just the encouragement they needed.





But an even greater gift has been the welcome arrival of the **newest member of the family, Baby Sinokuhle**, recently born to Lindo. We praise God for his safe delivery. Both Baby Sinokuhle and his mom are doing very well.

Staff member at the Centre, Victoria now has four moms with their babies taking part in **Babies Bible Class**, which she holds twice a week. She is doing a great job of teaching the young moms how to share the gospel and the truth of God's love with their little ones, though pictures and songs. It's an occasion they all look forward to.



Despite these troubled times, we have something to celebrate at the **Teen Challenge Men's Centre** too. **Harvest time** always brings smiles to the faces of the students and staff as they get to enjoy the fruits of their hard work. Situated at Hawane Farm, the Men's Centre, has the privilege of discipling wonderful young men to break free from life-controlling habits, predominantly as a result of drugs or alcohol abuse. Apart from



discipleship, we build sustainability businesses where we encourage each student to learn a business skill. The aim being that when they leave the program, if they leave successfully; they will have business skills ready to go into the market and be a positive, contributing citizens who can help advance the kingdom of God in the nation of Eswatini. Our sustainability businesses include a **vegetable garden**, a **piggery and a chicken project**. With the sustainability business we are hitting two birds with one stone: equipping the young men with important skills and also reducing our food budget as we consume vegetables and meat that we produce at our small farm. We are so grateful that although protests had been threatened to include Hawane on their route, that the Lord kept the Men's Centre and the Hawane Children's Homes safely under His wings, undistrubed. He did the same for all the children and staff of Bulembu. Our God is good!

Although we are celebrating a good harvest from our garden, the story is not the same for many young people of Eswatini. The last 18 months have been hard for the country as many hardworking people have been retrenched due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, many of these promising young people end up resorting to substance abuse as a way of comforting themselves from the harsh circumstances of life. It is therefore not surprising that there has been **a surge in the number of people who are knocking on our door in need of help**. Please pray with us as we seek to expand our program and the sustainability projects as we seek to bring Kingdom transformation in Eswatini, one life at a time.

For now, there is calm in the nation, for which we give thanks to God, and to all who stood with us in prayer, calling out for our protection. God heard, and He answered! But we do ask that you continue to pray for peace in Eswatini, please. We are mindful that the current calm does not equate to long-term peace. We are praying for God's will, His wisdom and peace to prevail in this land, and for supernatural economic recovery. **Please pray** for His continued protection and provision, and of course for the third wave of Covid to be stopped in it's tracks, and to flatten rapidly.

We are eternally grateful to you for standing with us and for praying. It does make all the difference. **Thank you**. May God bless you for all that you do to help.

Sincerely,

Kevin, Helen, and all of the CMS family

More pictures & updates available on our website: www.cmswazi.org & potterswheelsd.org on Facebook: @Potter's Wheel Church and @CMSwaziand on YouTube: Potters Wheel Church

