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Dear Family and Friends,

This is a difficult update to write. Many of you will have already heard the **devastating news** –



Two weeks ago, we **lost five of our ministry family in a fatal car accident**. We mourn the tragic loss of the much-loved Sabelo Sibeko and the Perrott family of four. Sabelo came to Bulembu as a child, where he grew up and completed his schooling, and had continued on in Bulembu as one of our young adults. Brendan, Melissa and their two children, Evelyn and Colton, came from Canada as missionaries to serve the people of Eswatini, focussing especially the children of Bulembu. They followed the call of God and left their comfortable home and successful careers in Edmonton Canada for Bulembu, Eswatini. They were selfless, they loved wholeheartedly, empowering lives wherever they went and in so doing impacted many people's lives.

Brendan, Melissa, Evelyn and Colton and Sabelo were returning from the Drakensberg, South Africa, where Sabelo had been participating in an adventure race. An oncoming bakkie overtook a vehicle at an extremely high speed, crossed a solid line, lost control and hit our precious family in a fatal head on collision. This tragic accident has snatched from us a young family, who were full of life, deeply committed to our nation, our children and one another.

Melissa and Brendan loved spending time and investing in people especially the children of Bulembu. They loved having the young adults over for socials and games and even giving driving lessons. Brendan loved playing music. He was extremely talented in music and gifted in leading worship. He loved including the young adults in making music and sharing his passion. They encouraged the children, and the children adored them. One of Melissa's passions was baking. Not only would Melissa bake birthday cakes to bless people in Bulembu, but on weekends she would often have groups of children over for baking lessons. Melissa ministered compassion, hope and life to the mothers and young ladies. They gave of themselves selflessly. They were shining lights for Jesus and will be dearly missed.



Evelyn and Colton made friends and fell in love with the people of Bulembu, just like their parents did. Little Colton lived life enthusiastically– full of love. He could be seen in church raising his hands in worship and singing to Jesus. Evelyn demonstrated a gentle, caring spirit showing kindness and compassion to all her friends. She would often go to school with toys in hand and then give them away. The pre-primary school children and staff were blessed by these two precious souls. School to their little friends will not be the same without them.

Sabelo was talented in sports. He had abounding joy, a life-giving smile, and was loved by many. Brendan and



Melissa spotted his athleticism and encouraged him to live out his passion through adventure racing. He worked at the dairy and as an intern with plans to start his own animal husbandry business this year. We were so proud of his combined qualities of care and compassion through serving the next generation at Bulembu children’s church and his strength and dedication as an athlete, making him a wonderful role model who will never be forgotten.



The loss is hard to get our heads around. We know in part now; we will know in full later. We know God is love and God is good. We trust Father God. So we focus on the Lord, we worship Him, we rest in Him and in His grace. We recognise, **“our loss is Heaven’s gain,”**

and as a family we are pressing in to God’s love, for His supernatural healing, refreshment, renewal. The slow process of recovery has begun. On Thursday 14th, the Memorial held in Bulembu was a true celebration and a beautiful honouring of the lives of our precious Five. We reflected on the legacy that each of them has left for us, young as they were; how they have enriched our lives, recognizing that with the legacy they entrusted to us, we have the responsibility to live life well, loving well, following the example they set, sowing into others and passing on the blessing. As Dave Patterson says: **“Life is short. Eternity is real. People matter the most!”**

Just 3 days after the tragic incident, we were to **host our Annual Premier Leadership Summit**. As hard as it was, we had to go on with the Summit. We count it a privilege to host this event each year, where leaders gather from all spheres of life – government, education, businesses, non-profit organizations, healthcare, churches, and community. As the world experiences a season of unprecedented market volatilities, economic



challenges, global upheavals, and socio-political climate changes, the Summit provides an occasion for leaders to take time out, to pause, to network and to hone their leadership skills. Our Premier Leadership Summit is designed to encourage, inspire, and refresh leaders for these ‘business as *unusual*’ times we are living in, providing delegates an opportunity to network with other leaders, as well as engaging, innovative, thought-provoking teachings from



the GLS international faculty line-up, videocast from Chicago, and internationally renowned live speakers from Southern Africa, bringing insightful, fresh content, relevant to the situation we face in our region.

This year H.E. the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister, the Ministers of Commerce, & of Finance graced us with their presence, even participating in a Q&A session. The PM shared that when His Majesty King Maswati III asked him to take the helm of Eswatini as the Prime Minister, he felt that he had been called as Nehemiah was, to rebuild the nation. It was such a privilege for us as CMS and the church to provide a platform to unite the nation behind government, to encourage the leaders of our nation to support government and make the difference. As is said, “together, we are better.” We believe that when our nation’s top leaders get together, our nation gets better. What an event! We are so grateful for our wonderful volunteers that make the Summit possible.



Potter's Wheel growth in 2019 – Partially due to the Leadership Summit's influence, Potter's has seen incredible growth this year. We have been intentional to run new membership "Connect" classes, 5 times this year, and though these classes, have had the blessing of over 170 new adults, along with their children, officially join the church.



With an average of over 1200 folk attending services each Sunday



morning now, there are probably several hundred more new 'regular attendees', who still need encouragement to properly Connect, and get involved in church life. As the church family expands, so can our outreach, and impact on our community, as we serve together. It has been wonderful to see the growth in the **Prison Ministry** team this year. Touching hearts, changing lives....Kingdom transformation, one life at a time.

Over the past couple of months, the Potter's Prison Ministry team have been

faithfully visiting, and teaching an 8 week long course entitled The Prisoner's Journey (PJ), to inmates at 3 separate prisons – at Mawelawela Female Prison (27) Sidwashini (26), & Matsapah (35). In total - **88 prisoners graduated on Friday 15 November**, cheered on by our volunteers, at a ceremony hosted at His Majesty Correctional Service (HMCS) College in Matsapah. The inmates received a Certificate of completion, along with a gift of toiletries and a Bible. The inmates sign up for the PJ course voluntarily and during the course 16 inmates gave their lives to Christ.



The guest of honor at the graduation was the Deputy Commissioner, who expressed his gratitude to Potter's Wheel, as a church, and indicated his wish for us to extend such courses and other useful training to the Prison officers! We are excited to see where the Lord may take this open door.

ICBC progress - On the very day of the tragic accident, we sent a team of 9 Potter's Wheel ladies, to accompany and serve alongside a team of 9 ladies from Dayton CLS, to present a week long **women's retreat at our new Mshaweni ICBC site.**

92 women from the Mshaweni community attended, who were very welcoming to our ladies. Eternal relationships were made, developed and strengthened. We heard powerful testimonies of



salvations and even more on healings, revelations and freedom from unforgiveness, anger, shame, and pain and bondages. One of the greatest blessings was the relationships that were built between our PW ladies and the Dayton ladies. God knit their hearts together in



miraculous ways. God is doing an amazing work at Mshaweni through Pastors Themba and Thuli and we are anticipating transformation in that community as the ladies who attended the retreat grow in their faith and in their service to their ICBC community. Please continue to pray that God will nurture and grow the seeds that were planted through the retreat.

ICBC Pastoral Training - A new group of about 20 potential pastors began training in May and will complete the ISOM Diploma by year end. This means we now have 43 pastors in training for our ICBC church planting program. It has been an incredible joy to minister and serve these pastors-in-training. Last year's graduates completed the Advanced Diploma this year, and covered many additional topics including hermeneutics, healing, money management, difficulties in leadership and being a pastor's wife. They also attended practical courses on bee-keeping and sustainable organic vegetable gardening, and several attended the Global Leadership Summit. Deep and supportive bonds have developed between the pastors through their monthly times together. The growth is evident.

Hawane Children's Homes Update - We have had great joy in preparing for the upcoming wedding of one of our Hawane sons, Saneliso Vilakati (who some may remember by his nickname 'Mfundisi'). Saneliso has been serving at Potter's Wheel as a pastor-in-training, whilst he continues with studying for his theology degree. His bride-to-be is the lovely Ashlee Koffman, who came to Eswatini as a missionary nurse with TLC, and now serves with us at Potter's Wheel. On the 7th of December **Saneliso and Ashlee will tie the knot of their marriage covenant**, and on return from their honeymoon they will both return to lead Children's church at Potter's Wheel together, under Jalandi's guidance.



Celebrations abound! Earlier this month, **Mncobi & Ncami both graduated from Limkokwing University with their degrees.** Mncobi qualified in business management. He did his internship at Nkonyeni Pre-Cast, and has been blessed to be able to continue working for NPC.

Ncami qualified in film & media, and is flourishing as she works with TLC.

Her courtship with Luke VanderWal, from TLC, may be contributing to the stars in Ncami's eyes 😊. Luke has

already been formerly introduced to Pr Tim, and met the whole family, as part of the courtship process. It's an exciting season in her life.



Teen Challenge Women's Centre 2019 Update – This has been a year of progress for Elusitweni. As a shelter for abused women, the Elusitweni Women's Centre has been under pressure to meet the need for more accommodation to help the destitute women in the Swazi nation.

This year, a new student block has been built, which will increase the capacity by 15 beds. A new kitchen has been added, which is to be used for Life Skills cooking class, aimed and empowering the students in the programme.

Seven students graduated from the programme in 2019. Three are back at school to finish their High School studies, one has been employed as a preschool teacher and the other three are waiting to go to school in early 2020. Many of the young women arrive at the Centre pregnant, and through this year we have welcomed and celebrated the birth of several babies. Currently we have 13 students in the programme, served by 7 staff members.



Teen Challenge Men's Centre 2019 Update - With the move up to Hawane Farm, this year has offered us an amazing time of growth, challenges and jubilation. We have witnessed the faithfulness of God in ways unexplainable. The centre has improved through various renovations and extensions. We thank God for providing us with people who share our vision and enthusiasm for life transformation. Our current intake is 24 students and aiming to grow to 60 students with time, as and how our staff maturity grows with the Centre's expanding capacity.



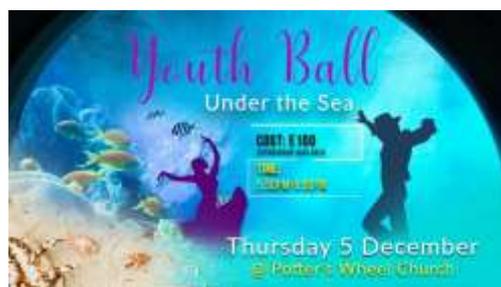
Agriculture - Farming has become an integral part of our lives on Hawane Farm, now that we are on a property which was bought with the intention to aid in sustainability of the ministry, as well as being a place of refuge and hope for our children and young people. We are happy to have students trained in the growing of vegetables and keeping livestock for both consumption and selling purposes. This initiative equips the students with passion for agriculture and love for the soil, as agriculture is one of the fundamental pillars in economic growth.



Further on our **sustainability enterprises**, we recently rebranded our Bulembu Water, with the new name of '**Emlembe Mountain Spring Water**', in honour of the mountain it is sourced from; the tallest peak in Eswatini. Along with the new name, the water is also now available in glass bottles, for the hospitality industry, and a line of sparkling water has been added too. Please join us in prayer for this enterprise to grow into being a major income generator for supporting the children of Bulembu.



Upcoming – At this special time of year we have so much to look forward to. **Schools are almost out for the year**, and that's always exciting. There's lots of bustle about, as we get ready for our **Jesus Light of the World** celebration on Wednesday 4th December, the **Youth Annual Ball** on Thursday 5th December, then the **Wedding of Sani & Ashlee** on Saturday 7th December.



The life-giving rains are here, and the country side has suddenly turned green again, as we slowly exhale, and breath a bit more normally this week. It really has been a full, challenging, and a stretching year for our team. More than ever before we have needed... and with grateful hearts we have felt... the prayers of those around us, far and wide, lifting us up, and encouraging us to keep going through the hard times, given us grace, and being patient with us as we have muddled on. We could not have got through this year without the help of the body of Christ working together to carry us through. Our thanks go to God, and to you, who walk with us and support CMS & Bulembu.

Thank you! We are grateful that you are in our lives. May you be abundantly blessed during this season of celebrating Jesus, our Light of the World.

Sincerely,

Kevin, Helen, and all of the CMS family.