



BULEMBU BEAT

Faith. Hope. Love.

Headlines

Holiday Smiles

Bezulu - Canada

CCV & Pr Joe Teams

Holiday Smiles



The children had fun ushering in the New Year! To celebrate 2023 and all that it's going to bring, children and caregivers have a yearly Fun Day! The day included being outside playing on jumping castles, skipping and playing traditional outdoor games like the egg-and-spoon race and the sack race. Children queued up to have their faces painted and it was such a lovely hot day that it made the waterslide the absolute highlight for most of the children.

The children did take brief breaks to eat their snacks and hot dogs, then it was back to the fun. 'The fact that we are all here together with the babies from the baby home is so much fun,' said one happy child. This is also one of the highlights, that the children all gather together from the babies up to the young adults and the caregivers, to celebrate and have fun!

By: Ntomilenye Dube

Edited: Rachel Smart





Ministry Update



bezulu
Restoring Hope, Building Family

Oh, Canada!

Bulembu and CMS each have long-standing histories and connections to our friends, supporters and family in Canada.

We are excited to see that support enter a new season of growth by creating a new charity based in Alberta, Canada, called Bezulu.

Bezulu is a Siswati word that translates to "Of Heaven." We dream of seeing spiritual and physical healing, restored communities, and strong families become a reality for Bulembu and the nation.

The creation of Bezulu will nurture and grow a passionate community of supporters in Canada, representing a massive opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of so many children.

If you are currently sponsoring a child or supporting Bulembu through the Great Commission Foundation, do not worry. Your support is still being received! Throughout the first half of 2023, we will be reaching out to tell you how to move your giving to Bezulu.

Bezulu represents a tremendous leap forward as we continue to build capacity and grow our vision to transform a nation, one child at a time.

Now you know what Bezulu is, but what about who?

We are excited to introduce the Guenther Family: Josh, Nadine, Oliver (6), and Finn (5).

After nearly a decade of field leadership experience in Central East Africa, Josh and his family relocated to Western Canada in 2021.

Effective January 2023, Josh took on the position of Executive Director for Bezulu. With his knowledge of working with grassroots and international NGOs and in community-based, national and international programs, Josh is now applying those skills and experiences to establish Bezulu in Canada.

From working with rural health centers to government officials, from pandemic relief work to managing community-based health programs, Josh is proud to take the next step in his leadership journey to lead Bezulu with the express aim of protecting and raising the next generation of children in Eswatini with all of the care and love that they need and deserve.

Protecting orphaned and vulnerable children is a personal mission for the Guenther family, as they are an adoptive family. Having navigated child protection systems in Uganda, Josh and Nadine have a unique perspective and a direct calling from God to see that every child belongs to a family that loves them.

We are so happy to welcome the Guenthers to our Bulembu family. If you want to learn more about our plans for Bezulu or you want to reach out to Josh, please do not hesitate to connect directly with him.

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Volunteer Update

We had the privilege of speaking to one of our newest volunteers, Harrison Hunter-Walsh. This is what he had to share:

How old are u?

I am 21 years old.

Where are you from?

I'm from Vancouver, Canada.

How many languages can you speak?

I can speak one and a half languages; English and a little bit of Spanish.

This is not your first time in Bulembu. What did you enjoy most on your first trip to Bulembu in 2014?

I really enjoyed hanging out with the children and getting to know them and I



found it very interesting seeing the self-sustaining projects. It's so great coming back and seeing all the children growing and the projects growing too.

So far, how is your trip going?

So far, I love it! It's so great and amazing to meet everyone and make good friends and plan some trips throughout Eswatini. All the children are amazing! They find big passion in sports which I just love. I play sports after work with everyone that works here and usually get swamped by children wherever I go asking basketball questions.

What do you like doing most of the time?

Most of my time I like doing sports and during the mornings I work in the maintenance department doing work projects.

What's your highlight so far?

Since I showed up, it's been raining but the first day of sunshine was great! I really enjoy meeting families around town and being invited to their homes.

How many siblings do you have?

I have an older sister and a younger brother and sister.

How many countries have u traveled to so far?

I have traveled to 40 countries.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food in Bulembu is the pork dusting (pork and pap) but the lodge has really good food too. Overall, there is a lot of food I like: pasta, sushi, meat etc.

Which country did you like the most?

Zambia because I stayed at a lodge that had one of the best safaris. There are a lot of countries I really enjoyed. When I really think more about the different countries, I like all of the ones I've been to really!

What are your favorite hobbies?

I like basketball, travelling, football, and bartending.

Would you like to visit Bulembu again?

Definitely! I am loving this place so much.

By: Hlengiwe Magongo

Edited: Rachel Smart

We have a German volunteer Samuel Chinah with us serving with the Royal Rangers. This is what he had to share:

What is your Name and your Surname?

My Name Is Samuel Chinah.

How old are you?

I am 20 years old.

How many languages can you speak?

I can speak three languages, Germany, English, and Russian.

How did you hear about Eswatini?

I heard about this country through the missionary organization which sent me here.

How do you find Bulembu?

It is very good, and I like the fact that I can do what I am passionate about.

Is it your first time visiting Bulembu?

Yes, it is my first time here.

What do you like doing in your free time?

In my free time I like meeting with friends and having a meal with them.

Do you have a pet?

No, I don't have a pet.

How many siblings do you have?

I have 3 siblings, 1 brother and two sisters.

What local food have you tried and enjoyed?

So far, I really enjoyed the chicken that I cooked with my friend a few days ago.

How many countries have you traveled so far?

I have been to 13 countries and so far, I am enjoying Eswatini the most.

What are your hobbies?

I like reading the bible.

By: Hlengiwe Magongo

Edited: Rachel Smart



Church Update



December, as it is for many, was one of the busiest times in the life and heartbeat of our community. The children were delayed in writing final exams at the end of last year due to political unrest, but when they were done with writing and could enjoy their holidays, we fully geared up for the Christmas production. The church played a pivotal role in creating high expectations for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour. The production and Christmas day celebrations were a huge success! All came together to enjoy good fellowship, good food and the birth of our Saviour.

January kick-started with prayer and fasting, which went very well. The highlight was when the town and all departments downed tools for an hour dedicated to gather at the church for prayer. That was spectacular and blessed! It was such a good time to press into the Lord to hear what He wanted for the upcoming year, and get our focus set on Him so that we can experience a year filled with hope.

The beginning of the year also brought a new school year. Prayer is a vital part of our church culture and we stand together with our teachers who have a very important role in our children's lives. We prayed for them during one of the services and we also included the prefects and student leaders of the different centres of learning.

This is a year of open doors, where sowing Faith, Hope and Love is key. We look forward to what God has in store for the Bulembu Community.

By Pastor Vusi Nkosi
Edited: Rachel Smart





Hope and a Future

Tandzile Malinga is one of the young adults who would like to study early child development. She has a passion for teaching young children and it's been amazing see her develop and find what she really wants to do. We really enjoyed catching up with her to hear what her next steps are.

How old are you?

I am 20 years old.

When did you come to Bulembu?

I came to Bulembu in 2005.

What are you currently doing?

Recently I've been helping at a Home School whilst I'm applying for tertiary studies, since I want to study early childhood development.

What are your hopes and dreams?

My hopes and dreams are to one day own my own preschool.

What countries would you like to visit one day?

I would like to visit Hawaii. To see the beautiful scenery, and to see the beautiful sunsets and go to the best beach in Hawaii. I have never been to the beach before so that would be the best experience for me.

What are your hobbies?

Dancing and reading are my hobbies, I really like reading!

What's your favorite food?

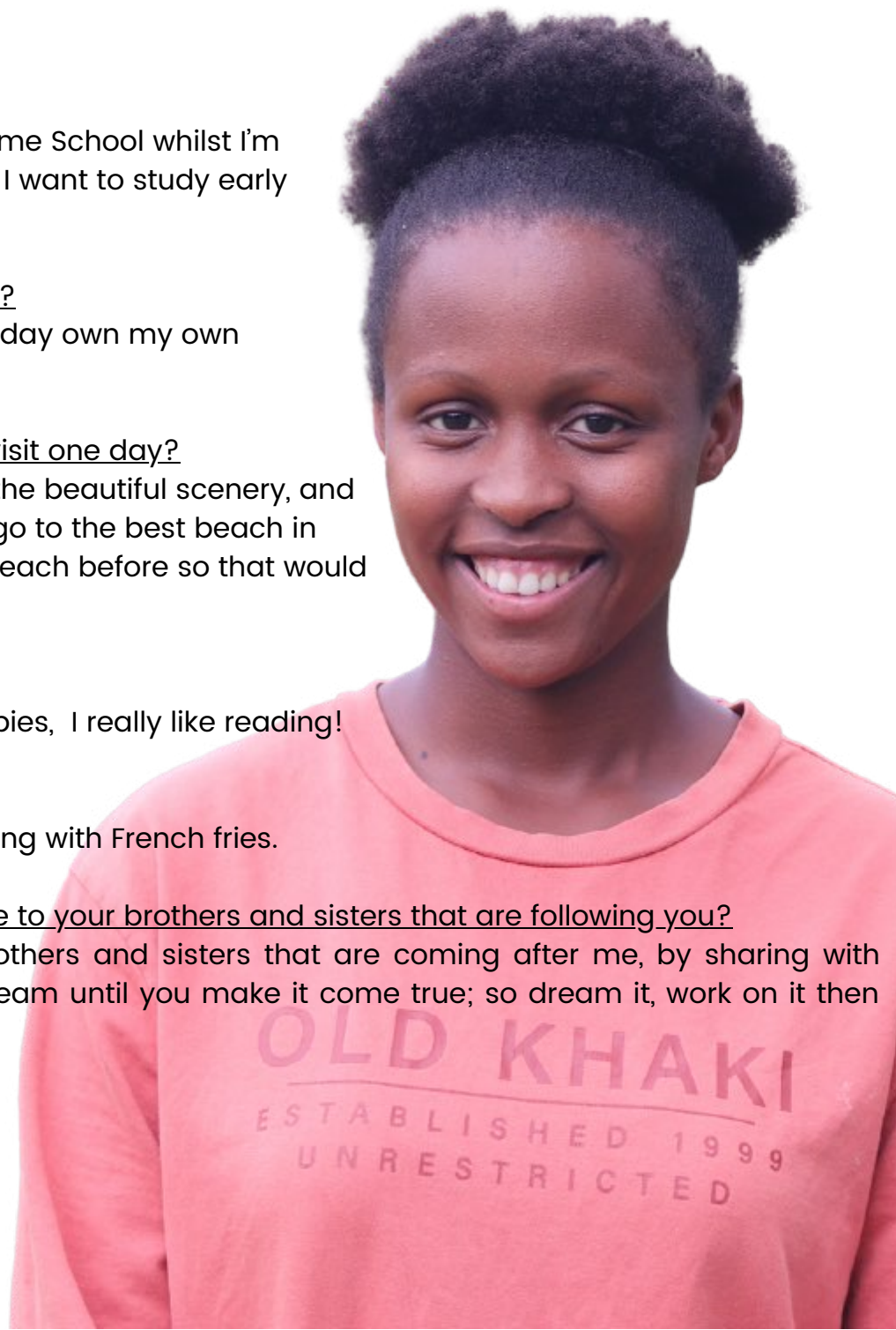
My favorite food is Hamburger along with French fries.

What advice would you like to give to your brothers and sisters that are following you?

I would like to encourage my brothers and sisters that are coming after me, by sharing with them that a dream remains a dream until you make it come true; so dream it, work on it then finally live it.

By: Hlengiwe Magongo

Edited: Rachel Smart



Teams Update

2023 is off to a good start, and in February we had the first two teams for the year – both from the USA.

Pastor Joe Douglass returned to Bulembu for a 12th time and brought a team of 7 incredibly passionate people from all over the USA. They served in their various areas of experience and skill, including ministry to auntie and youth, agriculture, I.T., instrument repair and music, painting school buildings, playground repairs, and assisting at the Clinic. They also enjoyed spending some time with our children in sports and clubs, as well as at Royal Rangers.

Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV) from Phoenix sent a phenomenal team of people who focused on Special Needs and Construction projects. The Special Needs portion of the team conducted valuable workshops with Children's Ministry staff, caregivers and teachers at Potter's Wheel Church, Hawane ICBC and Bulembu respectively, around the awareness of special needs children from a Biblical context.

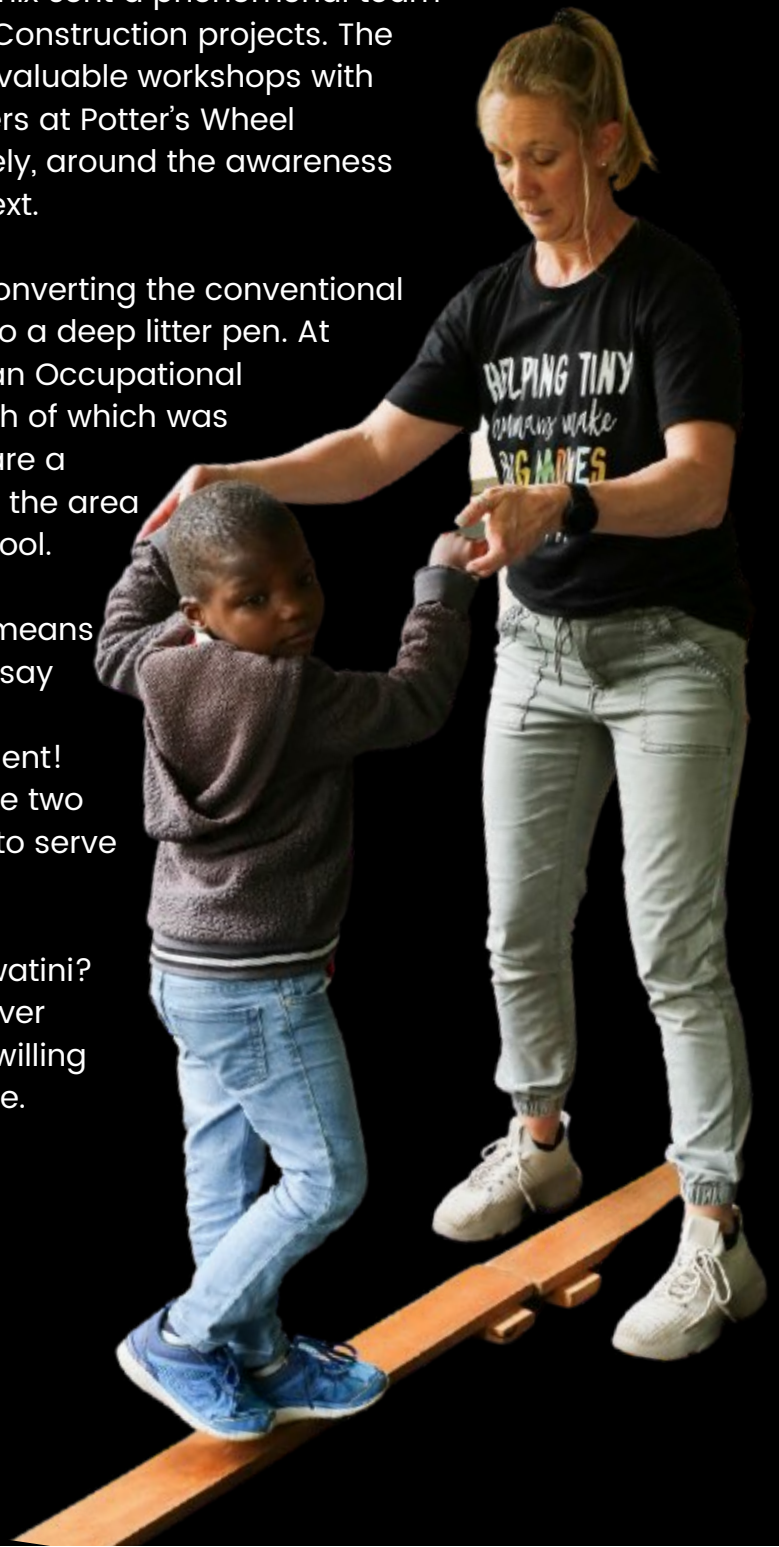
The construction portion of the team helped converting the conventional concrete floor in one of the Hawane pig pens to a deep litter pen. At Bulembu they installed soft gym flooring and an Occupational Therapy swing in the Special Needs house, both of which was donated from the USA. They also helped prepare a building which has been earmarked for use in the area of Special Needs education at the Primary School.

Both teams were sterling examples of what it means to serve sacrificially and to love like Christ. To say that they were a blessing to the children and communities they served in is an understatement! We're thankful to God for putting together these two teams and for the incredible hearts they had to serve whichever way God needed them to.

Why don't you consider bringing a team to Eswatini? No team is too big or too small, and you can never discount the impact God can have through a willing heart or a pair of hands that are willing to serve.

Contact us for more info at volunteers@bulembu.org

By: Michelle le Roux





Prayer Requests



- Youth unemployment is 58%. Please pray for job creation and investment in the country.
- for the latest high school graduates. They need wisdom in making career and study choices.
- Tertiary students are experiencing disruptions in their studies due to protests and unrest in the country and at tertiary institutions specifically.
- The Timber Department is struggling to to get their logs transported due to the bad roads.

