



CHILDREN FROM EBENEZER PRIMARY SCHOOL SHOWING THEIR NEW UNIFORMS

# His Hands for Swaziland

July 2019 Trip

## Visiting Swaziland/Eswatini

by Jamie Dennett, Child Sponsor Program Coordinator

We have a change to make you aware of. Last year during the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration of Swaziland's independence, and his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, King Mswatii III announced that he was changing the name Kingdom of Swaziland to "Kingdom of eSwatini" (or Eswatini - both spellings are correct.) Our website and materials have been updated to reflect this change.

Our team arrived in Eswatini on Monday, July 29 and stayed until Sat. Aug. 3. This year we flew right into the airport in Manzini to save time in traveling from Johannesburg, South Africa. We stayed in a guest house on the Emmanuel Bible College campus which was greatly appreciated and just the right size for our team of two.

On Tuesday, we drove to the Ebenezer Feeding Station. We had new children to see there that are attending the preschool and receiving a daily meal. We also had been asked to add some children who are being seen monthly at the Ebenezer Clinic for HIV treatment. Some of these children live a distance from the feeding station and so are not able to get there for meals. They are desperate for food. It is essential that they have substantial food to take their antiretroviral medications; otherwise, they become ill and want to stop treatment. Sponsorship of these children will help provide food for them, making their HIV treatment more successful.



### Our team

We had a team of two this year. Left to right: Jamie Dennett and Kristine Chamberlain. This was Kris' first trip out of the United States.



Our cozy guest house for the week.

Due to the fact that the road conditions are very bad and travel time took longer than expected, that we added new children from the feeding station, and added new children from the clinic, we were not able to update as many school children as we had planned. We will be looking at a way to spend more time in this community next year so we can see all the students we need to.

On Wednesday we visited the Ngcina community. Since Kris was training to become a coordinator, she had a chance to interview the children there while I took the measurements and photographs. Little did we know at that time that she would be taking over the South Africa program which we would be visiting the following week.

Between the two feeding stations, the associated schools, and the Children's Home, we interviewed and documented a total of 83 children. We are happy to report that all children in the Children's Home have sponsors. There may be a new boy joining the home, but he is not there yet.



Jamie's traveling monkey is popular among the children!

## A glimpse into our week



Preschoolers and students at Ebenezer waiting patiently to be seen.

*"My time in Eswatini was heart-wrenching and heart-warming all at the same time. The children are so well-behaved and loving, even though their needs are so great!"*

~ Kristine, team member and preschool teacher



This 17-year-old mom and her baby need a sponsor for food. Her child shows signs of malnutrition. She is one of the clients at the clinic and suffers from various issues.



Preparing the daily meal.



Kimberly, one of our new preschoolers, enjoys her lunch.



The Ngcina preschoolers were happy to receive a lollipop after their photos were taken.



Two sweet girls at Ebenezer Feeding Station





A trip to the local market is a treat. It is especially interesting to watch the crafters work on their products there.



*"One of the greatest joys as a sponsor is to know you are helping to make a difference in the life of a child. Being able to meet them is a gift."*  
— Jamie, program coordinator



Kris interviewing at Ngcina

### Why is sponsorship important?

As mentioned previously, food is desperately needed. Sponsorship will help provide food as well as provide for educational needs of our students. With poor nutrition, a child's brain will not be able to function or learn as effectively as a child who is well-nourished.

Another need is school uniforms. These are very expensive and difficult to afford, yet they are mandatory. Over the last year, we were able to give two special donations to purchase uniforms for those students who were extremely needy and who didn't have a sponsor to help cover the cost. Children at both Ebenezer and Ngcina were thrilled to receive new shoes and at least part of a uniform. There are still many more who need a uniform. Sponsorship will help them,

Sponsorships for both school-aged students and those attending the feeding stations are \$20 per month. Sponsorships for children living at the Children's Home is \$30 a month, for either a school or a home sponsorship.

### Prayer Needs

- That our sphere of influence will increase. Please help us by sharing the needs and our website. We need more sponsors for these dear children. If you are not yet a sponsor, would you be interested?
- Our partner, Thabsile, needs medical insurance. Pray that this need will be met. If you are interested in knowing how to help, please contact me at the address below.
- Pray for the new group of children from the Ebenezer Clinic that sponsors would help provide the food they need so their HIV treatments will be effective.
- Pray for a team to go to Eswatini in July 2020. We need only three to four people to make a team. Having an interviewer, someone to measure, and a photographer is ideal. Perhaps you are being called! Plan now to start saving and finding supporters!



Students from the Children's Home and a friend sang a song for us.

## Final Thoughts



Sunset from The Fortress Ministry's office near the Children's Home.

Thank you for reading this update. We hope you will share information about His Hands for Eswatini with your friends and families.

In addition to sponsorships being available, we do accept general donations for the feeding stations and for uniforms as well. Please contact us if you are interested.

Please check our website for more information about how you can make a difference in the life of one of these precious children.

You may also connect with us on Facebook at His Hands Support Ministries or send an email to the address at the right.

Serving joyfully,  
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