

# SWAZILINK

reporting today for a brighter tomorrow

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## Pastor's Corner

As things are moving forward with excitement here at CLC in the Miami Valley, so God is moving in great ways with our partners in Swaziland. I just got off the phone with Pastor Kevin. He sends his love and prayers to all of us on behalf of our friends and co-workers there.

Pastor Kevin shared with me about an unprecedented opportunity that was extended to him and Teen Challenge Swaziland. They were invited to dinner and an audience with His Majesty the King of Swaziland. It was fascinating to hear about this very special evening. About 300 people were in attendance. The Teen Challenge choir got to sing, and Pastor Kevin was asked to pray over the evening and offer a blessing for the King.

It is so exciting to hear of the favor God is extending to the ministry there. His Majesty spoke very kindly and affirmatively of Pastor Kevin and the ministry he leads. We continue to pray for God to use us and our friends to bring health and hope to this beautiful country at a time of need.

On a related note about need and how God provides, read on: As Lavumisa is nearing completion, one need is for some source of electrical power. (Electricity is not available in the area of the church in Lavumisa.) Imagine how exciting it was for me to tell Pastor Kevin that God has provided the \$2,000 for the necessary generator... "out of the blue" as they say.

One of the families in our church received a recent inheritance, with the stipulation that the funds go to some missions-related need in their local church. You guessed it, the family directed the \$2,000 gift to a pressing need in Swaziland. Is God GREAT or what? From a godly deceased person, who didn't even attend CLC, through their obedient and sensitive children, God provided a generator to an entire church family in Africa, so the Good News of Jesus Christ can go forth...wow!

So, as we continue to see our partnership in Swaziland grow and our missions teams come back with more and more fruitful reports...let this international relationship encourage YOU in your own walk with God. Live an obedient life, yielded to God...and HE "will supply all your needs, according to His riches in glory." (Phillipians 4:19).

## Leaders' Letter

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

"He lives like an animal, in fact he lives the life of a dog. He is not fed like a normal human being as his food is dished in a plate and placed outside next to him and due to the fact that he can't move his limbs, he feeds with his mouth like an animal."

That was the life of eleven year old France Khumalo as described by a journalist from the Times of Swaziland on August 23, 2009. France weighed 24 pounds! His condition was beyond description as he sat outside enduring cold winters and hot summers with only a blanket placed next to him.

## Children's Ministry Team to Swaziland Makes Lasting Impression

Outside the bus window, monkeys and ostriches raced past the vehicle bouncing along the red dirt road. It was an unexpected bus ride for this group of young women from Christian Life Center (CLC). Their trip had begun nearly 40 hours earlier on August 11 in Dayton, Ohio. Now, with flight delays, missed connections, a "plan B" bus ride, and even two flat tires behind them, CLC's first Children's Ministry team had finally arrived in Swaziland, Africa!

Led by Pastor Trisha Peach, the team of nine women had prepared for many months prior to the trip, rehearsing and planning, then finally packing up essential items and saying their goodbyes to family and friends. The cold rain and lack of sleep could not dampen the team's spirits and desire to minister and share the good news of the gospel with the people of Swaziland. In turn, the Swazi people embraced our ministry team with great exuberance and warmth.

CLC ministry team members - Pastor Trisha, Marci Purcey, Kaylin Purcey, Abby Kuchar, Bethany Kuchar, Erica Downey, Alycia Ketter, Rachel Scorsone, and Montgomery Pace - experienced two life-changing weeks making home visits and performing the sCARS ministry. The musical program combines dance, drama, and puppetry to teach about God's love. The nearly two-hour program had a tremendous impact on the Swazi people in attendance. After one program, scores of young children raised their hand to accept Christ. Another program at the Potter's Wheel Church brought many couples in the next day for marriage counseling as a direct result of personal testimonies shared by members of the Children's Ministry team.

While at Hawane Farm, the women from CLC spent time training a small group of young people from Teen Challenge, a ministry of Pastor Kevin Ward and Potter's Wheel Church.



Marci Purcey enjoys a special moment with some new friends.

Our team helped the teens with the skills of puppetry and taught them the dances and songs that were part of the sCARS program. The teens then traveled with the CLC team for the performances and served as translators. "This is part of the plan to create a sustainable children's ministry," explained Pastor Trisha. "These young people are so eager to learn, and this [ministry] can keep going long after we're gone." The puppets and staging were a gift from the children of CLC. This past spring, children in CLC Discovery Town raised several hundred dollars to purchase the puppets and staging materials that will continue to bless the people of Swaziland for years to come.

Traditional Africa greeted the group at Lavumisa. Rugged and beautiful, the mountainous terrain boasted banana trees and cacti while mud and stick huts dotted the landscape. Here there are no stores, no electricity, and no hot water. As the bus pulled up, hundreds of children surrounded the vehicle.

"A friend! A friend!" The only English heard were these two words, earnestly and eagerly repeated by the children as they reached out to the American women. Though shivering in the cold weather with little more than rags for clothing, their joyful cries marked an unprecedented warm reception for the team members. Children continued to follow the ministry team wherever they went.

Continued on back.

## Not Your Ordinary Wedding

On a chilly September afternoon, cheerful greetings and smiles warmed the air as guests gathered for the marital union of Waheedah Pugh and Musa Massinga. This was to be no ordinary wedding. The bride, Waheedah, is a member of Christian Life Center with a heart for missions. Musa, the groom, is the worship leader for Potter's Wheel Church in Swaziland, Africa.

The ceremony included a beautiful mixture of Swaziland and American wedding customs. The bridesmaids each wore uniquely stunning yellow dresses and the groomsmen were striking in their dapper black suits accented by yellow lapel flowers. As the wedding party lined up at the front of the CLC sanctuary, one's attention was drawn to the American flag and flag of the Kingdom of Swaziland highlighted as the focus of the décor. The beautiful sound of a ringing bell broke the anxious silence to announce the arrival of the bride. Then, at the ceremony's conclusion, the bride and groom, then each bridesmaid and groomsman danced spiritedly down the aisle to symbolize the beginning of a new, joyous life together for the happy couple.

Who knew? An Ohio girl graduates from college halfway around the world at the University of Hawaii with a degree in International Studies. Her lead pastor, upon finding this out, jokingly says, "Well YOU, of all people BETTER go over to Swaziland!"

Continued on back.



Exchanging of the Wedding Vows

## CLC Information

CLC Little York Campus  
3489 Little York Rd.  
Dayton, OH 45414  
937-898-8811  
clcdayton.com

CLC Fairfield Campus  
Regal Cinemas behind  
The Mall at Fairfield Commons  
937-426-0456  
clcfairfield.com

CLC Piqua Campus  
Miami Valley Centre Mall  
in The Centre Room  
937-381-9753  
clcpiqua.com

## In Community By Community

In Community By Community is a holistic ministry model that seeks to establish a stronger, healthier community that is centered around a local church. ICBC seeks to provide clean water, food, education, and health care to those in impoverished communities. Skill development and job-relevant training provide opportunities to improve the standard of living. Seeds for Swaziland places fenced gardens in community homesteads. Evangelistic and discipleship efforts include men's, women's, and children's ministries.

The first ICBC established by Christian Life Center was developed in a rural community of homesteads in the northeastern part of Swaziland. Hawane CLC is complete and is a self-sustaining community with numerous economic development projects.

At Lavumisa CLC, in the southwestern corner of Swaziland, the church and the pastor's home has been built, and the orphan home is under construction with completion anticipated in 2011.

The Swaziland Ministry could not happen without the active support of hundreds of individuals at CLC.

For more information about how to get involved in the Swaziland Ministry, please visit [www.clcdayton.com](http://www.clcdayton.com) and click on Swaziland.

## Please Pray...

Hawane CLC:

- Please pray for Benele Ngoso, one of the children at Hawane, who is battling pneumonia. He is battling for his health at the moment. Banele has difficulty in breathing due to exacerbation of lymphoid interstitial pneumonia. The plan for him is to go to school but not participate in afternoon farm activities to allow him to rest and do chest physiotherapy.

- Hawane CLC is growing in numbers as new members are coming in every month from the community. It is exciting! Please pray for spiritual growth for members and the positive impact they will have on the community.

Lavumisa CLC:

- Pray for rainfall for Lavumisa as it is plowing and sowing season. Most of the families financially depend on farm produce, yet Lavumisa is a very dry area. Please pray that God would bless us with enough rain for the local farmers to be able to get a good harvest.
- Pray for those in the Lavumisa community with HIV/AIDS. Pray also for the many Swazis living in rural areas who lack transportation to health clinics in the cities. Many of them are unable to obtain their ARVs and other medications needed to sustain life.

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## Children's Ministry - Continued from front

One day while trying to rehearse, more than 200 children gathered to watch, so the women decided to do the whole program. "The children loved the puppets," exclaimed Pastor Trisha. "They were screaming so loudly with delight, we had to repeat the puppet song."

Despite joyful moments during the performances, home visits to the sick and destitute were sobering. The team had the opportunity to minister to people dying of AIDS and to pray with those struggling to feed their families. "Home visits were tough. People in pain, yet so hospitable. I hope I never forget those faces," said Pastor Trisha. The team handed out the last of the rice packets prepared by CLC congregants in conjunction with Kids Against Hunger. A particular go-go (grandmother) the team visited was trying to raise 15 orphaned children. "One of the hardest things to experience," explained Pastor Trisha, "was to not have enough rice packets. We gave them everything we had but then there was nothing left to give."

For these women from CLC, the trip was a roller coaster of experiences. There were spiritual highlights when numerous people embraced the truth of the gospel and lives were transformed.



Numerous Swazi children raise their hands to accept Christ.

Yet, they also carry with them the heartbreak of seeing so many vulnerable people, especially women and children. Some had very few resources, and many were abandoned, forgotten and left to die. "The need is so great," Pastor Trisha expressed. "I hope I can make an impact on the parents and kids here at CLC to understand the blessings and responsibility we have been given."

## Not Your Ordinary Wedding - Continued from front

Waheedah did go on that mission trip and it changed her life. She felt a call of God to serve in Swaziland. Now, just a couple of years later, family and church friends joyfully watched as Pastor and Mrs. Musa Messinga took their first steps together in a lifelong journey. These two individuals have united in marriage, mixing their two cultures, but with a singular goal – serving God and His people in their new home, Swaziland, Africa. Congratulations and God's richest blessings to Musa and Waheedah!



Couple dances as they leave the sanctuary

## Hitting the Stride in Record Form

Saturday, September 10, 2011. Christian Life Center's 4th Annual Swaziland 5k Run/Walk brought out a record 279 runners, who along with the race staff and volunteers, made up a motivated crowd "Running Today, Preserving Tomorrow" for our Swaziland Ministry. This year's record performances included overall winner 13-year-old Zac Garver and women's division winner Karen Trego. This was the first race run from the new Connection Center, and more funds were raised than ever before. What a great way to spend a sunny Saturday morning. Setting records and winning – for the people of Swaziland! Mark your calendars now to join us for next year's 5K! See you there!



Young runners crossing the finish

## Leaders' Letter - Continued from front

And that is how Harry and Echo VanderWal found him. After assessing his condition and disabilities and with the permission of relatives they took him to Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital in Manzini where he was treated for malnutrition.

I was in the orphan home at Hawane when Harry and Echo carried France into his new home and placed him on his own bed. I can't describe the emotions in the room as his new mother, orphan brothers, nurse Jane and others welcomed him to a new life and gave him a new name--Mandla, which means Strength. He looked at us and his face broke into a beautiful smile.

We recall the day that we felt a powerful call of God to do something about the orphans in Africa. At that time, we did not know what He had in mind, but we were willing.

What amazes us is how He fills in the details once we commit to His calling! For me, Mandla was a clarifying moment, a confirmation that CLC was where God wanted us to be. Today, Mandla is a miracle of God! He can walk, feed himself, plays with his orphaned brothers and weighs 66 pounds! A boy that was expected to die from exposure and malnutrition is now the smiling, healthy boy you see in the picture.

Paul and Marilyn Carlson



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Meal Packing for Swaziland: December 2, 3, and 4

December 2: Unloading materials and setup.

December 3 and 4: Meal Packing. Special need for experienced forklift operators each day. Watch for more information and sign-up opportunities.

**A great opportunity for all in the family!**

**WE NEED YOU!**