

### September 2023 Trip Newsletter

This past summer, Jamie and I (Mary-Ruth) went back to South Africa to see our friends Yvonne Burakeye and her daughters. It was a pleasure to see them again after a year and a half. We also traveled to Eswatini to visit our friend Thabsile Thwala. This was my first time going to Eswatini and Jamie hadn't visited in a few years. We didn't know what to expect, except to let God use us as a vessel to spread love to His children and carry out His will.

“Who holds the orphan, comforts the widow, cries for injustice, feels every sorrow, carries the pain of His children? Jesus does.”

-WTK

Both South Africa and Eswatini have lost their main supporters, which means they rely on HHSM sponsorships and donations. South Africa's board of directors abandoned Yvonne after Theo's passing. And Eswatini's partnership was discontinued because their main donors wanted to seek humanitarian efforts elsewhere. Please consider supporting these programs by sharing your stories about our ministry.

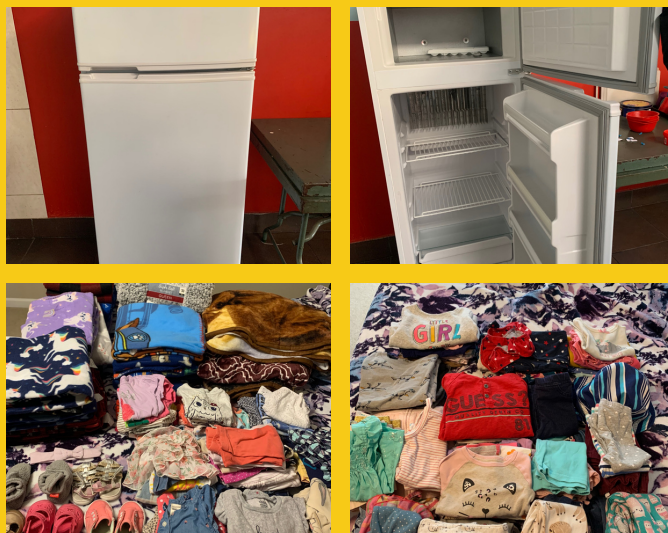




The first time I visited Johannesburg, I was plagued with anxiety. It was my first trip as a new program coordinator, Covid and mandatory testing still occurred, and Pastor Theo Burakeye had recently passed. Jamie and I did not know how that would affect Jwalang Ministries and our partnership. When we arrived Yvonne and her daughters were grieving their loss and trying to manage life without him. Our visit to see Jwalang was the first time Yvonne had been to the school since she came home from the states. The situation left me heartbroken and I wanted to do as much as I could to help Yvonne. When we left Johannesburg, our mission was to raise funds for Jwalang to get a gas refrigerator (the school had to abandon their electricity because people from the squatters camp were stealing it) and host a clothing drive for the kids.

Preparing for this trip, I was excited to see old faces and meet new ones. I knew what to expect and my focus was to build a stronger relationship with our partners. Yvonne currently teaches Grade R and has turned Jwalang into the school Theo imagined it would be. The children and teachers love and respect her. Yvonne has given hope to the children she is teaching and paving the way for a strong and kind generation. She continues to do her best for Jwalang while upholding Theo's legacy.

Because of your generosity we were able to achieve our goal of getting a gas fridge and provide gently used clothing items and blankets for Jwalang Ministries.



“Thank you for your donations- we appreciate it very much! Please keep Jwalang in your prayers and continue to support the kids. Theo's legacy is still alive and the vision is to add another grade level to the school.”

-Yvonne Burakeye

My first time in Eswatini was humbling. Sometimes you don't realize the privileges and blessings you have until you meet people who constantly live a life of difficulty. For instance, I work with kids who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and I met a couple of children while visiting the different schools who have a similar diagnosis. I empathized with them knowing that the necessary resources aren't available to them. It's important that we don't take things for granted and be thankful for the things and opportunities we have.



Eswatini is a beautiful country! I could not stop admiring the geography and agriculture. Visiting this country was refreshing because I got to witness a community of believers persevering through the hard times. I saw growth, love, compassion, friendship, and joy in the hearts of the Eswatini people. I am grateful for Thabsile and the effort she puts in to help everyone in her community.

The children that attend these schools, the feeding station, and the children's home need our help to keep them safe, healthy, and educated. Some of the kids are orphans and others support their entire household. With love, generosity, compassion, and God Almighty, we can change these kids' future.



I met a boy who's been the head of his household since he was 6 years old and now he's 14. He is taking care of his younger siblings and trying to get an education. Your donations matter!