



CHAD, WENDY, BRIELLE, AND CADEN OWENS



Happy 2018! We pray you are feeling blessed!

We are excited to introduce you to Tema. She is one of the sweetest 7 year old's you may ever meet.



Tema's story is heartbreaking, but unfortunately not uncommon. She lost both of her parents due to the AIDS epidemic in Swaziland. She was living with a grandmother who was abusing her and forcing her to sleep outside. She wasn't eating on a regular basis and was not being cared for or attending school regularly. A community police officer found her sleeping in the forest. He took her to the nearby care point who then brought her into the children's home. Despite feeling unloved and unwanted, this little girl is full of smiles. It was absolutely priceless to see her eyes light up when she opened her "Frozen" kite and towel in her Christmas gift bag full of gifts. We wanted you to

know her story so that you can be praying for her. Tema needs a monthly sponsor. Please prayerfully consider a full or partial sponsorship for her. For \$50 per month, Tema would be fully sponsored. This would cover all of her immediate needs; food, clothing, medical, as well as provide her with a school uniform and supplies. If you are able to do a partial sponsorship at \$25 per month, we could pair you up with another partial sponsor to make sure Tema is given all of the love and opportunities that she deserves. You can write her letters or send her a gift that we can deliver when we travel to see her. As always, 100% of your sponsorship will go directly to Tema and all of her needs.



To those of you currently sponsoring a child, we want you to know that we are so grateful for you and your commitment to these children. The best part of every trip to Swaziland is spending time



with these precious kids. The dynamic in the home is incredible. These kids are one big happy family. They care for one another, they serve one another, they pray together and are growing in the Lord. They are being given a chance to break the cycle of poverty and abuse by receiving a good education and a loving godly home.



Without you and your dedication to the "least of these", this ministry would not be operating. We do have 3 other children who are not currently sponsored which means that each month we come up short to meet all of the demands of the children's home. Please email us if you have a desire to partially or fully sponsor a child monthly. Because we are short on sponsorships, we are not able to pay all of the school fees for this current semester. If you are not able to do a monthly sponsorship, please consider a one-time gift to help us pay for the school fees that are currently past due. We need \$400 for the kids to go back to school. The holiday break is over and school has already resumed so these kids are home praying they can get back to school as soon as possible before they get too far behind.



The Christmas party, made possible by Thrivent was a big success. Each child received a bag full of Christmas gifts. We also purchased board games, footballs and soccer balls along with posters to hang in their rooms. The girls were given nail kits and nail polish and a necklace which brought much happiness and smiles. There was plenty of chocolate cake and juice and even some fun photo props for pictures! The delight and gratitude on the kid's faces was more than enough, but when each of them hugged us and said "I love you" we knew that they felt loved and grateful. It truly made our Christmas extra special this year!



We reported in an earlier newsletter that the kitchen at Bulandzeni was completely paid for and construction was to be completed within a few weeks. We had an unfortunate setback before the holidays. The local marijuana growers decided they needed the special fireproof blocks for their marijuana sales. The stolen blocks were all made of special cement that we can only acquire over the border in South Africa. This was very disheartening because this community project seems to take 3 steps forward and 5 steps back. We have had two horrible storms that destroyed the church structure, the construction company stole our money for the steel to complete the roof and now the fireproof blocks have been stolen. The enemy is working overtime. He is obviously nervous about what God is about to do in this area! We hope to complete the kitchen within this next month.



Please prayerfully consider becoming a partner with this ministry. Know that 100% of every penny given is sent directly to Africa to meet the needs of the church plants, the preschool, the feeding site and the orphan home. We are thankful for each of you and your support and prayers!  
*In His Service,*



Chad, Wendy, Brielle, & Caden Owens

***James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.***

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