

JULY/AUGUST 2025

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RHYTHM OF HOPE

# NEWS UPDATE



## Our Dance Mission Trip to Eswatini: A Heartfelt Thank You

Written by : Talitha de Klerk

### Our trip itinerary:

We praise God for miraculous travel, especially navigating border issues. Our **Saturday and Sunday dance workshops** saw our **bursary students lead dance sessions** (ballet, hip hop, jazz, etc.) for local children (ages 6-12). They **learned combinations and presented them in a showcase for their parents**. During the **evening ministry session, we shared our identity curriculum**, helping the children experience God's love and understand their "seat at His table" and the Holy Spirit as their Helper. Their highlighted takeaways were God's love and presence. The **final workshop day included praise, dance, and a Q&A, culminating in a showcase and a dance ministry production** depicting God as our Father and King, inspiring parents to reflect on their identity as children of the King of Kings. After, we enjoyed a creative debrief and games night.

### Our trip itinerary continued:

On **Monday, we visited a pre-school in Mbabane**, where one of the King's own sons were present. We celebrated Jesus as King with them and **lead ballet and hip-hop workshops**, filled with the children's contagious joy. A **deeply moving afternoon was spent at Heart for Africa, a ministry caring for over 400 orphaned children**, where we witnessed heaven on earth as the most vulnerable were empowered. **We hope to return to do a similar workshop with these kids and to also potentially build a long-term relationship with the studio we visited to help their teacher achieve her Dance Teaching Certification** to further legitimise their training.





## Eswatini Trip, The Impact

This trip profoundly **redefined ministry for us**, shifting **from organized plans to being present and adaptable**. God did deep work in our ministry & management team, proving faithful through every challenge. **Our unity deepened, and we embraced the concept of "Dance Families" redeeming Africa, aiming to incorporate more outreach departments from our organization in the future.**

The Kingdom impact was clear: Exulting God as King and Father, seeds planted in children through our identity curriculum, and a tangible understanding that we have access to the King of Kings. We also sowed financially into the local community, demonstrating God's love, and saw dance powerfully serve in building His Kingdom.



### God's Work Within Our Team

God stirred our faith, **providing a template for our vision and showing dance's proper place in our organisation.** We learned **we are first and foremost a ministry.** We also saw a **significant impact on our bursary students, who describe the trip as 'life-changing' and a 'divine appointment'**, that helped them grow in the way they respond to God like children, or simply increasing their love for children and missions, or seeing the positive impact dance can have on people.

We saw them **grow significantly in taking initiative to simply serve joyfully as and when needed.** We also experienced the **supernatural power of prayer**, feeling carried by our community, and encouraged by hearing God's voice beforehand about specific details of the trip.

We are so **incredibly grateful for everyone who donated, supported our fundraising initiatives** or made their vehicles or equipment available for this transformative journey. We know and trust that the seeds planted, lives touched, and lessons learned will continue to bear fruit.



### Portia's Feedback

*Serving the Eswatini community was a true honour, but more than that, it was a divine appointment. The outreach brought so many revelations—some that I didn't even know I needed. From the moment we arrived, I found myself deeply missing my mom, whom I lost in October. **It was during our visit to "Heart for Africa" that God gently reminded me of a truth I had forgotten: we are not orphans—we have a Father in Him.** That message, spoken over my life and the lives of those beautiful children, brought healing, belonging and a renewed sense of identity.*





## Khazikayla's Ballet Day

It was an incredible privledge to **take hands with the Reach for a Dream Foundation on 20 June**, to host a memorable day for Khazikayla, an 11-year-old girl with Acyanotic Congenital Heart Disease and Down Syndrome, who dreams of being a ballerina.

The **afternoon involved a short production by our junior ballet studio and love for Ballet Adults, narrating a story in which Khazikayla was the main character**, after which **she was showered with gifts, letters and love from our studio and outreach community**. The afternoon ended with her **participating in her first ever short ballet class which Teacher Portia concluded with a photoshoot by Natali van Lingen and 'award' ceremony**.

Although **she arrived very shy and timid, it was wonderful to see her come out of her shell and enjoy dancing with a bright smile at the end**, touching all of our hearts and leaving very few dry eyes at the end.

**Thank you Reach for a Dream for the opportunity and to every member that attended** and gave to make this wonderful afternoon so memorable!



## Reward Thrift Store June '25 Denise Wilson's Feedback:

"The Rhythm of Hope thrift store outreach **was a truly inspiring and heartwarming experience. The event was incredibly well-organised, transforming the school hall into a vibrant and bustling store.** The tables were filled with beautifully arranged donations, including dancewear, elegant dresses, casual outfits, and a variety of accessories.

A **highlight of the event was the unique point system, which rewards dancers for positive behavior and care for their dance gear.** This system allows them to "purchase" high-quality, well-cared-for items, which in turn helps the dancers feel dignified and valued.

I had the **privilege of assisting Angel, a thoughtful dancer who was determined to make the most of her points. We explored the different options and celebrated her discoveries together.** The excitement on her face as she found the perfect item was a testament to the magic of the moment. It was moving to see how generosity and thoughtful organization can uplift young spirits and bring so much joy."

If you are **passionate about making a difference, we warmly invite you to volunteer for our next event.** Your time and care can help create more unforgettable moments for our dancers and the community. Let's spread hope and joy together!





## SPAR Women's Challenge 2025



### Portia's Story & Thank You to SPAR

On Saturday 2 August we had the amazing privilege to tell Portia (our oldest bursary student's story, very briefly to the 17000 @sparwomenschallenge participants, as a public thank you to SPAR who (in partnership with @GROOTfm90.5) who generously sponsored her Dance Teaching Qualification Fees as well as surprising her with R10 000 towards her transport costs to these her qualifying classes.

**She also taught them a short 'Thrive' Dance Challenge as warm-up to the race!** Look out for this dance challenge on our Social Media Pages...

What an experience, everyone from SPAR was so friendly and helpful, organised and clear.

**Our team had a blast participating in the 5km walk to raise funds for women affected by Gender Based Violence**, in unison with so many other beautiful, inspirational women!

The goody bags afterwards were also an absolute treat!

See the live interview that sparked it all @GROOTfm90.5 here:

<https://youtu.be/YINXxpKBlj4?si=KCfWtcZY4xd0gmZd>

**Thank you SPAR and GROOT FM**, you have helped her to keep DANCING and set her on her way to help others also DANCE on this path of life!

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