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Dear Dayspring Family

It has been a crazy crazy past year with global pandemics and economic crisis... who, but God, could have ever seen this coming? We pray and hope that you and your family have all been well body, soul and spirit. Praise God we serve the true Peace giver, Healer and Provider.

Because of COVID we had to make so many changes to the way we exist and operate Dayspring. The education department would send out instructions (actually files worth) to do things a certain way and then once we wrote policies and put new procedures in place, we would get a whole new set of instructions.. it was a year of constant changes and tons of flexibility. We had a lot of trial and error to see how best to mitigate risk of infection and finally settled on a system that worked for us. It was a tremendous amount of extra cleaning and overseeing of kids by all the staff, but we give God all the glory because we had only 2 staff (no learners) get COVID the last month of school and they had mild cases. We know God's hand of protection was over us, because keeping a boarding school completely COVID sanitised 24/7 is virtually impossible.

We decided to use the first week of Feb. 2021 for staff training and prep for the new school year ahead. We reviewed our Vision and Mission: to intervene in the lives of at-risk kids to bring them to Christ and hopefully provide a great Christ centered education as well! We opened the doors to group 1 (grades Kindergarten,3, 4, 6 & 9) on the 8th of Feb and the next week we rotated in the other grades. We did find this system worked best for us last year so we just improved the areas where we saw gaps.

Last year God, once again, miraculously provided for our little boarding school despite a global economic crisis. We were so grateful and full of praise for our Father in Heaven who always perfectly provides for our needs, and many of you were part of God's answer to prayer for provision. From December, the finances began to grow sparser especially from overseas donors and these donations always make up the gap in running costs each month.

The past 4 months has been a season of serious faith stretching and growing!! We have been in similar tests and trials in the past, and God has never let us down, so we do not expect anything less of our Awesome Father this time. Trusting daily for the finances we need to cover basic costs, definitely is not for the faint hearted which Hebrews 10v35 to 11v1 talks about. We do not want to be of those who shrink back but of those who live every day by faith.

Directors: Donald McDougall (Chair), Kim Katuta (USA), Khumo Jele,, Gordon Freer, Maria Huisamen

We currently have 86 children enrolled for the year. We have taken 2 older children who are very far behind in their academics due to serious family neglect. We decided to board these two children every week, so that we can give them extra love and assistance. We are so blessed to have such compassionate staff that are willing to go the extra mile.

We are nearing the end of our first term and will have a 2 week break from Mid April to May. All the extra cleaning, oversight, reminding kids of masks and social distancing is actually exhausting!! We are all looking forward to a bit of rest.

We have been super abundantly blessed with PLENTY of rain this year which we never complain about. However, it has seriously delayed the installation of our grey water tank and conservancy tank that is part of the Rotary Global grant! The pits have been swimming pools rather than holes we could prep for their intended use: to house tanks for our new toilet blocks. In the past month we have finally installed our tanks in the ground and finished backfilling!

We were blessed with a number of sponsors who drilled a new well which produces beautiful clean water with great capacity and pressure! We have also had sponsorship that paid for another tank stand and tank as well as all the pipes and fittings needed to plumb it into the existing water system. We are beyond overwhelmed by this generosity. We struggled tremendously with our existing wells this past dry season not producing enough to sustain the school and the private houses for which we are required to supply water. God surely heard our cry out to Him to intervene and He did! Amidst the enemies schemes, Jesus always brings victory!!

Keep doing God's work and may God continue to extend His Kingdom through you.

We truly appreciate you, and we pray that God will continue to draw each of you into a deeper and more personal relationship with Himself in the months to come.

Blessings from Elijah, Kim and the family at Dayspring

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