

# Introduction Swaziland

Swaziland has 36 Wesleyan churches and 4 preaching points. Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible College is located in Manzini, Swaziland and has 17 students training for ministry. The Wesleyan Church also has an orphanage and counseling center called The Fortress. Every year during Easter, they have a celebration called “malihambe” where all the churches come to Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible College to celebrate the harvest and the goodness of God. The pastor of each church leads with his/her congregation following and they all dance to the front with their offering. Last year, 2011, the total offering came to over \$11,000.00 US.

The Wesleyan Church in Swaziland began in June 1910 when Charles Slater and his family arrived at what came to be called Ebenezer Mission near Siteki, Swaziland. They were missionaries from the

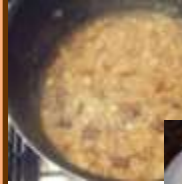
Pilgrim Holiness Church. In 1958 Joy Mission near Manzini was opened. In 1970 Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible College began at Joy Mission and in 1978 the Bible College which had begun at Emmanuel Mission in South Africa moved to Joy. EWBC currently has 18 students from S. Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland who are preparing for ministry.

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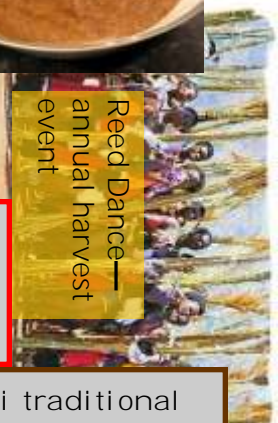
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Porridge is a key part of the diet as well as dried meat. They have many types  
 Incwancwa—corn meal porridge  
 siphuphe semabhontisi—mashed bean porridge  
 sidvudvu—pumpkin porridge  
 Emas! embele—sorghum porridge  
 They also eat a type of cured beef called Biltong

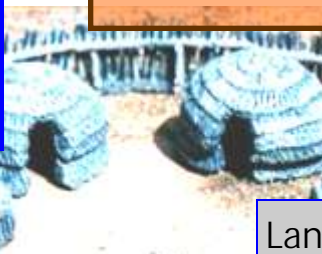


Reed Dance—  
 annual harvest  
 event



Swaziland has two capitals:  
 Mbabane—administrative  
 Lobabma—royal capital

Special Days:  
 April 19—King's Birthday  
 September 6—Independence Day



A Swazi traditional house is called a bee-hive which is in a compound called a kraal

Language:  
 English  
 siSwati



Animals native to Swaziland: cheetah, Kudu, black rhinoceros, warthog, and zebra



Tingatja—young warriors

Religions:  
 Zionist  
 Christian  
 Animism



Currency—lilangeni  
 7.5 lilangeni = \$1 US

# Swaziland

# Children's Story

## Testimony of Sandile Maimula

Sandile is 17 years old and in Form 1 ( 9<sup>th</sup> grade) here in Swaziland. His father died in 2004 when he was 9 years old. He lives with his mother and sisters. Sandile grew up going to the Zionist church. One Sunday someone invited him to go to the Emmanuel Wesleyan Church at Joy Mission. The Pastor, Rev Mazibuko preached about the need to respect others. That Sunday when he was 13 years old, he went forward and the pastor prayed for him.

When he went back to his seat he began to pray and ask God to forgive him for his sins. Before that Sunday he used to insult others, lie and wouldn't obey his mother when she asked him to do something. He also allowed some of his friends to influence him in a wrong way. After he prayed he knew something had happened in his life. When he went home he told his mother what had happened to him at church and confessed that he had been doing bad things and he was going to stop. That day his life changed.

Two years later he began attending the Joy Mission Church regularly. He likes to go there because they have Bible classes for youth his age. In December, Joy Mission had a revival with a special speaker, Pastor Vilani. Sandile went forward to ask for prayer because he didn't have money to pay for his schooling. His mother had been stressed, she didn't know how they would pay for his school fees. When he went home that day he told his mother that they should pray and go to social welfare to ask for help for school fees. When they arrived at the offices, he was the first one to ask for help and God provided. His school fees were paid!

Sandile goes to Joy Mission Church every Sunday. He also reads his Bible, prays and tries to encourage his friends to follow Christ.

# Memory Activity

**Ps 147:11**

**The Lord delights in those who fear him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.**

Today we are going to use animal voices to practice saying the memory verse. Assign each child an animal. They are to use that animal to create a way to say the memory verse. If they don't know the type of sound an animal makes let them be creative in making up a sound for that animal. Here are a few suggestions:

Elephant	Eagle
Zebra	Frog
Cheetah	Wart Hog

If you have enough children you could have them work on the verse as a group and then present it to the rest of the group.

After each person or group has had a chance to say the verse then have everyone repeat the verse together using the voice they were given.

David calls on the animals of the earth to give praise to God in Psalm 148:7-13. Read this Passage to the children and then have them repeat the verse again.



# Bible Lesson

## Elijah - I Kings 18:16-45

Does anybody know what a *famine* is? (allow responses) A famine is a period of time when there is very little food to eat. There was a famine during Elijah's days, mostly because there had not been any rain for 3 whole years. Imagine how dry the ground was! The plants could not grow. There was very little food for the people and the animals. And, there was hardly any water! The people had to be careful how they used their water.

Elijah was a prophet, a man of God. He prayed and worshipped the one true God. The king's name was Ahab. He was evil and did not obey or worship the true God. Instead, he worshipped a false god called Baal. One day Elijah went to the king. He told the king to have all of the prophets who worshipped Baal meet him on the mountain. They would be given one bull and Elijah would be given one bull. They would kill the two bulls and put them on an altar. The prophets would pray to their god and Elijah would pray to his God. They would ask the one they worshipped to send down fire to burn the bull that they would sacrifice. This was going to be a test to see who the real God was.

So, the king's prophets killed their bull and put it on the altar. They began to pray and shout and dance. But their god did not answer them. "Maybe your god is sleeping," Elijah said. "Shout louder!" They did. But their god did not answer them. He did not send fire on their sacrifice.

Elijah said, "Now it's my turn." He killed the bull and laid it on the wood. Then he had some men dig a trench around the altar and pour lots of water on the animal and the wood. Remember, there was not much water in the land! Do you think that it worried the people to see Elijah putting so much water on his altar? Then, Elijah prayed. He didn't shout or dance like the others had done. He only said, "O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

Guess what happened? The Lord sent fire – hot fire. It burned up the animal, the wood, the stones, the dirt, and all of the water in the trench. How do you think the people felt when they saw this? The Bible says that they fell to the ground and said, "The Lord, he is God!"

And then do you know what God did? He sent rain - heavy, hard rain so that there wouldn't be a famine anymore. God answered Elijah's simple prayer. And God hears your prayers too. He hears and He answers. Sometimes not the way we want Him to answer, but He always knows what's best for us and will answer our prayers in that way.

# Mbube Mbube

Mbube Mbube is one of the Zulu words for lion.

Pronounced "Mboo-bay Mboo-bay,". The game is good for groups of six or more.

In this game, children help a lion, or mbube, locate and capture an impala (a deer-like animal with antlers). Players begin the game standing in a circle and two blindfolded players start the game. One player is the lion and the other one is the impala.

First, both players are spun around. Next, players in the circle begin calling out to the lion, "mbube, mbube!" As the lion gets closer to the impala, the **circle players' chants get quicker and louder. Conversely, if the lion is far away, the circle's chants decrease and get softer.**

If the lion fails to catch the impala in a minute, a new lion is chosen, and if the lion catches the impala, a new impala is chosen.

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# Time for Prayer

- Pray for Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible College. Pray for the students as they study and for the teachers that God would lead them and help them as they teach and learn. Pray that God would call new students to be trained to work in the church as pastors and evangelists.
- Pray for the District Superintendent and the District Board of Administration that they might have wisdom from God to lead the Wesleyan Church in Swaziland.
- Pray for the Fortress which is an orphanage and a counseling center. Pray for the 9 orphans that they might grow up to know God personally. Pray for finances to run both the orphanage and counseling center.
- Pray for the 36 churches and the 4 preaching points that the leaders would have a vision for evangelism to lead people to Christ and for a commitment to discipleship- to help the people in their churches to be well grounded in their faith.

# Activity

## C t i v i t y

The Bible tells us to put on the shield of Faith. In the Resources on pages 131-2 there is a Zulu shield for the children to color and a collection of Christian symbols. Print a shield page for each child and a few copies of the symbols. The children can choose a symbol(s) to color and glue it to the shield.

They should explain why they chose that symbol for their shield.