



## First Impressions Capture TLC's Essence

There's something to be said for first impressions. They're thrilling and unencumbered with extensive analysis.

Such are the observations of the Cedarville University nursing students who exemplify and represent all The Luke Commission's short-term volunteers this summer.

In their own words, here are snippets of the young women's views of Swaziland, as they traveled and worked with TLC.



Cedarville nursing students (& Zion) await patients at a bush school.

JOANNA tested a lady for HIV and then met her again when she received the bad news. "As I drew blood from her and many more, it broke my heart to know of the severe suffering that lies ahead for them, in addition to extreme poverty and already sorrow-filled lives."

She continues, "Why do I have a beautiful home, a loving family, a healthy body, and an abundance of food to eat?"

"I do not understand the Lord's purpose in allowing this suffering, except to know that He is a

loving, sovereign God who deserves the utmost praise and thanksgiving even amidst the flood of tears, disease, poverty and death here in Swaziland."



Cedarville short-term volunteers give out Operation Christmas Child boxes.

At another TLC bush clinic, Joanna and Holly met a severely diabetic woman "lying in the back of an old pick-up, too sick to move. One foot was completely black with toes missing and layers of skin falling off. Her situation had been left unnoticed far too long..."

The Luke Commission scheduled and paid for amputation of the woman's lower leg. But, as Joanna adds, "Instances like this are not uncommon in Swaziland. People are dying daily, not only because of AIDS, but mostly due to lack of transportation.

"There's no more worthwhile and valuable ministry in Swaziland than The Luke Commission. They are saving lives, healing sickness, giving sight, providing clothes and medicines.



Sipho translates while Luke, Jacob, and Zeb tell kids that their gifts come from Christians in faraway countries like the U.S.

On a lighter note, Lions Harry and Echo VanderWal and their boys took the Cedarville girls to a game park where, as HOLLY exclaims, she saw "wildlife through the eyes of Africa with no fence between me and Rhino, Elephant, Lion, Zebra, Wildebeest, Crocodile, Hippo, Impala, Warthog, and Monkey!" (Sometimes wild animals need to be capitalized.)