



NEWSLETTER

May 2022

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The Light Breaks Through

Very few people have ever seen this view of our south training grounds.

Mist is created at the surface of the earth by tiny water vapor particles suspended in the atmosphere, which can restrict visibility.

We are situated close to the Klip River that flows into the northern loop of the Vaal River and one doesn't have to understand the technicalities of how mist is formed to be frustrated by it because of poor visibility when trying to get to work.

When I took this photo, it reminded me of the hazy, uncertain times we are going through.

We know that the Sun always drives the mist away, and so it is with life. If we hold on to what we know and believe, no amount of "mist" should deter us from our goals. The going might slow down, but *THE MIST WILL GO AWAY!*

We can look at the circumstances and be overwhelmed, or we can look at the past with hope in our hearts and remember that we need to get up one more time!



Throughout history, there have been good times and bad, wars and rumours of wars; pandemics; epidemics and nature disasters, yet on the flip side of the coin, there have also been some amazing events in the past two centuries.

- Michael Faraday discovered the basic principles of electricity generation in 1831
- Thomas Edison used the carbon-filament bulb in the first public demonstration of his most famous invention—the light bulb in 1879
- The first motor car was functional by 1896
- The Radio was patented in 1904
- The Airplane introduced in 1903
- Television was invented in 1926
- The Computer was born in 1976 out of many scientists, researchers and mathematician's contribution that eventually led to the first programmable computer, desktop computers, Pentium Processors, laptops, and the Internet.
- The Cell Phone was invented in 1977. Today's Smartphones can perform the same functions as computers, music players, cameras, video recorders, and televisions, and they have mostly replaced telephones or other traditional means of communication.

Coming back to the misty moments in our lives, it is good to acknowledge them, but also, to know that they will not last forever:

Hope Will Triumph Because Hope Floats.



The Children of Fire – A Story of Hope

This is the story of Bronwen Jones, a brave soul with a big heart who became an activist for child fire victims and started the NPO “Children of Fire” <http://childrenoffire.org>. Bronwen met Dorah, the first child she assisted, in 1996 and has been instrumental in making a difference to the “Children of Fire” ever since.

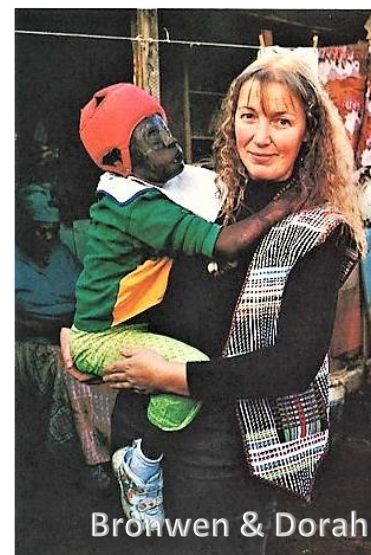
This organisation helps severely burned children to get medical treatment and care. They are not only reactive but are actively working in impoverished communities through education and awareness training of public educators and community safety workers.

Children of Fire’s base in Auckland Park typically accommodates 12 badly burned children at a time and is the hub of researching the optimum forms of injury prevention and cure in Developing World settings. Its sister charity is a primary school two streets away. There is a small base in London as well.

More than 520 children have been helped in South Africa and also in Kenya, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, DRC, Zimbabwe, and more. (Some more than once as they often need ten or more surgeries).

The number of volunteers varies all the time. Some people come once a week and some once a year; some stay two full years on site, available 365 days a year if need be. Bronwen does not draw a salary and has given more than a quarter of a century of her life to helping the children.

She has dedicated her life and her home to the children and is now looking for a successor who can continue her legacy as she would like to retire.



Bronwen & Dorah



Bronwen & Kutlwano



Bronwen & Bonbo



Timeline of Some Events

http://www.childrenoffire.org/2007_Kilimanjaro_Newsletter.pdf

- 2008** - Top Billing featured improvements to one bedroom, paying for some paint and a bunk bed.
- 2011** - Bronwen received the Inyathelo Award for Philanthropy in Health across Africa, and a large group of her burned children climbed Mt Cameroon in Cameroon.
- 2011** - Bronwen, Dorah, Sizwe, and Tristan ran a London-wide campaign to Candle Safety called “So Beautiful So Lethal” together with the London Fire Brigade, UK.
- 2013** - Tristan, Mitta, Marietta, and Bronwen arranged Burns Surgical Outreach in Kinshasa DRC to operate on more than 60 burned children.
- 2016** - Bronwen awarded the British Empire Medal by Queen Elizabeth II in New Year’s Honours Lists.
- 2017** - Bronwen strengthened relationships with UK surgeons who continued to perform radical surgery like a thumb transplant on South African child burns survivors.
- 2021** - Despite Covid-19 the organization continued to arrange reconstructive surgery for burns survivors against the odds.
- 2022** - At ETS we came across a copy of the ESSA magazine to research Firefighting history in South Africa and contacted Brownen for permission to write this article. She shared with us their need to have their Office and School Fire Extinguishers serviced.

The gaps in the timeline do not represent inactivity. There have been many who have been constantly supported and many ad hoc volunteers give their time and compassion to helping these children regain a measure of self-confidence and live active, normal lives in spite of their challenges.

If you would like to get involved in any way possible, please feel free to contact Bronwen on +27 11 726 6529 or through their website.



Helpers of the "Children of Fire"

In life there are people who don't want to be named, and yet they do the most amazing work and prefer to remain anonymous, behind the scenes, as long as their passion and dedication can make a difference to the lives around them.

Colin Maritz of "The Fire Guy" and his team certainly fall into this category. When we requested a quote on behalf of the "Children of Fire" to service their fire extinguishers, Colin immediately volunteered to donate his services and they went to Auckland Park on the 24th of April to do just that.

Before they went to service the extinguishers, the technicians were told about the background of the organisation, but this didn't prepare them for the reality of meeting the children. Colin said that it touched them deeply.

In the Firefighting Industry, there are few, if any, who do what they do for the fame and glory and Colin is one of those who gives out of compassion.



www.childrenoffirethemovie.com

In 2006, Junius Hughes started taking footage of the documentary he made of the charity and its work. Nicky Makgamathe and US stills photographer participated in and filmed the Kilimanjaro climb. They witnessed the 19 teenagers prove to themselves and the world that neither disability nor disfigurement could hold them back from achieving their dreams.

www.childrenoffire.org/2007_Kilimanjaro_Newsletter.pdf

I was not disappointed that I did not make it, I was proud of myself because I reached 5 000 of the 5 100 metres, and that I had done the best I could. **Rose Ndunda (14)**

During the trip I learned that the team spirit is really important. I learned how to help people to make them go further, and it made me feel good to help others. I think this was very useful because you need to help people in your life, and you must not let people down. **Musa Zwane (18)**

"Hope and Closure for Rwandans" Two teenage boys with aspirations of pursuing careers in Law, documented their internship at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda while the others were climbing. – **Tristan Jones (16) & Samkelo Radebe (18)**

Every trauma victim everywhere desires **Hope and Closure**



Industrial Emergency Response Competition Countdown – 27 Oct 2022



*Memories
2021*





Conferences & Exhibitions

Women in EMS & Fire Services Leadership Conference 5th & 6th of May 2022 @ Radisson Blu Waterfront, CT *Committed to Change*

This event was dedicated to improving the EMS and fire service through the involvement and success of women. It provided networking and communication opportunities for EMS and fire servicewomen and resources on women's issues for emergency and fire service leaders.

ETS was represented by Selloane Sithole and Pinkie Matjeke. They received and contributed as they got to meet other leading women in the industry.



Securex: Security and Fire Trade Exhibition 31 May to 02 June 2022 @ Gallagher, JHB

Securex is attended by security and fire protection professionals across both public and private sectors and focuses on all elements of the security sector – from physical to cybersecurity, and everything in between.

Our team has been preparing to showcase our capabilities on the different platforms that we service the Fire and Safety Industry.

The benefit of attending Conferences and Exhibitions is to remain relevant and informed of the latest advances in Technology and , Equipment.





Blast from the Past

The tradition of the bagpipe and drummer marching band at Emergency Services gatherings has its roots in the Irish playing hymns at the funerals of Servicemen (and women) to honour the fallen comrades. At some ceremonies bagpipe players wear traditional Scottish or Irish dress, including a kilt and tunic, and if it's an Irish tradition, why are they playing Scottish bagpipes? Simply because Scottish Great Highland bagpipes are significantly louder than traditional Irish uilleann pipes, which makes them ideal for large outdoor ceremonies.

Popular include Amazing Grace, Danny Boy, Flowers of the Forest, Going Home, My Lagan Love, and The Mountains of Mourne. There are all kinds of bagpipe songs that have been covered by recent artists like Sarah Brightman, Rodger Whittaker, Sinéad O'Connor, and Charlotte Church. There are Whisky Songs, Mourning Songs, Love Songs, Lost Love Songs and even Patriotic Songs. If you like the unusual sound of the bagpipes, there is sure to be a song for you to listen to. In the South African context, I explained to some colleagues that it sounds a bit like the South African Vuvuzela, but with notes.



When planning a competition, then and now, the weather plays a very important role. Tents and marquees provide shade and shelter. Event planning may have become more sophisticated over the last $\pm$ 30 years since these photos were taken, but that it was a grand affair cannot be mistaken.



It became evident when speaking to some of the people in the Industry who experienced this as a norm before, that the sound of the bagpipes triggers a pleasant auditory sensory memory. This is true of all our senses. Do you remember the smell of Shield soap, or the taste of Pickled Onion chips, the first time you saw the ocean or even the first time you touched velvet or silk?



Firefighters don't just wake up one day and say, "Oh how I would love the discomfort of a wet bunker suit or keeping fit far longer than a sportsman's average age of 35, running and training when everyone else is resting or partying." They respond, they go, they finish the task!



Memes of the Month



Emergency Contacts

Police	10111
Fire	10177
Ambulance	10177
Arrive Alive Call Centre	0861 400 800
Emer-G-Med	0861 007 911
Accident & Breakdown Towing	0860 911 326
Netcare 911	082 911
ER 24	084 124

June Birthdays

Betty Baba
Jennifer Moleko
Kevin Phakela
Percy Motsepe
Princess Blau
Simon Msimanga

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