

FEBRUARY 2024

EAGLE Learning

ENHANCED ACCESS TO GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCES

MEET OUR NEW CEO!

We were delighted this month to welcome Kimberley Cunningham onto the EAGLE team as our new CEO. We caught up with her to find out more about her and her role...

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

I was born and raised in Harare, Zimbabwe. When I was in Grade 6 and 7, my family moved to Mozambique. These were two of the most formative years of my life, in that I witnessed first-hand rural Africa, the poverty and brokenness, as well as the need for the Kingdom in the most remote areas to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people.

My family moved back to Zimbabwe so that I could complete my high school education. Following this, I pursued my higher education at Dordt University in Iowa, USA, where I studied Elementary and Middle School Education.

Even though I loved Zimbabwe and had a deep sense that I would one day move back, I decided to accept a job at an international Christian school in Jakarta, Indonesia, where I taught for three years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I had the opportunity to teach online, hybrid and in-person classes, all of which enhanced my understanding of effective pedagogy and best practices. Apart from teaching, I also led the middle and high school teacher team, and managed behaviour protocols and social-emotional learning within that department. I loved this leadership experience and found that I grew immensely.

At the start of 2022, I felt God calling me to return to Zimbabwe and make a difference in the education sector, especially for children who do not have access to quality education. So, after finishing my contract in 2023, I moved back to Zimbabwe and starting working with local churches, EAGLE and some other education organisations.

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT EAGLE?

I have been aware of EAGLE since it started. I remember seeing a computer being placed in the heart of a remote area and witnessed the excitement it brought to the children. EAGLE is a project which has always piqued my interest, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it now.

WHAT'S YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

I am currently the CEO of EAGLE and have the privilege of working with an amazing team who bring life, energy and joy to our vision for EAGLE. It's something that I truly treasure.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

As I start this new role, what excites me the most is the opportunity to dream about, strategise and action the growth and expansion of EAGLE Learning within Zimbabwe and Africa as a whole. I have enjoyed brainstorming what we want

to achieve and pressing into God for his direction. As we have done this, I have felt stirred to push the boundaries of what is humanly "doable" or "controllable", knowing that we serve a God who works powerfully in the improbable and the impossible.

WHAT DO YOU FIND CHALLENGING?

EAGLE has a big vision: Africa. And a big dream: to do something that has not been done before. It is tempting to let fear creep in; however, we only have this opportunity because of God. Therefore, he is the one who enables and empowers all we do. All we have to do is believe and take the next step. As the saying goes, the only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time!

WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF EAGLE?

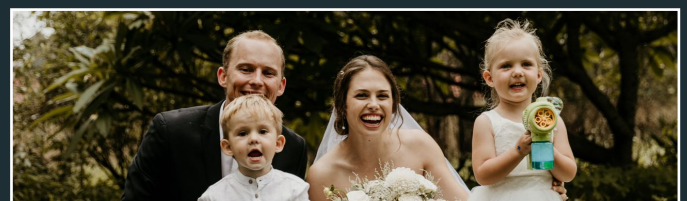
I believe that EAGLE's vision goes beyond simply providing food or education to a child. It involves empowering people to start a journey of living life to the full. I share EAGLE's vision for the whole of Africa. EAGLE's purpose is to meet the most vulnerable in a way that they can access in order to unlock their innate God-given potential to be all that they can be, now and for eternity.

AND WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR YOUR OWN FUTURE?

That's a big question! I'm now in a season of a lot of new and beautiful things. I recently became a wife and a mom of two through adoption. I've also moved to a new city, and I've started at EAGLE. So, in this new stage, I feel God expanding and growing me in deeper ways. I'm treasuring the times when I have to press into him and find a new level of dependence and surrender in him. My vision for my life now is to be present to what God is doing today and to be his hands and his feet, knowing that the only real and lasting things are those that are eternal.

WHAT IS CURRENTLY YOUR MOST IMPORTANT WORK GOAL?

Currently, one of my biggest goals is to develop EAGLE's strategy for the next three years. EAGLE has built a great foundation over the years, and now I am prayerfully developing our plan for how to take EAGLE to the next level. I sense that God has a plan to use EAGLE in a pivotal way in and through the church, bringing transformative life and hope to Africa's next generation.



SPOTLIGHT ON PUMULA LEARNING GROUP

The Pumula Learning Group has had an awesome start to this year! The December outreach brought in new students who weren't enrolled in formal school. Some learners are living in child-headed homes and have to take care of their siblings. Others live with guardians who are hesitant to pay for their education, and some have parents with disabilities who are struggling to make ends meet.

Our Pumula mentor, Ndlovu, is now a pro at using the platform and is doing an excellent job of tracking student progress. The learners are doing well in languages and have gained confidence in using technology to learn. However, they are still struggling in Mathematics due to their weak foundational skills in this area.

It is heart-warming to see the close friendships they have formed with one another, even visiting each other's homes. Plus, their parents have formed a supportive community that encourages them to keep pushing forward. The learners are collaborating more and more as they work on group projects and have a blast playing games together.

The group mentor has noticed a big improvement in the kids' performance which is encouraging. They are allowed to learn at their own pace and make their own decisions about what to learn each day. This really helps them develop their creativity, initiative and accountability.

The discipleship program is a real highlight each week and the learners eagerly anticipate George's visits to learn more about Jesus while having fun.

Ndlovu is an exceptional mentor with a heart for the kids. Even in tough economic times, he is giving it his all to help these children succeed. What an inspiration!

MEET A MENTOR

My name is Awande and I work as a mentor in Ntabazinduna, a community of small-scale farmers close to Bulawayo. I am 24, married, and I have two sons. I sell groceries, while my husband works as a welder.

I attend the Brethren in Christ church where our learning group meets and I have a good connection with the kids. I feel a real calling to be a mentor and to help the children in my community. Although I didn't have many opportunities in my schooling journey, I'm excited to make a difference in the lives of these children.

Our learning group's biggest challenge is the lack of tablets. The learners have no phones of their own, so they sometimes share the available tablets. Some of my learners come from tough home situations and, therefore, counselling is a part of my role. From the mentor training I have attended, I learned games and the importance of both loving our kids and teaching them to pray.



GETTING OUR CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING!

In February, our team came together for an incredible brainstorming session. We shared our thoughts, explored different perspectives and built upon each other's ideas. The focus was on generating a large and varied number of ideas, without any immediate evaluation or criticism.

We encouraged free thinking and collaboration to inspire innovative solutions and foster creativity. This session highlighted the power of team work, and how working together can lead to incredible outcomes.

