



Dear friends

Last week in church there was a focus on carrying Jesus presence wherever we go. Hope Trust carries the presence of Jesus into Sweetwaters and beyond, practically & verbally. The impact of His presence working through our staff into the lives of many is a delight.

Welfare

- One home visited by the Carers encountered a mature Gogo who was experiencing nightmares, seeing & even feeling snake-like creatures attacking her. They prayed in the name of Jesus & walked around the house 7 times like Joshua circled Jericho. Thereafter, they felt a breakthrough &, two weeks on, she has had no further incidents. She also started attending church to the great encouragement of her grandchildren. Pray for Miriam that she will engage with Jesus & not drift back into unbelief.
- A family we have met in the new area of Bhubonono, are being changed by Jesus' presence. We brought the parents & their two mentally challenged boys to visit the psychologist at the Mpumuza clinic. Through this the mentally disabled children will be enrolled in Ntokozweni School (for the mentally disabled) and application is underway to secure child grants for the parents
- Two kids holiday clubs have been held. They were attended by about 200 kids and 60 teenagers. The HCF young praise dancers participated & 10 teenagers helped with group games & administration. Rachel Newlands & May Zondi gave beautiful testimonies. Thank you to everyone who was involved, gave money, food (including Jaxx restaurant). Every child was blessed with sandwiches, fizzy drinks, popcorn, & a take-away pack of a splash, nik-naks & pen. The support for the holiday clubs from HCF members & Jaxx Restaurant has been a blessing to the kids & a great encouragement to the staff.

- A stationery drive was launched early in January to provide our neediest children with stationery packs for their first day of school. The response by HCF has been heartening. The 23 children selected can all return to school carrying their heads high because they have their years stationery in a backpack.

Development: Social & Economic Empowerment

- 2014 has been a buzzing year with Savings & Credit Group numbers growing to 34 in 2014. Many of the savers are older women that care for grandchildren & informally fostered kids. In 2014 these clubs saved over R360 000. Most of these savings come from social grant income.
- The development staff mentors 25 deep trench vegetable growing households.
- We continue to walk alongside & encourage about 20 micro-businesses. One of the young men who participated in the basic business skills course more than a year ago has grown his spaza shop into a roadside stall & is going from strength to strength. The chicken co-operative is also consistently selling chickens after a long period in the doldrums.

Youth Development

- Our soccer team under the able coaching of Amos, & a friend of his, Khanyile, continues to excel. They have won several friendly matches during the holiday period. Three of the team who wrote matric (& were tutored by Amos) passed their matric with a *university entrance*. The soccer team, *Abafana Bestyle*, have been accepted as part of the PMB Metropolitan league.

- The netball girls took a break during the holidays but have resumed practice in the past week.

Sweetwaters Christian Church (SCC)

(SCC is the financial responsibility of HCF. We report on it here because of the synergies for Hope Trust of working with SCC)

- Pray for the right piece of land that can be secured at reasonable cost & without extended family members laying claim to it; & for the SCC as they continue to meet in Manka & Mpume's home.
- Part of the synergy with SCC is that Hope Trust could share the land for a local office. This could serve as a point of focus where community members could engage with staff, request a home-care or prayer visit, register for courses and find out information for, example, steps in applying for social grants.

Finances

Our 2013/2014 audited accounts are available for anyone who would like to read them.

We are greatly appreciative to each of you who support this ministry financially, either monthly or as the Lord leads.

We await the second payment of R100 000 from the National Lottery Development Trust. Please pray with us for the release of this money for January salaries.

To spread the financial load we need: 500 people giving R100 a month to cover our **present costs**. To meet our targets, we need 500 people giving R250 per month (R125000)

enabling expansion into training as well as reaching a larger area.

The budget for the soccer teams has risen from about R10 000 (excluding Amos' salary) for 2014 to R25 000 for 2015. The monthly transport costs (R350-R700) will be higher because so many games are away. The team needs 5 new balls (R900) & 14 pairs of socks (R700) & a Metro League annual fee of R2500.

Banking details: see bottom of page.

Ministry Opportunities

- Participate in a *home care visit* on a Thursday.
- Pray for the ministry daily.
- Market the vision.
- Practical helps – eg sort clothing for distribution and jumble sales; fund raising.....
- Assistance with updating and maintaining the Hope Trust website, establishing and managing Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Much love to you all & may 2015 be a great year of increase for you.

Dave, Jean & the Hope Trust staff.

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Please give us feedback on what we can do to improve our communication.

(to unsubscribe email dave@hcf.org.za)