



HOPE - STORY

Luke 4: 18 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*

April/May

No 3-2016

What does God say about the *poor*: (in Greek, *Pto-khos*, used by Jesus, Paul & James meaning 'materially poor'.)

Jesus launched His public ministry in Luke 4:18-19 drawing particular attention to the materially poor as those who also need good news. Howitt states **"..... that Biblical poverty is wider in scope than mere economics, that it includes all those who are in any way deprived of the means or the dignity they need to lead a fully human existence. The poor are "the wretched of the earth", the exploited and the oppressed."** (Howitt, Quinton (2012-08-14) Christianity and the Poor).

Paul (2Cor 8:9 & 9:9-10) and James's (James 2: 1-18) both addressed issues of poverty and confirmed that the meeting of material needs is a significant part of sharing the Gospel. However, the Old Testament teaches that responses to the poor are not simply 'hand-outs' because of the many provisions that were made for them to uplift themselves and find ways out of their poverty. (Gen 13: 15; 17:8; Leviticus 18: 24-29)

HCF's ministry to the poor, using the vehicle of Hope Trust, seeks to relieve poverty (especially among widows and orphans) while also providing methods of making an income (economic empowerment). Our staff in Sweetwaters have identified two groups of ladies who are making an effort to earn income but need training. A ladies **sewing group** want more skills so they can earn money through their work. If you are able to volunteer your time and skills to help, get in touch with Larensia Rabe (082 512 6894). Another HCF member is volunteering to help a ladies **baking group** wanting more skills so that they can bake for a living. In a couple of months time I am anticipating opportunities for people who want to partner with local young men and women in **door to door evangelism**. We are excited about this because we believe that the gospel goes ahead of effective ministry to the poor.



A Needy Family

Mrs Manana and her son Sbu (15 yrs) live in a mud-walled home with a leaking roof. She is sickly and unable to work. However, the South African Social Security Agency doctor that has examined her, has deemed her able to work and therefore, she is not eligible for a disability grant. So, she and her son exist on a R350 a month child grant. In their hopelessness

much hardship is endured and they often beg for food from neighbours. We have visited on several occasions to provide food, blankets, warm jackets and to share the gospel with them. However, they are locked into the Shembe church at present, which is an indigenous church that believes Shembe is their messiah. Please pray with us for this home that the light of Jesus Christ, coupled with His love and forgiveness, will set them free. We believe that when this happens and the idolatry is put behind them, through repentance and responding to the love of Jesus, that solutions to their situation will open up.

Update on Soccer

“God with Us”, the soccer team that was playing in the SAB League came out bottom of the league. Therefore, they have been relegated, meaning dropped from the League to a lower league.

However, Amos and the other coach Khanyiso, have decided that they should be re-focussing on the younger boys again and not aiming for the League. The reason is that the younger boys have few options in the way of opportunity for sport and doors can be opened for them so that as they ma-



Mrs Manana & Sbu sporting their new jackets and a Zulu Bible.

ture there are options available, such as playing for a League team. There was also a feeling that pride crept in and the soccer had become about “me and the League” rather than about Jesus Christ! Dave has put to them that they should explore the creation of a formal Soccer Club (as a legal entity) which could solicit sponsorship from business owners in Sweetwaters and also consider selling soap as a means of paying their own way. This would give them greater ownership of their sport and over their own destiny. It also becomes a club that younger boys could also join. We await their decisions! In the meanwhile some players have drifted off to other teams.

Celebrate the Mission

The second Sunday of each month has an opportunity for report back on an aspect of Mission, so that we as HCF can celebrate it together. On the 8th May, Richie will introduce the Hope Trust Trustees to HCF and speak about the HCF ministry to the poor.

Much love

Dave, Jean and all the staff.

(Please contact Larenzia (082 512 6894) for any enquiries while Dave and Jean are away)

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