



# HOPE NEWS

Rescue | Restore | Empower

March 2019

## Calling disciples

### Luke 8: 22-27

*"One day Jesus said to His disciples, "Lets cross to the other side of the lake." The story unfolds. Setting out by boat Jesus goes to sleep and the storm arises. The disciples discover something of Jesus' divinity as He rebukes the wind and the waves, and calm ensues. At the other side they encounter the demoniac.*

We are all called to the "other side" - where the unchurched (including the poor) live and other spiritual powers remain in control, until Jesus is proclaimed and the Kingdom of God is expanded there too.

In following Jesus to the other side we keep in mind the following three thoughts:

# we are not the "saviour" so we introduce people to Jesus;

# neither are we "spectators" so we should be prepared for action; &

# we "go" as servants, led and prepared by the Holy Spirit, ready for every eventuality.

PTO



## **We arrived to visit Zinhle in her new home with her biological mother.**

She had pitched up at our staff members home at daybreak. All she had with her was bundled into a school knapsack. She had just completed matric. Living with a foster family, she had been treated differently to other children. Her younger sister had run away some while ago. Zinhle was hungry, distraught from emotional and verbal abuse and was willing to risk anything, but not return to the foster family! A visit to the Plessislaer Police Station Victim Centre produced no assistance. Re-directed to the Vulindlela Department of Social Development, a Social Worker contributed further verbal abuse in the way the girl was addressed. This was confronted, resulting finally, in the Social Workers accompanying the young woman to the foster home. Daphney urged the young woman to tell of her abuse. This led to her being re-located, by the social workers, to stay with her biological mother, in one of the many mud houses in sprawling Edendale. Her biological mother (also an orphan) gave birth to Zinhle at the age of 16. Zinhle was removed, along with her sister, from their biological mother 15 years ago, because she was unable to care for her children. PTO

## Community workers

We have just taken on two community workers to help expand our savings and credit groups (SCGs) into two new areas. They are willing, enthusiastic and are busy mobilising community members, who are interested in saving money, to form groups. The value of SCGs lies in helping poor people become financially literate, to save & not to spend all their money on day one. Last year 30 groups saved R768000 between about 275 members.

## Social development . .

SA family breakdown is exceptionally high. Most of the single parent households our staff engage with, are mothers with one or more children. The fathers are AWOL (Absent With Out Leave). These mothers are most often daughters of single parent households and their grandmothers were the same. This is a national crisis! Biblical values of both parents being engaged with their children, coupled with Jesus' regenerating power are vital for forgiveness and healing of so much pain and hurt. Our parenting skills courses with the gospel are so valuable for building into this social context!

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*cont.* Placed in a foster home where they were not really wanted, they were captive to abuse.

Hope Trust staff are monitoring Zinhle's situation, and so far, mother and daughter are grateful to be re-united. You have generously contributed a bed, mattress, clothing, food etc and Zinhle's mother is arranging to receive the child grant (which was being paid to the foster mother).

This is one story with a good ending thus far. So many of the engagements our welfare staff deal with are fraught with even more complexity which becomes enormously time consuming and difficult to unravel. In the meanwhile, people suffer! Prayer is profoundly important as the battle is waged for the soul of our nation. We value your prayer and giving so very much. At the quarry face the dust and rock falls are a daily encounter, requiring wisdom, generosity and courage.



*Jean, Daphney and Khuthala are shown with Zinhle and her mother in their home in one of the shanty areas of Edendale.*

**Website:** [www.hopetrust.org.za](http://www.hopetrust.org.za)

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### **Hope Trust Banking details:**

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