

HE IS *Risen*



He is RISEN INDEED!
Greetings from South Africa!

We had a GREAT weekend at Hope Church in Freedom Park!

We love this season because we not only remember the death and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord... we also remember and celebrate the birth of Hope Church! Our first service was Easter Sunday, 2012!

Easter is a really big deal in African Christian culture. Many churches do extended services, and it is certainly the most attended Sunday of the year. We don't go quite as "all-out" as some churches, but we do gather for services on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of Holy Week. This year, on Friday, we showed the Jesus movie (jesusfilm.org) in Sotho for the adults and The Story of Jesus for Children (same source) in Tswana.

We encouraged Hope Church to view this afternoon as an outreach and an "easy invite" for their unsaved friends. We had many visitors. 27 adults and about 15 kids were born again (and at least 15 more kids were born again again)! It was a great day! On Saturday, we had a guest speaker. A pastor friend who also sings professionally came to Hope Church. He lead us in praise and worship and challenged us not "play with" the sacrifice of Jesus. So powerful, and many of our Friday visitors returned, some bringing another visitor with them. Sunday, was also a great day. Jeff preached about the reality of the road that led to the victorious resurrection using some clips from the Passion of the Christ. Many stood to pray and rededicate their lives to Christ with a new understanding and commitment. Then we all enjoyed lunch after church together. (Lunch was sandwiches made Saturday afternoon by our fabulous intern team.)

...and Monday was Family Day, a public holiday in South Africa. We were snuggled up on couches, watching a funny movie, and enjoying a day of rest. We hope that each of you had an enjoyable and powerful Resurrection season with your families!

In His Grip,
Jeff and Abby Hunt





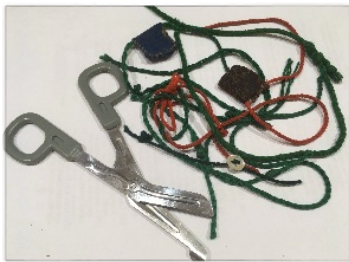
Spiritual Victories!

God has been moving in some big ways in the past few months!

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, let's look at the ways we have seen this power in the lives of people every day. Don't you love that the power of Jesus' resurrection isn't reserved for just one day or one season?

Here are some of the stories for you to see!

We are so grateful to each of you who has allowed us to be part of your "Great Commission Team" and, in turn, joined our team, Engage Africa, as together we engage the hopeless in **life to the FULL in Jesus!**



Giving it to God

These strings represent the faith of a few mothers who have decided to STOP trusting the Sangoma (witch doctor) and ancestors for the safety of their children and START depending only on the One True God who has the Name above all names. These strings (safety belts) are tied on infants at birth providing a tie to an ancestor who is meant to protect the child. As the mothers learn the deceit of Satan who provides lying demons to claim to be ancestors, they are acting on their faith and cutting the literal ties that bind their children. It is a very difficult cultural tradition for an African mother to break. To JEHOVAH be the glory!!

Come, Holy Spirit!

Praying for people to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. 12 prayed, 12 received. God is moving in a powerful way!

We are so much more aware of tangible spiritual warfare here than we used to be living Stateside.

Witchcraft is part of daily life in African culture. Therefore, African believers must be armed for battle every day. It is not a matter of a one-time victory. Victory comes little by little, through discipleship. Learning to lean on the power of the Holy Spirit is a huge step in the journey.



Meet Betty

Betty has been suffering a series of demonic attacks on her person, family, and home.

After a few questions, I discovered that she was still holding onto some of the artefacts that she used to use in ritual ancestor worship before she was saved. We realized that she had unknowingly made a contract with the lying demons that were claiming to be helping her and posing as her departed family members.

Betty had been in the group of people who prayed on Sunday and was baptized in the Holy Spirit. She was ready to follow Jesus with her whole heart... but demons still had "legal claim" to her and were keeping it because of the physical items she still held. She asked us to come and support her and pray with her as she burned the remnants of that relationship and renounced all ties to them. We did, and she was set free! We look forward to hearing stories of victory rather than attacks in her life!





Dinie Estates



Dinie Estates is the community that neighbours our Hope property. During the week that a team from Calvary Church in Springfield, IL was here to work with us, they helped facilitate our first outreach to our neighbours! There were more than 270 kids and another 30+ adults and teens in attendance. At the outreach, they all heard about Jesus, received a Book of Hope, and were told that we would be starting a new church soon. There was SO much interest in a church -especially a church with a focus on children's ministry. Even now, kids drop by the gate from time to time to ask when the jumping castles will be back and when the church will start.

So here is our big announcement: the target date for the launch of Hope Church in Dinie estates is Sunday, May 26, with an outreach on the 25th to spread the word! Initially, we will launch the new location for Hope Church as an open-air church with KidMin-style family services. (In other words, we will do kids' church and invite adults to join us until we have funds and a teaching team to create an additional space for an adult service to run simultaneously.)

We have been discussing this with our Hope Church board of directors and have decided to treat the new location for Hope Church as a "daughter church" or church plant of Hope Church in Freedom Park. We are ONE family, separated by distance.

Please continue to pray for our neighbours. Pray for salvation for the people of Dinie Estates. Pray for discipleship through Hope Church. Pray for wisdom as we move forward with planting another church. Pray for favour for us and for Hope Church in the community. Pray for resources at the proper time. Pray for our family, especially our children, as we step into the spiritual battle involved in planting a church in yet another location that Satan thinks he owns. We know that the territory already belongs to Jesus... but He commissions us to take it back.





Children's Camp



In addition to the Dinie Estates outreach and other projects, the team from Calvary Church in Springfield, IL also sponsored and facilitated a camp at Jackson's Ridge Children's Ministry Training Centre. About 40 children from Hope Church in Freedom Park were able to go to camp. It was fun, exciting, and life-changing for them. They loved the super fun activities and the seemingly endless delicious food, but their favourite part was the Saturday evening "Praise Party" where Holy Spirit moved in their worship with prophetic messages, healing Presence, and even calls to ministry. So, so good!





Team Time!



Meet Parker and Kyle!

We have 2 young men who are working with us for 3 months as a part of their gap year program.

They are a part of the Transition One program at Celebration Church in Green Bay, WI designed to fill an intentional gap between high school and university. Students are encouraged to spend 1 school year growing in faith before spending the next years in university or trade school.

These young men have spent 6 months learning and growing in practical and ministry life skills in Green Bay, and are now spending the last months of their program with us in South Africa. They are fantastic young men and have been a blessing to us! They will be with us until mid-May.



JUNIOR LEADERS!

Our Junior Leaders are the teens that help make Hope Church Children's Ministry happen! Each year we love to thank them with a chance to relax and spend time together.



I know it has been a while since our last email, thus the length of this one! I'm so sorry! We do love each of you, and we are so grateful for the way you do life and ministry with us! Every victory that we share in this letter also your victory. Every time you see a JB Hunt truck and say a prayer, or comment on a FaceBook post to let us know you are with us, or send a financial investment, you are a part of everything that God is doing here in South Africa! Thank you!



@hunthappenings



Engage Africa
like the page, join the group



@engageafrica