



# Big News for Christmas



## Merry Christmas

From the Hunts: Jeff, Abby, Beth, and Jordan

It's December in South Africa, and everything slows down in the heat. Businesses close (well, not the mall-everyone left in town seems to be there shopping this week), grocery stores' stock is low, school is done for the year, and many families travel away to spend time with family that they may only see once or twice a year. It's a relaxed and happy time of year. This change of pace makes it easy to spend a little extra time being grateful for the miracle of Jesus' appearance on Earth



## WE ARE SO HAPPY AND GRATEFUL...

to announce that the time has come! We are so very happy to announce this because so many of YOU have had a part in bringing it to fruition! Of course, we know that God is our supplier, and He is ultimately responsible for this victory. At the same time, we are keenly aware that His chosen method for meeting the need and performing the miracle has been YOU!! So, we say THANK YOU!!

Okay, okay, here it is. Engage Africa will be making the FINAL PAYMENT on the LAND for Hope Resource Center at the end of this month!

We are delighted to report that the full amount of the property was raised and paid-in-full in just 16 months!

**Now comes 2019... with new starts!**



## Please take a look at our Hope Church Christmas Party!

Each year we have a gift-giving party for Hope Church. The children each receive a Happy Meal from McDonalds. Many of our children look forward to this all year since it's the only hamburger or fries they will taste. The children also receive a gift that includes toys and sweets, but the part that generally triggers the most gratitude is the inclusion of school supplies (coloring books and crayons for the "littles"), toothbrushes, and face cloths. Our local McDonalds also donated several birthday cakes as well as the time and resources for 2 employees to come to church with us to paint faces and give balloons.

The adults and babies are not left out! Each adult receives a large bucket filled with lots of nonperishable food as well as a few sweet treats. Mothers of babies receive a gift that includes a baby toy (sometimes the only one they have), baby toiletries, a snack, and a sippy cup.



### Children enjoying lunch

The after school drop-in program that allows us to use their space has some tables at the back under a shade cloth that works great for getting kids out of the room to eat lunch and get their faces painted.



### Children's Service

There were nearly 200 elementary children, and it was a pretty hot day, but we love the opportunity to be sure that each child hears how much Jesus loves him/her on this special day.

### Littles enjoying lunch

We have started separating our littler kids (ages 0-6ish) into their own class. It's so helpful to have a separate space for them to play, eat, run, be safe, and have fun!



### Helping

Even in our "littles" class, the big sisters (or cousins or even neighbors) feel keenly responsible for the younger children.

### Littles Learning

Sitting still isn't always easy for toddlers and preschoolers, but we can't miss a chance to celebrate Jesus with even the littlest of disciples!

### Children giving thanks

They were so delighted with their gifts this year. Thank you to our teams who brought Christmas presents with them and to each of our ministry partners who makes this day possible!!



### Little's with gifts

This was my attempt at a group photo with nearly 50 preschoolers and toddlers (and a baby or two).



### After Church

This is perhaps our favourite part of the day. It happens most Sundays, but it seems even sweeter with all the joy and gratitude in the air! This church family loves to sit and chat and encourage each other!!

These moms were so grateful for their own gifts and delighted with the gifts for their babies -especially the cups! They also received a monthly supply of diapers and formula.

