



# Jeff & Abby Hunt



Greetings Friends!

We pray that this letter finds you and your family healthy in body, fruitful in ministry, and filled with joy!

**July 2012**

What a blessing it is to partner with you in ministry to the people of South Africa! It is almost hard to believe that we are now halfway through 2012, and yet, God has accomplished many things in SA already this year. We are happy to give this brief report of the highlights of our experiences during the past few months... keeping in mind that each of our experiences is also yours as you walk with us daily, engaging South African children and families in life to the full! We love you, pray for you often, and appreciate your prayers and partnership more than words can express.

*~ Jeff and Abby ~*

## HOPE CHURCH

2012 has been a year of "going deeper" in the community of Freedom Park, and specifically in the small community of HOPE Church. We have walked with new spiritual brothers and sisters through tragedy, loss, healing, and hope. It has not been easy, and the needs never really seem to diminish, but Jehovah is big, and He is faithful.

During the past several months, we have not seen significant numerical growth. However, we have seen the 10-12 adult attendees begin to define themselves as "members" of a church "family" rather than seekers checking out the new missionary effort. We are seeing the beginning of a foundational core from which growth can emerge.

The children still watch for our car and jump and cheer when they see us coming, but rather than shouts of "makgoa" (white people), we hear "Moruti" (pastor) as we pull up to the gate. It is not uncommon to find one of our team members teaching with a fussy baby or restless toddler in arms, but many of these same little ones can also quote the Bible as well as their older brothers and sisters!



## Children's Ministry

We continue to be invited to various churches to help train their volunteers in children's ministry. We also continue to learn how to adapt proven teaching and child-development principles to work practically in the very verbal and physical African culture. We know that the Word of God is living, active and applicable to every culture, so it has been fun and challenging to discover new ways to communicate!

After each training time, we gather kids from the church's community for an outreach and invite them to return the next day, introducing them to the volunteers that will be watching for them each following week.



Many of you prayed and cried with us when we lost our baby boy in a miscarriage last year. We

are very excited to report that we are now celebrating and expecting another baby, and the doctor tells us that she is a girl. Our little one, and her Mommy, have been completely healthy for the past 33 weeks, and we look forward to meeting her sometime near August 21 and introducing her to you next time we are Stateside! **Contact us if you want us to visit your church in October!**



## Calvary Springfield - Ministry Team

In May, we had the privilege of welcoming a team from Calvary Temple Christian Center in Springfield, IL. The team was involved in a wide variety of work and activities during their 10 days in SA. However, the main thrust of their ministry was 5 days of "VBS" style outreach in Freedom Park. With the help of some good friends here in SA who acted as their interpreters, the team ministered to over 300 kids every day, sharing the Gospel and challenging them to grow closer to Jesus as "aliens" in this world! They worked hard and were such a blessing!



In addition, it is the kids from CTCC (SonPower Kids) who raised money for the new stage graphics and logos for our "mobile ministry unit" (our big trailer with a fold-out stage and enough room inside for 2 jumping castles, a generator, sound system and everything we need for outreach anywhere). How fitting that the team from CTCC was the first to use this ministry tool with its new look! Thank you CTCC for being a part of everything that we do here in South Africa!



Lighthouse Children's Shelter is currently home to 2 infants and 3 toddlers.

3 of the 5 have

families who are in the process of foster care or adoption. Sadly, we are now experiencing road blocks from the government department of social development in our province, so we cannot accept more children.

Please pray for speed in the placement process for the kids that are here and wisdom for the shelter directors as we make plans for a way to move forward. We know God has a plan for these children!



## Prayer Requests

- **Open doors** and favor for Lighthouse and other NPOs with the department of Social Development
- **Health and protection** for HOPE Church families during the cold winter
- **Wisdom and resources** as we encounter so many needs and dire situations in Freedom Park and seek God to know how and when to help
- Continued **health and safety** for Abby and the baby
- **Favor** and open doors as we renew our visas and obtain identity and travel documents for the baby
- **Direction and wisdom** as we look for property and seek God's next step for us and EA

## Family Visit

June was family month for us! Abby's grandma (83 yrs old!), aunt, and cousin came over to spend 2 weeks with us, and her parents stayed for an additional 2 weeks! It was a whirlwind of a visit as we packed in as many South African experiences as we could- from a kids outreach and church services to a game drive, shopping, lion park, zip line adventure, and more! It was a wonderful visit, and we were so happy to be able to share our lives and ministry with family. What a blessing to have them all here together!



## Thanks Jesse!!!

We would like to close with a big THANK YOU to our latest intern, Jesse Hinckley. Jesse spent about 5 months being immersed in every area of Engage Africa's ministry here. He did everything from physical labor to children's ministry -and set up inflatable jumping castles more times than he probably cares to count!

Jesse was a blessing to EA and to us personally. We already miss him! Thanks again, Jesse, for all your hard work! We hope to see you in South Africa again sometime!

