

## Greetings in the matchless name of our RISEN Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

As we reflect on Easter weekend, we are amazed and humbled, once again, by the beauty of the sacrifice that our Lord made on our behalf. The VICTORY that was won that day was Earth-shattering, life-altering, and just astounding. We are so grateful!!

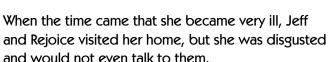
Reflecting on that victory brings to mind other victories as well. We simply want to share with you a couple of VICTORY STORIES that have taken place in the past few weeks. We hope you enjoy them!

If you are a part of the Engage Africa team and we are a part of your answer to the great commission, then these are your stories. If you are not yet a part, please visit our website to become a partner!



## **Power the Witch Doctors Don't Know!**

Ma-Mavis came to Hope Church a few times but she didn't come back because, in her words, she "loved sin too much." She didn't like the way church felt. She let her kids attend church for a while, but eventually she stopped allowing them to come as well.





She visited every witch doctor and traditional healer she could find. She made sacrifices to her ancestors. She paid to have spells cast. But she would not come to church because she did not like the conviction she felt there.

When she went home to visit her family, who are saved, she discovered that, "they were praying to this very same Jesus that I heard about here."

They prayed for her, she accepted Christ, and within a week, she was better.

She came back to Hope Church and proclaimed that she can feel God's power. "These people are not just playing church. There is power here, Jesus Power, that the witch doctors don't know anything about!"



## **PUSH- Pray Until Something Happens!**

Last year, our children's ministry team took our children through a series of teachings about prayer. Our youth grabbed hold of the teaching and committed to Pray Until Something Happens in their own lives.

This sweet girl, Nomsa, went to the doctor because of a pain in her belly and was told it was a mass that was

probably uterine cancer. If we preached at your church last year, you know her as our "salty" Christian! So she started to pray. She asked the others to pray with her. They all began trusting God for a miracle. When she returned to the clinic for follow-up testing, there was nothing to be found and no sign of the painful mass. She was completely HEALED!!

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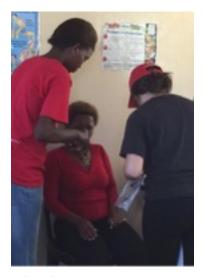




Waiting in line to be tested



Using iPads for vision screening



Being fitted for new glasses!

At Hope Church, we have been emphasising the importance of Bible reading. We want our Hope Church family to be equipped for every spiritual battle, and we know that only comes through Bible reading and prayer! Many of our church family are beginning to grasp the value of the written Word of God which, in a mainly oral culture, is a great victory. However, with this new growth has also come a new awareness of a specific need. We find that many are having trouble reading their Bibles or taking notes in church because they cannot see properly. We have had many requests for reading glasses. We have been providing reading glasses as we can, but we have had no really good way to test to see if we are providing the correct strength since all the tests we found online involve reading English sentences.

It turns out that our gracious God had already been laying an answer on someone's heart thousands of miles away. The mother of one of the students from Valley Christian School in California is an Optometrist. She became aware of the need after her older daughter visited South Africa on a missions trip, and she began to use her skill and resources to develop a way to answer the need. She developed an iPhone/iPad app that can generate a vision score that is then translated into a reading glasses prescription. Her younger daughter is here with us now, on a missions trip with the school, and she brought the app along with several friends trained in using it and hundreds of new reading glasses!

On Easter Sunday, as well as the following Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings, they were able to test hundreds of people and give away more than 400 pairs of reading glasses. There was so much joy as people left clutching the glasses as a treasured possession. There were even a few who shed tears as they were able to read the Word of God for themselves for the first time. What an incredible blessing!!

Rejoice, our South African intern, and several of our Jr. Leaders have been helping translate for the American vision testers and have been, in the process, learning how to administer the test and determine the appropriate glasses strength, so we will be able to continue using these treasures after the team leaves.

If you would like to donate to help cover the cost of the reading glasses or to help purchase a devise that would allow us to test distance vision as well, please visit our website and make a donation on our <u>projects page!</u>

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