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## tlc Updates

**We know that our newsletter is way past due and we apologize for the absence of communication. We bring you greetings from Namibia in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Now if we write everything in one update, you will not read because it will be too much. So we will try to summarize and then stay up to date if possible. The computers and the internet have also been a problem but we are trying to work through everything and with God's grace it will all work to HIS perfect will.

We had a **Christmas party for the children at Mafuta** (the children's center that Zion provides food for each week). This was extra special because our friends in Atlanta have a daughter that donated all of her stuffed animals and that was the gift for each child. By God's grace, there were exactly enough! We took our small ones to try to teach them about giving, but sometimes they did not want to give up those cute stuffed animals.



**There were 8 children that remained here at Zion for the holiday month** because they are either very young babies or 3 older ones that did not have a place to go. It was a time that we could spend one on one with them and with the little ones, they came every day to our house to watch a video, play with toys, have a tea party or go to the playground.



While children are on holiday we found a special person to look after the little ones and we had a **2 day Spiritual retreat for staff**. The theme for December was LIGHT.

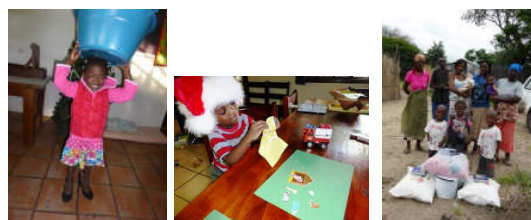
After transporting everyone back to Zion from the holiday in January, **we celebrated Christmas with a special Christmas message and with gifts. It was a special time since Lisa and Pastor Craig** (Senior Pastor of Mt. Zion UMC – the founding church) was here. It was not Santa but it was gifts from sponsors and people

who care in the states. **Thank you to all who made Christmas extra special this year for our children.** God bless you and keep you in HIS care!

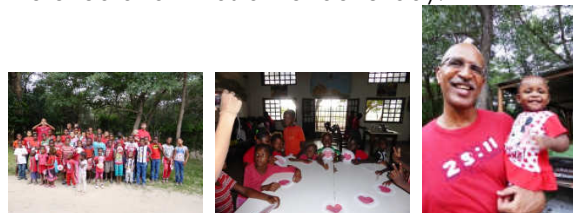
What a blessing also that God would provide enough that we can give to others. **We took a Christmas message and food to 5 villages** and asked the chiefs to pass it on to the rest. We take children so they can learn that giving is better than receiving.



Teaching the young ones is better than not teaching – culture, Jesus, giving...



**For Valentine's Day we had hamburgers on the braai** (a special meal here) and macaroni and ice cream! It was a Bible Study Day so the village kids were here and we taught about the Love of God. Everyone wore red and it was a wonderful day.



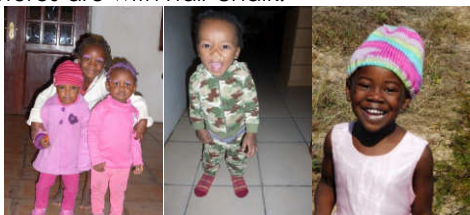
**There was no flood** this year but the down side is for the people that do not live near the river as we do. We pump our water from the river for everything – bathing, drinking, and watering the garden. **But many are suffering because of the drought and the crops are few.** Please pray for God to provide as needed.

**God placed the right people and situations in our path** to enable us to find a good social worker for Zion. He is assisting with planning and implementation of activities focused on preparing children for transition back to families or for young adults to be independent.

## tlc Updates continued



**The school is thriving with 112 children** getting a Christian education and memorizing scriptures. We have baked many a birthday cake for children and staff. **We have mourned the loss of 2 of our staff already this year.** We have celebrated the birth of a baby boy for one of our staff (another is pregnant). The Bible studies with the children and the village children are going strong. They are working on character traits of Christ at school. **We had sleep over at our house with the girls.** Our youngest one year old is walking!!! AND, the hippos were grazing in our yard. The pictures are with hair chalk!



From the downs, we get up; from the challenges to the opportunities; from tears to laughter, tired to strong; serious to crazy; from busy to busier; disappointment to joy... **WHY? Because we are BLESSED by your prayers.** GOD blesses us every minute of every day. Thank you for your love and support and prayers!!!



**1 Peter 5:6-7 "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."**