



Happenings Around Hope of Africa

Graduation

The 8th of December marked the culmination of the SAY flagship program, the LEAD Program, with a dignified graduation ceremony. The event highlighted the impressive accomplishments of the young participants in this impactful youth empowerment initiative. The festivities took place at the SAY LAND in Gimbo, symbolizing the conclusion of a transformative journey that lasted five months. This journey included two extensive modules—discipleship and skills training, with the latter incorporating engaging internships.



Learning Center

Our school year began on the 15th of January this year. As we are still working on plans to ensure the program's sustainability, we have not enrolled new students this term. Instead, we are continuing with the 36 children from the previous year. Following the start of the term, the children had a short break so that volunteer teachers could undergo training on the R2F curriculum. Since our focus is on the youth, Martha trained 13 young individuals, with 6 of them scheduled to take turns in teaching the children. The children have been grouped into three classes based on age and learning abilities.

VBS Camp

With a primary focus on evangelism and discipleship, hosting a VBS club for the children in our Gimbo community during the holiday break was essential. Here's a glimpse of our VBS camp:

- 85 campers participated, including 20 children from our partner church, Hope Christian Life Church.
- The church generously transported their Sunday school children to join us and also contributed towards the meals for the campers.
- Five youths who underwent volunteers' training for Awana clubs actively engaged in the VBS camp, while the team supervised them.



- The camp featured games, Bible-based storytelling, team activities for memorizing verses, and craft sessions.
- Children created "blessed bracelets" as crafts, which they cherished and proudly showed off.
- Volunteers Emma, Rose, Grace, Mercy, and Abbey did an outstanding job guiding the children.
- Auntie Heather taught the day's memory verse from Hebrews 4:13, emphasizing that nothing is hidden from God's sight.



Cell Groups

In the initial phase of January, our focus was mainly on strategic planning for the Leadership Development Program. It was decided that in 2024, individual cells would be set up in each village, each overseen by two coordinators - one male and one female. The main task of these coordinators is to rally the youth and arrange suitable meeting places within their villages and neighboring areas.



Alex, the program facilitator, called a crucial meeting with the appointed cell coordinators. The primary aim was to brainstorm and create effective strategies for mobilizing the cells. During this session, coordinators got to know each other and gained insights into the villages they represented. Alex outlined the expectations from these leaders, emphasizing the significant role these groups play in the smooth implementation of SAY's programs, particularly in terms of mobilization, growth, and impact.

Hippo Roller Update

Many of the people who received the roller are very happy to have the tools and they say that it is a great blessing and help for them not just to their gardens but also to their households.



Nursery

We have successfully grafted and budded 8 trees: 4 oranges, 3 Naartjies and 1 grapefruit. We have transplanted 164 new rootstock which will be ready to be grafted mid-February, we therefore envisage to graft some more trees and are planning to do the rest next month. We are grateful for the growth and health of the trees.

Faith E

One of our partner churches, Faith E had a ministry fair at the beginning of the month. Each a set up to give people a feel for what it is the ministry's do and what it is like in that country. Hope of Africa had a small hut with a mat and some African things inside. We also had a community garden where people would get trained similar to our youth and community members.



Prayer Requests and Praises

- Pray for our alumni. Pray their relationship with the Lord will strengthen and that we are able to come alongside them to continue mentoring them
- Pray for our teams as they prepare for visitors and interns
- Pray for Heather as she is back in Africa until May
- We praise the Lord for Herbert and Prossy's wedding, for the good weather, so safe travels for all guests and for His provision for Herbert and Prossy.
- Praise that the sorcerers/ witch doctor and his team left the village, these were our immediate neighbors that we had been praying over for a while and the Lord caused them to migrate and go.