

Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters,

# December 2024 – January 2025

To say we've been busy would be an understatement! While most people take December as a time to slow down, spend time with family, or go on holiday, we see it as the perfect opportunity to ramp up our outreach and make the most of the season. (Remember, December and January are summer for us, not winter!)

These past two months have been packed, and while we can't share everything, we'd love to give you a snapshot of the highs and lows.

## **Continuing in Hope**

December started with a big transition—moving out of our Township house and reassessing how to structure our ministries. As we prayed for clear guidance, we faced the challenge of not having a permanent location for our Township Ministries. Despite searching, we have not found a place to rent or use. However, we remain encouraged! Our taxis bringing children on Fridays and Sundays are still full, and we've even seen more visitors—adults included—attending church in January.

Please continue to pray that God will open doors and provide a new space for our Holiday Clubs, Soup Kitchens, Bible Studies, and Hannah's medical outreach.

## **Church Starts a Choir!**

In November, Solid Rock Baptist Church launched its very own choir. Our vision as a choir is not only to sing in church but also to use the choir as an outreach tool. We now have an average of 20 members, ranging in age from 10 to 87! God is doing incredible things through these people, and we're so excited to see where this ministry leads.

## **Christmas Program & Community Outreach**

The Sunday before Christmas was a HUGE milestone—we officially moved into our new building! While it's not completely finished, it's functional enough for services, and what a difference it makes!

That same day, we held our very first Musical Outreach at Vistarus Mission Station, a home for impoverished individuals and those recovering from addiction. Our church choir performed two songs, alongside various families and choral groups who sang and played instrumentals. Three short gospel-filled sermons were shared, and after the program, the children of the church handed out homemade cookies baked by the ladies of the congregation. The appreciation and joy in the room were tangible! We are prayerfully considering making this an annual church outreach event.

## **Christmas Ladies' Fellowship**

Just after Christmas, Courtney and Hannah Bennett organized an end-of-the-year Ladies' Fellowship with the theme **"A Vessel of Honour."** Hannah shared a lesson, and we had an incredible turnout of 38 ladies—including a few visitors!





If you do not receive our email updates, you are missing out on dozens of photos as well as video updates. Please contact us to get added to our email list.

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#### **Ministry Spotlight:**

#### Helping Hands Christmas Packets & Carols for the Preemie Floor

Throughout the year, our church collects baby essentials—sleepers, diapers, bibs, washcloths, socks, hats, and more—to create care packages for mothers with premature babies. These are distributed twice a year: on Mother's Day and at Christmas, at Dora Nginza Hospital. The hospital is frequently overwhelmed with the Preemie and Maternity wards, often exceeding capacity by 20+ babies. This year, in addition to distributing over 80 care packets, we also wanted to encourage the hardworking medical staff. We donated instant coffee for every nurse and baked nine dozen homemade cookies for the staff.

This year, we also did something new—one of our church men, Matthew and 10-year-old Eason, brought their guitars and played along as we sang Christmas carols in the hospital halls. The joy this brought to the mothers and staff was evident, and Matthew shared a clear gospel message. We ensured that every packet included a Xhosa-language gospel tract for those who may not speak English fluently.

#### A Touching Testimony from our Dora Nginza Helping Hands Ministry

A couple of months ago, Courtney was shopping for baby sleepers when a store employee stopped her. The woman asked why she was purchasing so many, and when Courtney explained our church's ministry, the woman burst into tears and hugged her—right over the pile of sleepers in her arms. She then shared that two years ago, on Mother's Day, she had been one of those mothers at Dora Nginza, receiving a care package. She was overwhelmed with gratitude and told Courtney how much it had meant to her.

As a church, we may never see or hear from most of these mothers again, but moments like this remind us that the impact is far greater than we may ever realize. God is so good!

#### **AFTERSHOCK Youth Rally**

With schools out for a break before starting mid-January, we knew this would be the perfect time to host a Youth Rally—and it was a huge success! On January 9th, we welcomed 34 teens for an action-packed, all-day event.

The day was filled with outdoor games, physical strength challenges, prizes, pizza, soda, and ice cream—but most importantly, the teens heard two powerful sermons. We were blessed to have a dear friend as our guest speaker, who delivered the messages in Xhosa, Afrikaans, and English. This ensured that every teen received a clear gospel presentation and had access to fluent counseling if they had questions. The Lord truly used this first rally in an incredible way, and the teens are already asking when the next one will be!

#### **Churchwide Door to Door**

Throughout January, our church has been going door-to-door every Saturday in preparation for our upcoming OPEN HOUSE Sunday on February 9! We've had a fantastic turnout each weekend, with at least two teams—including energetic children—helping distribute invitations.

Since most South African homes are surrounded by gates, making it impossible to reach the front door, we had special "gate hangers" designed. These ensure the invitations stay put despite the PE winds and remain visible, unlike flyers that often get discarded when placed in mailboxes (yes, that is legal here).

We're incredibly excited for this Sunday and aim to distribute over 1,500 invitations throughout January and the first two weekends of February. *Please pray that those who receive them will feel welcomed and open to hearing the gospel.* 

#### The Womack Family



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