



# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

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Dear Family, Friends & Partners,

***Merry Christmas*** and compliments of the season to you all!! We pray this joyous time of year finds you and your families well. Since we arrived back from the States in September, it has been an extremely busy time here in Zimbabwe for us as a family and even more so for the ministry! So many new and exciting areas of outreach are taking place, and we find ourselves in a state of gratitude and wonder this Christmas season at the opportunities the Lord keeps bringing along to impact lives for His Kingdom.

## **Outreach –**

‘Tis the Season for The Walk Through Bethlehem. It was another successful year for our annual live nativity experience at the church. Over 300 people came to Bethlehem this December, and the cast was comprised of about 60 people, varying in ages from 2 months old to 60+ years old. For those of you who may not be familiar with the annual Bethlehem event, guests line up to “register for Caesar Augustus’ census,” and then they make their way through the bustling, noisy marketplace where the cast is busy peddling their goods. From the basket stall to the noisy carpenter, to the fresh bread at the bakery, visitors got to experience what busy Bethlehem might have been like. Then visitors made their way through the noisy overcrowded inn, to the quiet manger scene outside where a precious newborn baby Jesus, together with Mary & Joseph, greeted intrigued guests with a bit of the taste of the wonder of the first Christmas night. From the manger scene, people traveled in to King





Herod's throne room to watch his exchange with the three wisemen and from there, visitors ended their journey through Bethlehem with Christmas carols being sung in the outside garden on their way out of the church coffee shop.

It was so sweet to watch children journeying through in search of baby Jesus. There were so many new families from all over the community that came to Bethlehem this year, and we pray the seeds of faith that were planted in peoples' hearts draw them to the Father this Christmas season.

### **A Little Christmas Miracle –**

Through our ongoing outreach project at the Maternity Ward Hospital in Harare, we were notified of a tiny baby girl who was born in the hospital, but had been abandoned by her mother, and was about to be aged out of the NICU with nowhere to go. We had a family meeting and asked our kids what they would think about having this little one come home with us for a season while she waits for her forever family. The kids wholeheartedly agreed that a new baby in our home for Christmas sounded like a wonderful idea!! And so, this month we added a tiny baby girl to our household tribe. Weighing in at 2.3kg (just over 5lb.) on the day we brought her home, this tiny beautiful little one has stolen all our hearts and has no shortage of eager arms to hold her, feed her and love on her. She is a real life reminder this Christmas season of the ultimate gift Christ gave to us by being born as a helpless little one so He could grow up to save us all. How

ironic that this beautiful little blessing that was abandoned by her mother, played most important role of the Christmas story as baby Jesus in Walk Through Bethlehem this year. For those of us who knew this sweet little one's story, it made the nativity all the more miraculous and wonder-filled.



### **Family –**

The month of December has been a very special one for our extended Broom Family. For the first time in many years, David and his three sisters, Adele, Karen & Pippa, all get to be here in Zimbabwe together to celebrate the Christmas season. It has been a very special time for the all the siblings and cousins. There has been a variety of emotions felt by all as our family experiences the realities of the losses of not only Dave, Maxine but, most recently, our brother-in-law Jeff Hidden, since the last time all the siblings got to be together. But there is also much gratefulness in our hearts for the beautiful legacy Dave & Maxine have left behind. With the Lord as our anchor, hope, joy and strength, we have experienced the beauty only He can bring from the ashes, witnessed His restoration from the brokenness, and felt His joy in the midst of loss.

That's the miracle of Christmas. On that cold desolate night outside a small village called Bethlehem so very long ago, the Savior's birth did not eliminate the hardships of life or remove our heartaches and losses. But what His birth did for us all was to infuse His Hope & Presence into every dark painful area and experience of our lives. The miracle of the birth of our Savior means we never have to go through anything alone, without Him. His overwhelming love for you and I compelled Him to leave Heaven and be born in a stable as a helpless, naked, crying newborn so that one day He could die to save us all. The miracle of Christmas is that true love was born in a manger so that you and I would never have to walk this life alone.



*We pray that you experience His presence in such a real way this Christmas season. May your hearts be filled with the wonder, peace and joy that He came to bring each of us long ago on that first Christmas night.*

David and Amy

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THOU SHALT BE CALLED THE REPAIRER OF THE BREACH, THE RESTORER OF PATHS TO DWELL IN. ISA 58:12