



Building the kingdom together.....

Unreached people group - Namibia

After an Operation Christmas Child outreach event was held for an unreached people group in Ombaka, Namibia in November 2016, the Himba people wanted to start a church in their village. A local school teacher who had helped set up the outreach began holding church services in January 2017. These are primarily attended by Himba ladies and children.



Children leave home early on Sundays to walk more than a mile to get to the church, which meets at the school. They gather in a classroom for a worship service, after which the children attend Sunday school where they learn from The Greatest Journey.

This is regularly attended by 46 children, and six young adults, and we praise God for parents who are starting to come along as well.

Zimbabwe - Football Story

Local ministry partners arrived at a school of around 700 pupils from the surrounding communities and prepared to hand out shoebox gifts at an Operation Christmas Child outreach event.

One young boy was a keen footballer and came along playing with a football made of plastic bags and string. When he opened his shoebox, he was overjoyed to find a brand new black and white leather football inside! A simple gift, like a football, can bless a whole community of children with the gift of play. You can see from the smile on his face how much this special gift meant to him!



Patrick's Story

Pastor Oscar, his team, and a group of excited children of various ages, gathered together in the brick shell of a partially built, roofless church plant in Muskotwane, Livingstone.

The children listened intently as the local church shared the gospel message with them using the colourful, child-friendly, ministry partner guide. They heard how much God loves them and how He sent us The Greatest Gift of all - Jesus.

One by one, the children went forward to receive their shoebox gifts.

Sitting amongst the group of children aged 5-9, was a young lad called Patrick. While the shoeboxes were being given out, Patrick turned to one of the national leadership team members and asked: "Teacher, am I not getting a box because I am blind in one eye?"

All the boys in his group had already received shoeboxes, and none were left for his age group.

The national leadership team member went in search of a spare shoebox, leaving another member of the team to chat with Patrick. As they talked it became clear that his visual impairment was sometimes seen to be a curse in his local area, which is why he had assumed he wouldn't be worthy of a box.

But suddenly, Patrick's name was called to collect his shoebox.

It turned out he was already ten, and had been mistakenly sitting in the younger group, so they had simply not got to his name yet! He jumped up and ran with excitement to the other side of the church to collect his shoebox with a beaming smile on his face. He had not been left out at all.

As the children began to open their shoeboxes there were shouts of joy as they showed off their new treasures. Among them sat a contented Patrick - with a brand new football and many other new possessions.

In a culture where Patrick was often side-lined, he received a physical example of God's amazing love and heard that he was created by, and special to God, and that there was a plan for his life. God knew his name and He wasn't about to let Patrick miss out.