

December



2022

HOPES AND FEARS

The much-loved Christmas Carol, "O little town of Bethlehem" has the line:

"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight"

And so they were on that first Christmas - and so they are today.

In the Christ child our fears are confronted and dealt with and our hopes re-shaped by the in-breaking of the Kingdom of righteousness and true peace.

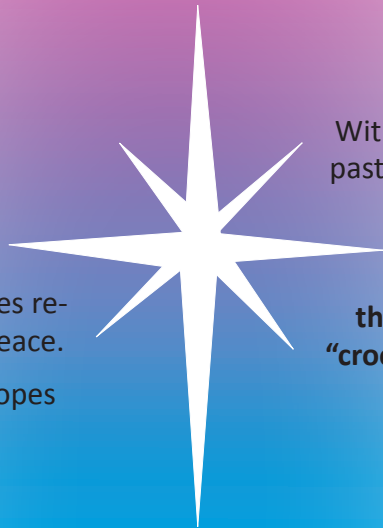
We asked our partners in Bulawayo to spell out for us some of their hopes and fears and here are some of their responses:

THEIR HOPES

- for the Church to be united and speak a prophetic word to the nation
 - for the lies of the false prophets to be exposed
- for Church leaders bravely to challenge rampant wickedness
 - for the Church to defend the orphan and the widow
- for a national leadership with a heart for God and to serve his people
 - for the empowering of ZVSF to fulfil its God-given mandate



The happier times at McDonald Bricks site captured in this photo (2016)



THEIR FEARS

With an election year looming, and remembering the terrible violence of past elections, our partners, serving the poorest and most vulnerable, are fearful of:

- political violence and victimization, especially in rural areas
- the collapse of the judiciary, already seriously compromised, so that "crooks get away with murder (literally)" and the innocent languish in jail
- increasing hunger and deprivation
- school fees proving unaffordable for parents
- the Church being "captured" by an idolatrous agenda

The light of Christ's presence may be obscured by the natural fears of our sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe. But let us pray that they will hold fast to the promises of God and His Word

"...the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining"
(1 John 2:8b)



We see a glimpse of "the true light" in the brilliant smile here of a lady clutching a bag of seed maize – itself a gift of hope

"Jesus' gift for you".

