

# Hazels in Africa

Hope with gentleness & respect. | Peter 3:15



**Namibia** situated between the Namib and the Kalahari deserts receives the least amount of rainfall of all the countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Less than 1% of Namibia is arable and about 47% of the population depends on agriculture for their living.

In 2013, almost half of Namibians faced food insecurity as drought devastated the country. Yet, the San people had survived for 1000's of years as hunter-gathers. They followed water, game and edible plants, and were always mobile. They did not farm or keep animals and carried everything they possessed with them as they moved. This livelihood has been taken away for the most part and the government has them living

in settlements like Tsumkwe. The San are to become farmers now even though they have been pushed to the edge of the Kalahari Desert. The government has built houses, clinics, and schools with water and power to 'civilize' them. They receive aid but many times the items are sold in order to buy alcohol.

The San will never be able to return to their simpler hunter-gather way of life. They have lost their identity and are struggling to find themselves again in their new situation. Many are without hope and turn to alcohol to numb them to life. The children are suffering the most. The San are the least among all Namibians but as a whole country:

- \* 32% of children under the age of five are malnourished.
- \* 29% of children are considered stunted.
- \* 25% of children have reduced capacity to learn as a result of iodine deficiency.
- \* Over 23% of pre-school children have Vitamin A deficiency. Children deficient in Vitamin A are 20 times more likely to die from common childhood diseases.

In Namibia, millet is grown more often than maize because it requires less water. The millet is pounded and sifted to mix with water for porridge. Although it is nutritious, millet does not contain vitamin A or iodine and should not be the only thing one eats. The San life expectancy is 22% lower than the national average, at just 48 years and can be linked to their health and low socio-economic status. Only 67% of San children are enrolled in school. Only 1% of those children complete secondary school. And *none* of them make it to university.

A semi-arid desert is a hard place to try to grow anything other than what is native which the San people are experts. However, they do not have the freedom to go and gather the plants when needed. The children are no longer learning the plants that were once essential to survival. Volumes of knowledge are being lost.

I learned so much from Farming God's Way at Equip and Tropical Agriculture Development 1 at ECHO. They gave me tools to use among the San people to help them farm better. I learned about underutilized crops such as moringa, katuk, cassava leaves, and chaya. Moringa is an amazing plant with tiny leaves which have 7 times the Vitamin C of oranges, 4 times the Vitamin A of carrots, 4 times the calcium of milk, 3 times the potassium of bananas and 2 times the protein of yogurt plus their seeds can be used to purify water and branches can be used for fuel. Some call it the miracle plant. The right plant although won't grow in poor soil, so I learned several ways to improve the soil with organic material. The right techniques although won't produce a crop unless properly managed. Still there are moisture requirements of all plants. There is so much to take into consideration to farm well. At ECHO they shared the proverb, "An empty stomach has no ears." Helping them provide for themselves will make a huge difference. As they are filled physically, they will be more able to hear what will fill them up spiritually.

Our Africa Inland Mission TIMO Team to Tsumkwe, Namibia will leave January 2015 to live among the San people for 2.5 years. God keeps expanding my heart for Namibia and the San. I am excited to go and share life with them. I know life will be hard but it is worth it. They have been so marginalized they believe they aren't worth anything. Yet, in God's eyes they are of great worth and He loves them. God desires them to be a part of His family. God wants to make them whole by mending their brokenness. This can only happen in a relationship with Him. I am so humbled that God wants us to go and build relationships with the San, so one day we may call them brothers and sisters in Christ.

# Support by Praying

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Mission: Christ-centered churches among all African people. Priority: Africa's unreached

~Pray for Rain in Namibia. It has been a hard year with drought in the desert.

~Pray for our team of 7 now as we each prepare to go in January 2015. Also pray for those still to join the TIMO team. AIM is praying for someone/s with some medical background to be a part of the team. There is a small clinic in Tsumkwe.

~Pray doors are opened to share with churches and individuals about what God is doing in Africa. We are able to come for Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Sunday school, Small Groups, or a meal. **Please contact us if you would like us to come!!!**

~Pray we use our time wisely. Pray we are able to train injury-free for the half-marathon and continue to work on our Bible courses.

~Praise for the agricultural training Claudia received. God richly blessed her with increased knowledge of His creation that can make a difference as the San people learn to farm well.

~Praise we have reached **20%** of our outgoing goal of \$20,177 and **9%** of our pledged monthly support goal of \$4307.  
Thank you to everyone who has already given!

## Support by Giving

Downhill@Dawn Half Marathon  
Ridgecrest, NC

6:01 am on Saturday, June 7, 2014



We are running this half-marathon as a fundraiser for our outgoing expenses to get us to Africa.

We will each run 13.1 miles, so together we will

run a total of 26.2 miles. Our goal is to raise \$200 per mile a total of \$5240 which would be an additional 26% of our total outgoing expense goal.

**26 miles for 26 percent** Will you help us reach this goal???

Sponsor a mile for \$200, a half mile for \$100, a quarter mile for \$50, or an eighth mile for \$25. Please use the slip included and make checks payable to Africa Inland Mission or visits the 26 page on our blog. All donations are tax-deductible.

We pray each step taken is for His glory. We are training hard to do well during the race. Namibia is going to be a harsh environment and we need to be physically fit to do well there also.

**Future Communication:** We are moving to a very remote location and we won't be able to send paper newsletters via the mail system on regular basis. So we need you to do 1 of 2 things. 1. Provide us with an email address to receive our prayer updates. We just sent a 26 for 26 email this week so if you didn't get it then we don't have your email. 2. Go to our blog and subscribe on the right hand side to receive updates automatically.

Join the Journey @ <http://hazelsinafrica.aimsites.org>

