

## Hope in Jesus this Advent

Nelson Mandela would have been a 100 years old this year, and he once said: “May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.”

We now find ourselves into Advent, which is a time of hope.

Even so, sadly many of us are taken up not with focusing on the birth of Jesus – the ultimate gift from God - but with fear at a time when it should be hope.

We find ourselves drawn into materialism, fearing the cost of Christmas, fearing the in-laws, fearing loneliness and fearing Brexit.

But we have hope amidst all of this.

The hope that tells us that this is not all there is to life

The hope that tells us that we are loved unmeasurably by our creator God.

The hope that tells us that if we choose to embrace this gift of hope a relationship with God will be ours for the taking.

The hope that tells us that there is eternal life to come.

The Good News is Jesus, intentionally born at Christmas to focus our thoughts on love; a love that wanted/wants to bring all to know our Heavenly Father who loves all and wants them to know Him through His Son.

The Son came to take away our fears and put hope in its place.

This hope we talk of has been taken hold of fully by the orphan and vulnerable children of the Mosamaria AIDS Ministry in Bloemfontein, South Africa where they are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS ([www.mosamaria.co.za](http://www.mosamaria.co.za)).

They may have little in the sense of material and tangible things as food, clothes, education, a house or medication, but what they do have is hope, through Jesus Christ who has taken away their fear of not having.

The Blackburn Diocese Mosamaria Trust Fund's trustees, members and supporters are led by God to play their part in helping to provide awareness, money and to point others to help support these children and their families.

We are called to embrace the term 'Ubuntu', which means each one cares for one another at any time, not just Christmas.

This Advent let us make the choice to allow fear to be eliminated by the hope that is opened up to us through Jesus Christ; that gift that brings hope to all.

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