

# **NEWSLETTER**

#### **AUGUST 2023**



INTERPRETATION OF RASPER PROJECTS

**KUDA CHUMA Artist** 

Hello once more,

It seems my newsletters are getting further and further apart. I do apologize but there is just so much to do...great things and I am not complaining... but life sometimes gets in the way of work!

Let me try to remember all that has happened since the last newsletter.

We have decided to have another:

## ART AND CRAFT SALE

28th October

White Rock Baptist Church 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This event will include the sale of:

CHICKEN PIES

**BEEF PIES** 

BEEF CURRY

QUICHE

APPLE & BUMBLEBERRY CRUMBLE

## (See end of letter for more details and food orders.)

The day will also include our special raffle baskets, wine board, African art and crafts, beaded geckos, cards, soapstone, tablecloths, chutney, apple pie mix. There is something extra this year, but you will have to come and see. As most know, this is our attempt at a 'fundraiser dinner' which includes all the events but offers a takeaway meal. That being said, the food orders are an attraction to come to the sale and take part in the auction. Pick-up will be at the church on the day of the sale. Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

We sincerely do need you to come out and support all we do.



### PLEASE PLACE YOUR FOOD ORDERS RIGHT AWAY

e-mail: zimbabwegecko@gmail.com

#### WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE AND HAVING A CHAT

White Rock Baptist Church 1657 140th Street, Surrey

#### **PARTNERSHIP:**

This month, I had lunch with Alison Markham who came from Valemount to Vancouver. Alison and Dr Ray Markham started ZCHealth for those who do not know our history.

We worked as a team for many years until they formed ZCHealth. Since then, we have continued to act in team-like cooperation and our individual giftings work well together. We do our best to complement one other and share container goods and space.



Dr Ray & Alison Markham



Recently, ZCHealth decided to finance the conversion into a ward of one of the large Rasper Community's rooms adjacent to the clinic. In addition, they will put in the necessary Autoway pit and chimney required by law, especially for the maternity wing. Another big *thank you* from Zimbabwe. The work will begin soon.

A team of doctors, plus Alison and friends, will head to Zimbabwe in the new year and I plan to be there to work with them, God willing.

Left: Picture of an Autoway Pit and Chimney that will be built

#### **CONTAINERS:**

MEMO--Dr. Jerome and team from Thunder Bay, Ontario--have also been working with Dr. Ray to decide what needs to go into the containers. It is going well, and the hospitals and clinics are being supported where needed. We are grateful for all of them.



Receiving the goods, sorting, packing boxes, filling containers, is not an easy job. It requires love, effort, and skill.

Thank you, MEMO, for the three medical containers already sent this year!



Our gratitude also goes to Erick and the staff at Rasper for sorting and sending the goods out for us. (Erick and I communicate via What's App regarding the sorting.)





So many hospitals and clinics are just waiting for the next container. Dr. Bandiki in Wedza said most hospitals and clinics in his area would have very little without these containers.

Dr Paul of Karunda Hospital wrote to say, "Thank you!" and indicated that the need is overwhelming. Judy from Imiri also stated that most of the clinics in the area, including dentists, are so grateful. These recipients of container supplies have asked to convey a big *thanks* to you all, as donors.



Another container has left Victoria for Zimbabwe!

Dell Marie of Compassionate Resource Warehouse, with prayer, beat the port strike and managed to get our July container packed and sent. I went to Victoria and watched the miracles happen. Just when you think they can't put another item in, they add 30 more boxes.

There was not an inch of space. Should there be an inch of space, however, they poke in a stuffie (a bag with an item of



clothing) or a shoebox. Their packers are highly skilled. One of the men used to pack aircraft carriers so he knows how to fit a square box into a round hole. LOL The others are now equally qualified.

The Victoria container is more personal in nature. We pack some boxes here which are then taken over to Victoria by truck. Thank you, White Rock Baptist Church, for once again allowing us to use a room for packing and storing temporarily. The Victoria container holds goods for small houses and for seniors' homes, library books, desks, chairs, Bibles, dishes, kitchen supplies plus a very long list of other items. I am also able to pack along a few things for family and friends. It also holds lots of my Happy Day gifts that I love to give out while travelling along the road. Many happy people in Zimbabwe are blessed with the loving care that goes into the knitting and packing of these items.







Volunteers Theresa, Bud and Albert packing at church and loading into Victoria truck.

Sue takes part in the packing in Victoria

Specially selected by Victoria CRW for the Rasper Kitchen

Frank has just been given the okay to travel. He has been wanting "one last trip" to teach carpentry. He was hoping to show some men how to make a wooden rocking horse, a sample of which has just been packed into the Victoria Container. They will sell well in town.

We were excited to hear that he could travel but had hopes dampened by travel insurance costs. However, BCAA had excellent coverage for a fraction of the first quote so, God willing, both of us



will set off late December. Frank will stay 6 weeks until mid-February and I will stay a further 6 weeks to the end of March. I really do need the three months to complete the work.

#### **COMMUNITIES AND BUILDINGS UPDATE:**

I have heard from all the communities where we worked during my stay this past January to March.

#### Rasper Update

Another exciting event! One of the WRBC Bible Study groups has banded together to raise funds to build a library at Rasper. The building is already underway.

This library will be attached to the Grade 7 school which ZC Health are also supporting to be built. The final building will be one long structure with the Grade 7 school attached to the library, which will be attached to a teachers' room where teachers can eat lunch, mark books, etc., between classes. The school is already so popular that all the grades are divided into morning and afternoon classes running 7:00 a. m - 11:30 a.m. and Noon to 5:00 p.m. There are 25 students per class and the school total will soon reach 350 students.

Well done to all who made this happen! *Thank you*! The kids would otherwise have to walk a minimum of 10 km to attend school.





Above: School Building Foundation Being Dug







Another generous donation has allowed us to repair a tractor which will benefit the whole neighborhood, and to build a storage shed to house the maize and other stock needs. Support has gone toward building the programs at the church and financing new business to pay the pastors, as well as to help the pastors support the needy. Thank you all for your generosity which has enabled us to continue our work this year.

Some donations went to helping a little boy with a hernia get to Karunda Hospital, and some went to help a young woman who tried to commit suicide by drinking acid. She needed immediate hospitalization, treatment, operation, and special food. A young man with a bleeding ulcer was also helped. We don't really have a budget for these emergencies but what does one do when you know the people?

A Teen and Youth Conference was put on by Pastors Tufudzwa, Darlington and Tino for kids from Rasper and the surrounding area.









Above: Tino (Erick's son) with his wife, Yolanda, and their baby. Tino works with youth, having a specific ministry dealing with abstinence and drugs.

Left: Youth at the Teen and Youth Conference



Rt. Pastors at Rasper also conducted a marriage counselling course.

Lt. Pastor Tufudzwa, Wife, Blessing, and daughter Shekina



#### **Farming God's Way**

It was exciting to receive a letter a few days ago from Duncan, who teaches the "Farming God's Way" course in rural areas. Duncan lives in the town of Mutoko in an area called Gurure. In the pictures below, he is helping a group to grow crops.

Duncan writes, "Hi Sue and Frank. Thank you so much with the Scriptures. Nowadays I have a group that I am helping to grow vegetables on a community garden. The start was not easy because a lot of people withdrew but those who pursued are now enjoying."



Now the people who quit the project will be able to see what they missed and will want to join. In this way Zimbabwe can sustain itself, one garden at a time.

#### **Sunnyside**

The Sunnyside sewing business is doing well. The church still needs a floor and benches, and we will be working on those soon. There were some wonderful church pews in the MEMO container. The school is flourishing and, like at Rasper, is full. We would like to build Grade 1 before January when the next school year starts. So far, we have built Early Childhood Education 1 and 2. The children are learning well and are happy.

#### Victory

The Victory Church sewing business is also doing well. We began the business quite a few years ago but this year we added machines. It has made a real difference as they are now more productive. In the Victoria container there are desks, chairs, and a blackboard for them. Shhhh They don't know yet. The classrooms recently built are also full with the local children.

#### Chugutu

Chugutu School (still singing the dum dum song) are loving the comfort of walls, floors and a roof for their new school and church. We have some special goods for them, too, but are also keeping that a secret as Pastor Gift reads these newsletters.

Besides what has been mentioned, the containers also hold school supplies, gym equipment, wool, computers, and many other special gifts for the schools.

ZGS sponsors many children for their school fees without which they would be staying home while all their friends were attending. \$35 x 3 terms, plus shoes and a uniform, basically means \$140 dollars per year. If this is your heart you may contact me or support them through EFCCM or our website at <a href="https://www.zimbabwegecko.com">www.zimbabwegecko.com</a>

As the only office person, I do keep track of the names of kids but I don't write any letters back and forth to them. I did try this but stopped because it was very time consuming. Just keeping track of the names also avoids some disappointment if the child moves, etc.

Recently, EFCCM put on two conferences: one for all missionaries on home assignment and one for just the Africa area. Both were well done, and it helped us connect and share stories. The conferences really revealed how much strength is needed to work around the world and how we can draw strength and encouragement from each other. We also met the office staff whom we hadn't seen or, in some cases, met since before 2021. Thank you EFCCM, who are now called *Serve Beyond*.

## ART AND CRAFT SALE (Con't)



We have supported an artist back to painting after he suffered a major stroke. The art is not quite the same as before but is still beautiful with vibrant colors. Here is some of his work but there will be more at the art sale. Keep a look out for Peter Kwangware art.

Left: Peter Kwangware enjoying the walker that has recently given him freedom following a stroke.



Above: Peter Kwangware Artwork

We will also have some Kuda Chuma paintings. He is a big 7-foot man who paints tiny people village scenes. The front page header scene for this newsletter is an example of his work.



The soapstone that we purchased is beautiful. They come from a group of carvings called Big Mama and sell anywhere in Vancouver starting at \$110. Our prices start at \$45 and average \$70. Do come and see them.







There is much more to tell but I will end off here. We are eager to get the word out concerning the Art and Craft Sale and to find out what is needed regarding the food orders

Blessings and thanks to all who support our work!

Susan Janetti Founder, Zimbabwe Gecko Society

## **MENU**

Please e-mail your order to Susan at <a href="mailto:zimbabwegecko@gmail.com">zimbabwegecko@gmail.com</a>

or phone 604-531-3654

Note: Beef pies are bigger by request.

Chicken Pies	4" Shell	\$5.00 Each
Beef, Potato Pies	5" Shell	\$6.50 Each
Beef and Veg Curry 3 Cups	Usually enough for 2 or one very hungry person 😊	\$12.00
Meaty Quiche	5" Shell partially baked	\$5.00 Each
Vegetarian quiche	Please specify clearly.	\$5.00 Each
Apple & Bumbleberry Crumble	With Pastry Base Serves 2 People	\$5.00 Each



Contrasting difference in size between 4" and 5" pies