

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU VERY MUCH
HOW VERY BLESSED ZIMBABWE HAS BEEN TO HAVE BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF YOUR DONATIONS,
LOVE AND CARING

IT HAS BEEN A JOY TO DISTRIBUTE ALL THE GIFTS ON YOUR BEHALF. I HOPE THESE FEW PICTURES OF WHAT COULD BE
THOUSANDS CONVEY SOME OF THE JOY THAT HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY

NOT ONLY JOY BUT COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION OF MANY LIVES IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS
CHURCH, EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS, WAGES, BIKES FOR TRAVEL, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, TOOLS, CLOTHES, WHEEL CHAIRS
THAT OFFER FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND SO MUCH MORE

AGAIN, WE COULD MENTION A THOUSAND BENEFITS
JUST TOO MANY TO GIVE AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION

Hello to all,

Please accept my apologies for not writing earlier. I really need some office help, but, unfortunately, all the information is in my head. Lol

Going back to October, we once again had our "cook off" with hundreds of pies and beef curry being made for sale, along with Apple Puree and Mango Chutney. Many thanks to Jaye for all the apples; to Dianne for helping with the chopping, assembling of the pies and cleaning up. More thanks, as well, to Dianne and to Liz for their help with sales on the day of the Art and Craft event.



It was a great day and meeting so many of you was a delight. The mini garage sale helped bring in the crowd and we were busy until 1:30 p.m. after which it slowed a little. The wine board was won by Mike who had donated the wine in the first place. Mike also purchased loads of tickets in support of ZGS, and gave away a good deal after winning.

Our gratitude to all who helped set up tables and worked throughout the day. And special appreciation to those who donated wine and goodies for the basket draws and garage sale items.

Thank you so much for attending and for your support. We usually manage to raise between \$8,000 and \$10,000. However, this year we went over the top, bringing in just over \$15,000. Much will be accomplished with this generosity. And it was generosity. People who came late in the day when almost everything was sold, were still purchasing and donating just to support ZGS.

Our grateful thanks again to the White Rock Baptist Church for the use of the church and kitchen. They have supported us in this way for many years now.

Grade 5 Classroom Cyclone Damage



School Roof After Repairs



Zimbabwe itself and some of our programs were hit hard this year with cyclones and heavy rain. The roof of Rasper's Grade 5 classroom was ripped off. Unfortunately, this

happened in the middle of the night (no electricity /no lights) and it was dangerous because lightning in Zimbabwe is wild. In addition to the extensive damage to the roof, all the Grade 5 curriculum books were destroyed. The building was repaired but not all the books have been replaced.



School End of Year Graduation

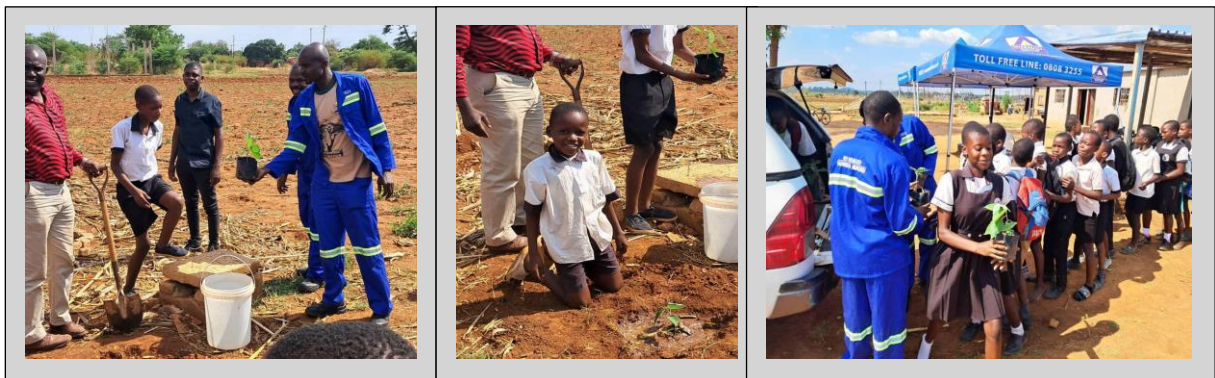


Counsellor Ernest giving out special certificates for exceptional work

Chugutu School, which we finished building last year, also had the cyclone pass through. Even though miles away, the roofs of two classrooms were ripped off and the walls were blown down.

We have used some of your donated funds for repairs and the kids and teachers are very grateful. However, there is more to do. Due to lack of funds these buildings were temporary but we didn't mean it to be for such a short time. 😊

Chugutu Classrooms After Cyclone



Above: Chugutu School learning how to plant and grow trees. They want to put a wind break around the school as well as vegetables

From October to April people begin to grow hungry. This is the norm because by October-November the crops planted last year have been eaten. To add to this concern, gardens everywhere, as well as fields and crops, were whipped and destroyed by the wind, rain and mud.

This might sound like the start of good rains but, in fact, the farmers and all the rural households are desperate for rain. It has rained in Harare and filled some wells, but it is the farms that need the rain rather than the city.

Fearing a drought, a while back we had planned and purchased 5 tons of maize for the pigs, but some will now be needed for the villages.

If you would like to donate food, right now I am able to purchase it for \$350 USD a ton.

GOOD NEWS!

All being well, after Frank's treatments are completed on December 19, we will head to Zimbabwe January 9th. At this point Frank plans to remain in Zimbabwe from January 9 to March 20, the same length of time as I will.

Theresa is going to brave another trip, this time for six weeks. We are all looking forward to the work ahead. Yes, WORK! it is not a holiday. LOL

There is much to be done... 4 containers to open and sort and a huge X-Ray machine to organize. I can't really describe emptying one container, let alone 4 of them. It consumes at least 8 hours a day for a couple of months, if we move fast. Hard, hot work. As overwhelming as that sounds, WE LOVE IT! To see the excitement on so many faces, in so many hospitals, clinics, schools, churches, households, senior centers and orphanages is worth every aching muscle. Thank you all so much for giving and giving.

Moving Containers



MEMO from Thunder Bay, Ontario, have worked tirelessly packing many containers this year. Each one is carefully packed by enthusiastic volunteers. Hospitals and clinics give us their precious donations, and donors give blankets, sheets and a thousand+ other important items. The hospital equipment is distributed to many hospitals and clinics who can now offer better services. What a blessing to many!

Jerome, well past retirement, is working with Tom to pass the baton. Tom has been with MEMO a long time and already knows the ropes.

Lt. MEMO Thunder Bay Container

Compassionate Resource Warehouse Victoria Containers



After sorting both containers, these precious goods are destined for Karunda Hospital

Compassionate Resource Warehouse (CRW) in Victoria on Vancouver Island is where we load what we call our 'personal' container. Here in Vancouver/Surrey we pack items for the Rasper Clinic, for orphanages we know personally, and for village people, etc., etc.

Again, thank you to White Rock Baptist Church for the room provided where we can pack and store before everything is picked up and taken to the Island, with me following. Once there, I can choose items from a very full warehouse and pack them into the container. We just love it! Dell and her team work so hard to make each item personal and special for packing.

UPDATE ON CLINIC:



Otway Pit and Incinerator

I am really looking forward to seeing the changes made to the clinic. A while back I mentioned the clinic was operating like a hospital. We have now changed our shop into a 4-bed ward. The room needed modifications and the work is now in progress.

Also, an Otway Pit was built and is ready for use. ZIMCANHEALTH, working with us, have made the changes and added the pit. Thank you ZCH! They will be joining us in February with a medical team.

There are two nurses on full time duty. Sibongele, whom I sent on a midwifery course more than 12 years ago, and who has delivered many babies, is so pleased to be in a clinic with all the responsibilities that go with it, as well as having a full-time, paying job.

NEW COMMUNITY WATER TOWER AND WELL:

Another well has been provided to the village people around the Rasper area. People have been walking to Rasper for water which sometimes takes away from the daily amount for the school and the center. We have now put a well and tank closer to their homes. There is water available, it is wells that are needed. When we started Zimbabwe Gecko Society it was always the first thing we did. Health needs are water, agriculture, education, clinics, church. This is our goal which we have been able to build in so many areas.



Lt. The Tank Arrives!



Rt. Teamwork



Lt. Nearly Up there!



Rt. Precious Drinking Water

SCHOOL ROOM/TEACHERS ROOM/LIBRARY:

The new school room for grade 7 is almost complete. It was due to be completed a couple of months ago. However, there was an urgent need to build a storeroom for crops before the rains, so the school room was put on hold because the builders were needed. It will now be completed this month. The first Grade 7 class will be open for registrations in the new year after the Christmas Holidays. In Zimbabwe the school year is January to December.



CHURCH:



The church is growing by the day--not the physical building but the number of people attending.

Pastor Tufudzwa and his wife, Blessing, as well as Pastor Darlington, the Youth Group and even the younger children, have been doing outreach work in many of the surrounding areas around Rasper.

Lt. Sunday Morning Rasper Church

Services are often shared with Sunnyside and Victory Churches to build and encourage one another during difficult times and financial struggles. As well, they are bonding together to do outreach in their areas.

When I mention Sunnyside Church, I am referring to the people. After our fundraiser I am now sending funds to start building the church. Currently, work has commenced on the walls and a roof.

“Make do” church structures are being added in different areas, and buildings are offered for Sunday services in many places. Pastor Tuffy, as he is known, holds church services on Saturday as well as Sunday. He is a strongly determined man with a huge goal.

They are rightly very proud of the children and youth who go with them on their ventures as often as possible... ministering to the sick and elderly in their homes; often taking food with them and doing their washing and housecleaning. This is so very inspiring to us.

Rt. Ministering to the Elderly



LETTER FROM PASTOR TUFFY:

Hi Sue. Hope you are all fine on that side. Here, God is with us. It has been a long time not updating. We are doing door to door evangelism in Rasper Community and communities that are nearby Rasper. When we moved around we noticed that people are ready to receive Jesus Christ and saints need to be encouraged but it's only that many Pastors are just seating in churches waiting for people to come, forgetting that Jesus said, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'" Mark 16:15



I am doing this with Blessing and some youths, and children who volunteered to join us. So, this formed a group we named the Ambassadors for Christ.



Our aim is soul winning and at the same time discipline and equipping the young boys and girls, men and women who will follow the footprint. As I know that one of these days I will pass away.



In Parklands 2, a nearby farm, 12 people received Christ and will be attending services at Rasper.

Parklands 1 is a bit far from Rasper. We had some believers who were coming to Rasper for Sunday service. When we went there to evangelize, 21 people received Christ.

Above: People Giving Their Lives to Christ

At Parklands 1. When we were moving, we also noticed that there are some people who love to attend church services at Rasper but they are not able to walk to and from there every Sunday, especially the old agers and some kids.

So, the believers kindly ask if we can have church services contacted there. We suggested having Church services there every Saturday.

Then, on the last week of every month we will have a get together Sunday at Rasper. They offered us a community hall to use. It's now 2 weeks since we started having services there.



Rt. Community Hall Loaned out for the Church

Rasper Farm is doing very well with the pigs, goats, cows and chickens. So well that we are going to be short on pig food. 😊 Quite a few come up for sale this month so all will be well.

The community folk have asked to run the garden this year. There is going to be a huge shortage of food. It is difficult going back during times of starvation. One wants to save everybody but it can't be done. However, working and growing in the garden will help a lot.

An empty container is going to be taken to the Wedza/Imiri area and converted into a girl's hostel so they can attend school. Many live too far away to walk daily. Work will start in January.

Another two containers will go into the Chugutu area. Storage away from rats and mice.

Another will support artists at a community Art and Craft venue. This is exciting and should open in January / February.

I will have a lot to tell and to show you after our trip at our annual Dessert evening.

We ask that you continue to support ZGS in the absence of events. The more that is available to us to use in Zimbabwe, the better for the people there. It's always good to watch each project grow. Mind you, when things are done in our absence, Erick is always great with providing stories, receipts, and photos.

**I WILL END NOW BY SAYING THANK YOU FOR WALKING
WITH US. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO AND HOW YOU
SHOW LOVE AND SUPPORT TO US AND THE PEOPLE OF
ZIMBABWE**

WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND
BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON

TATENDA

Sue and Frank

