



Hello to all,

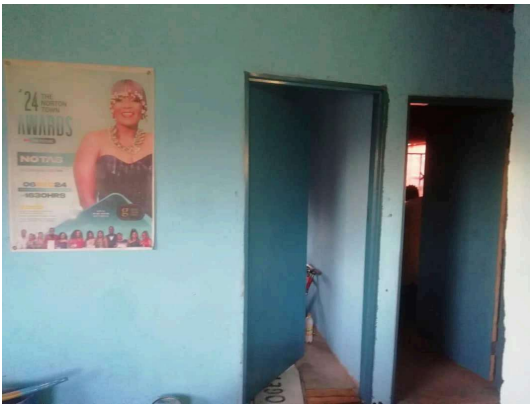
I hope you are enjoying our beautiful summer days. So good to see the summer flowers in bloom and just be able to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine is such a gift. Right now, it is Winter in Zimbabwe. I am so pleased that many have warm blankets, jackets, coats and sweaters that we have supplied for many years through CRW and MEMO containers. There were even a few boxes of long johns put in the container one year. Packers said, "surely you don't need these!" But we did and they were cherished on cold winter days and nights.

- Before I report on projects, I would like to say that several people have attempted to log onto <https://zimcan.org/> to donate and think it has gone through but hasn't. OR see it leads to Canada Helps and think they have made the wrong move. Can I please ask those making monthly donations or one-time donations to please inform me so I can double check. Here are the steps to take when donating.
- 1. Sign on to our website <https://zimcan.org/>
- 2. Click on the link on the top right of the screen that says, "Donate Now" (for Canada Helps)
- 3. Once in the Canada Helps screen, the charity details are given as well as a box that shows options for donation monthly or one time amount etc. including the date for the donation.
- 4. PLEASE CAN THE DONORS ADD A MESSAGE SAYING THAT THE DONATION IS FOR ZGS !
- 5. Following all the prompts will lead you the donor through adding your Credit Card details and completing the transaction.
- 6. You will receive a confirmation email from Canada Helps.
- 7. The transaction will be shown on a credit card statement as a Canada Helps donation.
- 8. A tax receipt will be emailed out from Canada Helps by the end of February of next year.

Should you wish to donate by cheque please be in touch with me Zimbabwegecko@gmail.com or 604 531 3654

NEWS

I am pleased to say that Pastor Effrey has finally moved into his new home. Donors saw his one-bedroom shack in pictures we showed and supported the building of a home that could house his son and two daughters. 3 bedrooms, kitchen, Livingroom, toilet. Windows with glass were a real treat as well as a door that could be locked. Effrey will also be able to invite guests into his home to watch movies we have taken over. He now also has a computer, and people will simply love it.



a cement surround and finish painting.

Almost finished. still have to put



Thank goodness for childrens tylenol and polysporin (the black label). Pastor Efferys daughter was badly burnt when she pulled a pot of boiling water over her arm which was badly burnt. Also big splashes on tummy and knee. It happens in seconds and why I ask for polysporin to be donated. Fires for cooking are on the ground. Children move fast. We were able to help her quickly. The arm is still recovering a month later.

Donors also built Marion a 2-bedroom house, living room, kitchen, toilets etc. Marion, who runs the Rasper Tea room/kitchen, had been living and supporting her widowed sisters and children in a two-bedroom home for many years. 9 people in all squished in. She has worked hard in the tearoom and saved up for an oven which will soon have a place in her new kitchen.

Marion has been helping build her community with us about 25 years



Marion's house - almost finished I just don't have a photo of it.

Sekai's donor also added a room onto her home. Now there are two bedrooms for the 3 of them. She has never been so spoiled in her life as this year. It has been a delight to watch her grow in confidence and understanding love has helped her understand the love of God.



Almost finished. glass,painting etc.

It seems to be a year of donors wanting to do specific things. It started with the well we put in Memory of Norm Wolff. Which you can see below, it has helped the school have clean drinking water and cover the land with fresh vegetables for the children and also teachers' wages. Fruit trees and greenery surround the school too. The children are loving it and learning the Farming God's Way techniques.





tomatoes and squash



Harvest of smiles - daily collection of clean water – crops to feed the children

Wells

Another generous donor has come forward with funds for almost 3 wells. We are looking to put one in an area we have not worked in before Matoko.

Duncan Chikanda, a very skilled Gardner and teacher of Farming God's Way who has worked with us about 26 years lives in Matoko.

We are now looking into the possibility of putting a well there as by September the river has dried up and if it does not rain all crops fail. With the well the whole village can work together for success. First, I have to check with councilors, MP's and Sabaku's (chief) to make sure I am not stepping on toes and legal formalities. Hopefully they will give it immediate attention, so we are ready for

September. We will continue to send trainees to Duncan while he and the villagers plant the crops. Right now, in winter the crops to grow include wheat, barley, and potatoes. Additionally, various vegetables like peas, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots and spinach.



Duncan and Cookie

Planning the new winter garden/Making compost and planting . Sekai and Joseph also involved with learning and planting.

Duncan has recently travelled to Rasper giving the area more information on growing the above vegetables etc. Also holding meetings with Erick as to what else can be done to step up profits and business.

In fact, we just hired a man to help Erick cope. As we keep growing, we expect more from Erick. Who spends a lot of time walking or riding a bike or bussing to different communities we have built up. He really needs transport to get around more efficiently.

The manager Simba Shoriwa is hired for two months to investigate all businesses that are running. I.e the carpentry shop, sewing center, tearoom, welding center, computer center, church, garden etc. Each project is asked to do a complete stocktaking and projects completed, booked etc. A full evaluation will take place with all and meetings set to determine where improvements can be made. The decision was not made because of poor management but for growth and stretching.

Rasper church continues to grow and through the work of Pastor Nico and Pastor Tafadzwa churches are being set up all around Zimbabwe. Training is ongoing.

I am taking a course with Pastor Ken President of Foundations 4 Living In order to take back a disciplining course to Zimbabwe and teach how to use the course and books there. A new approach. I am looking forward to the course Saturday 12th and 19th I am a little behind as I didn't know if I was going to be able to make it but if you would like more information or to join me please contact me asap.

Pastor Tafadzwa's wife Blessing is now involved in starting a preschool at Parklands 2. Pastor T. has been involved in building toilets and a fence to put around. We hope this will be finished soon. He



has also build a swing set which looks very strong.



Parklands 2 swings,



Parklands 2 preschool -new students looking sharp in their uniforms.



Sunny side Church growing. There are 5 churches in the area



that get together and meet and support growth.



Rasper community children with pastor Tuffy on a Saturday - Games day



Pastor Tuffy has a full schedule - He conducts all funerals in the area. It is a time to witness and share God's love. One of our parklands community was killed crossing the road.



We are very proud of the New Parklands 1 carpentry center. They have just finished making these tables for the new sewing class.

The class is also learning to make beds.



Carpentry lessons. Rules first meeting.

There is so much going on as we now have active communities all around Zimbabwe. It has been a joy to share a few with you. We are making a huge difference as we teach, plant, build facilities, schools and churches. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Even though I am in Canada most of the year, I work 5 to 6 days a week teaching and managing projects in Zimbabwe.

We would like to send another container this year and ask if you could help guarantee that with a donation to helping with clearing fees. Not only hospitals and clinics benefit but schools, homes, businesses, personal gifts make huge differences to people's lives. Could you support this? \$5000 total needed

On a last personal note, Frank had 3 operations in June. Drs were at last able to find and fix the problem regarding hemoglobin and need for transfusions but in doing so found he also had kidney failure. 2 operations to put in stents and another needed in 3 months seem to have done the trick and he is showing signs of growing stronger. We thank you for your prayers. He has had a great team of doctors behind him. This Canada Day we were very grateful to be living here.

Yesterday he told me "I am getting better"

Below is a letter from my friend Cathy Buckle - A reality check!

Swopping Green Soap for Food

Dear Family and Friends

Bumping along in an ox cart under a deep blue sky in rural Zimbabwe, a youngster in a yellow shirt walked ahead of the oxen, a small stick in his hand. In the cart, two men and two youngsters sat atop the empty bags, on their way to collect maize from the field. I slowed down and pulled aside to let them pass and we waved to each other. Further along, in the valley below the mountains, a woman walked by with a big bag of maize cobs balanced on her head, telling the story of Zimbabwe in that one image in the winter of 2025. It's a story of struggle and hard work, of diligence and a dogged determination not to give up hope and not to go hungry this year. There is no time for greedy corruption, suspicious tenders or selfish politics here because this is the season when everyone is

busy securing food for the year ahead, but even here there is a story behind the story.

Imagine this. To grow your crop you have to pay in US dollars to buy the diesel and pay a contractor to plough your land. You buy the maize seed, fertilizer and chemicals in US dollars. When the crop is mature and dry and you have carried the harvest home you pay in US dollars to have a contractor with a sheller to come and shell the crop. When the kernels are dry you pay in US dollars for the bags and the chemicals needed to store the crop and keep the weevils out. Once your harvest is all stacked up and you've put aside what you need for your family for the next year, you need to sell the rest so you can recoup your costs and be ready for the next crop to be planted in October.

The government stipulates that all maize must be sold to the GMB (Grain Marketing Board), saying it's illegal to sell maize privately and you can be fined or have your crop confiscated if you do. The government owns the GMB and this year the fixed producer price for a ton of maize is US\$376, but the GMB will not pay you all of the money in US dollars, they will only pay you 200 dollars in US dollars and the balance will be in ZiG's, Zimbabwe's local currency, which is very hard to find and which few people want. So, despite spending all your saved up US dollars to grow your crop, you have to accept 53% of it in US dollars and the rest in ZiG's. Right now the official bank rate is 26.9 ZiG's for one US dollar and the black-market rate is 33 -36 ZiG's for one US dollar. Who knows what the rate will be when your crop money finally arrives in your account. No one has forgotten that this time last year you only needed 13.5 ZiG's to buy one US dollar.

But wait, the story's not quite over, because the GMB won't pay you in cash, the way you paid for all the inputs to grow your crop, they will only pay you into your bank account. All banks have minimum balances, transaction fees and 'service charges' and so you watch your precious money melt away under the deep blue Zimbabwean sky.

Meanwhile people who didn't manage to grow a crop are all looking for maize and the big swop is in full swing. The negotiations buzz backwards and forwards: 2 bars of green laundry soap for a 5 litre tin of maize; 4kgs of sugar for a 20 litre bucket of maize; 10 goats for a ton of maize. These are the real people of Zimbabwe and my letter this week is in recognition of them, the guys on the ox cart, the woman with the bag on her head, the ordinary people swopping green soap for food, people who enrich my life every day with every smile, every wave and every step of hope that they take to hold on.

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Susan Janetti

Founder, Zimbabwe Gecko Society