



RASPER COMMUNITY CENTER

KUDA CHUMA Artist

“Hello, again” to all and many thanks to everyone who wrote in saying you are enjoying the changes to the newsletter. I love being able to include photos and show my enthusiasm through them. This month is no exception. Great things are happening and the Spirit is moving. Let’s get started! When I say *we*, it does mean all of us working together in different ways.

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

You may not know:

In every container hundreds of Ostomy bags are packed for men, women and children. Before their arrival, some people had to resort to using plastic grocery bags, which are unsanitary and cause infections. The ostomy bags (see picture) are just too expensive for many, sometimes \$10 apiece. My niece, Kim, sorts them and gives them free to those in need. What a blessing for many.



You may not know:

We trained three people in First Aid and they went on to take courses for care of wounds, infections and the elderly.

In addition, all three took a course in midwifery. This has proven to be a Godsend since there is an acute shortage of midwives in Zimbabwe which has resulted in many fatalities.

You may not know:

Quite often I am shown a picture of a child like the ones below. If we have sufficient money, we ask Dr. Paul from Karunda Hospital if he can do the surgery. Once we have agreed upon a price, I check if we have funds on hand or can find a donor. Recently, Shegan had an operation to reduce the size of one of his testicles which was 10 times its natural size. The operation was a success and he is no longer being teased and ridiculed.

The other child you see has just come to our attention and needs surgery at the reduced price of \$525. We can't do this for many but we try to provide treatment for the ones related to our projects.



Shegan

No More Teasing!



Needs Medical Donor

You may not know:



Living on the Street

We do other spontaneous work. Sometimes one just must intervene. This woman and her young daughter had been living on the streets quite a while, begging. They sleep in the same spot. Through the help of a Chugutu Pastor and Nurse Laura, we were able to offer the woman and her daughter a home.

Doesn't this picture move you? The first thing the little girl did was to pick up a hand broom and sweep the house. She was so pleased to have a home. There are other details that cannot be discussed openly here.



A Home for Us !

You may not know:



Start of Chitungwiza Church

We recently supported a ministry in Chitungwiza. Pastor Lucky, along with the church members, have been able to put up a shade roof on the start of their church, thanks to ZGS.



Pastor Lucky With Donations

You may not know:

Carrots and beans are not commonly eaten by the rural African. By way of a garden, we are introducing a quick and nutritional food. This garden is continually rotating foods so that red beans are still being grown from seed that was given two years ago.



UPDATES

LOTS OF BUILDING GOING ON



So, what's been happening at Rasper this past month? There was no April newsletter as I was waiting for some pictures to arrive. All the teachers' housing is finished for now. Two more will be needed as we grow. It is quite the community now with 8 two-bedroom houses, each with a living room, kitchen and bathroom. All have cold running water, as well as electricity. They are all finished and been painted inside and out.

(Rt) Our Tailor Shadreck also needed a house and this is the start of it.



(Lt) Shadreck has worked extremely long hours to make all our Rasper School Uniforms. He does an excellent job.



(Above) Pastor Tufudzwa and Tino, who is working with Youth, are excited to be part of building their homes at Rasper Center. Housing within the community is most important.



Inside Cookie's New Family Home

Cookie, who prepares all the children's meals, was the first person employed at Rasper. The photo to the left shows his family inside their new home.

Sekai is 8 months pregnant and is the first in the community to receive a house to encourage lifestyle change. She is now employed as cleaner at the school and a donor provides some groceries each month until she is back on her feet.



Sekai's New House

LOTS OF PROGRAMS HAPPENING

Skills continue to improve in the Carpentry Workshop. Here is the carpenter with the machine he is so proud to work with, and the new furniture design just built.



Carpenter very happy with his thickness planer



Built by Carpentry Shop



Shoe Shop and Hairdresser

Shoe Shop: The container with all the supplies for the shoe /leather shop has been sitting in Beira for a month. Train wagons to transport it to Zimbabwe are in short supply. However, once the goods are offloaded, we have lots of leather and leather tools, as well as shoe forms and heels, to get the Shoe & Leather Supplies Shop off to a good start. Shoes, purses, wallets, etc. will provide trade opportunities for young men after leaving school. This is a fantastic donation!

Hairdresser: In the same container we also have all the tools needed to start a hairdressing shop. This includes two swivel hairdressing chairs and a sink. Also included are nail care products which Matilda will teach to the young ladies.

How nice it will be to be treated to a "spa" day.

A front veranda and shade roofing are all that must be done to complete this project. Sponsors might wish to get this shop operating by donating toward a manicure, pedicure or two. For many it will be a first time experience.

The community is enjoying receiving a "touch of love"

The layer chickens have at last started to lay eggs. Just in time for the cooking programs as well as for sales.



Extensions to the chicken house have been completed. We can now house 400 chickens. Broilers are doing well and pay a good sum of the wages.



The new community pig sty additions have been finished.



The goats stroll happily by



EXCITING NEW OPENING

One of the highlights this month was the opening of the New Tea Room which is now named “The Gathering Place”. The signs are in both English and Shona.



The grand opening has not happened yet but there is much excitement in the community!

We thank donors Bev's Bible study group, White Rock Community Church for what we know will be a great place of healing and reconciliation and, also, convey our thanks to another donor who paid for the roofing in the kitchen.



If any of you have read my story of “Margaret and The Red Dress” you will know where my thoughts were when we decided to put in a tearoom.

Very few people in the community have the luxury of going to a restaurant for a cup of tea served in fine China with a scone, pancakes, cake, or some other delicious dessert. Few have ever been in one.

It is our goal to treat women to a special time at the tearoom. Some may not be able to afford \$2 for tea and cake but I know some people will step forward to sponsor a treat or two. We want women to come into the tearoom and feel spoiled, to feel regal and very lady like. We would like to host a Women's morning out once a week. Scones with jam will be served with hot tea pots of tea.

The ladies will drink out of fine china, on tables with tablecloths and flowers. They will be treated to guest speakers, health talks, support through abuse, cooking ideas, testimonies, herb gardening, flower growing. There is opportunity to volunteer with our pastors serving the community.

They will build a community of love and trust is our hope.



Tea Room Oven



Tea Room Pantry

Another Highlight for the church was the 24 baptisms this month.



The church is growing so quickly that we now have the team of Pastor Darlington, Pastor Tufudzwa, Youth Ministry Tino, as well as Matilda (who should be in charge of the kitchen). She is needed to help out because a woman is required in many counselling situations. As of now, all four are sponsored until our programs can support them. With the needs of the community and church growing so quickly, however, we could do with more pastors. Are you interested in sponsoring or partial sponsoring? We also need a part time Religious Instructor for the School. This position would also include counselling.



A Growing Church



Children Taking Part in the Church

The community was very happy with the new Fountain of Living Waters Church signs which were put up outside the church building at the end of April.



Community celebrating the new Fountain of Living Waters welcoming sign



Pastor Tuffy and Pastor Darlington happily displaying the new church sign they designed



Pastor Darlington and the Fountain of Living Waters Church congregation at Rasper, saying, "Thank you!" and holding up the 80 new Shona Bibles that were donated to them

At this time we want to convey a special “thank you” to Michael Seymour of Multi Media Works for the generous gift of a video they produced about the Zimbabwe Gecko Society. Click on the link below to view:

<https://vimeopro.com/travelhotspotshd/zimbabwe-gecko-society>

If anyone should require this type of service, Michael can be contacted at:

mmgmediaworks@gmail.com.

To bring this newsletter to a close, I’m including a very special picture taken at a special moment in time.....



Liz, who travelled with us to Zimbabwe, and the kids...

Just before we got out of the car I said, “Remember, Liz, a couple of hundred people have just died here from Cholera. Best not to hold hands.”

Mind you, I didn't do much better. When kids need love, it's hard not to love them. Later that day we purchased lots of bleach for the community. One drop of bleach per cup in the drinking water and not another person in the village died. Yes, just one drop!



AFRICAN PROVERB: BY PERSEVERING THE EGG WALKS ON LEGS

Thank you to all the folks that have remembered our ministry during this time. It is so much appreciated!

Susan Janetti

Founder, Zimbabwe Gecko Society