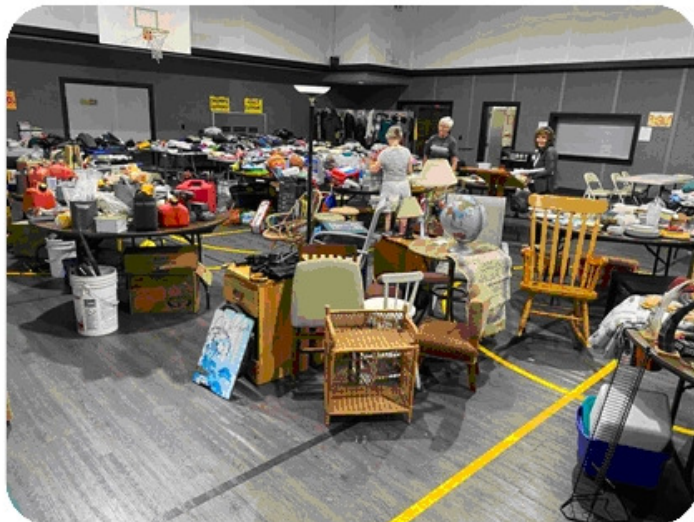


INTERPRETATION OF RASPER PROJECTS

KUDA CHUMA Artist

HELLO TO ALL,

Thank you so much for your support at the July garage sale! Loads of goods came in, were carefully sorted and sold. We took in \$8,374 at the door and, after expenses, we had raised a net \$7,600. I am grateful to all who participated in such a variety of ways. We are thankful for the many years we have been able to raise funds through garage sales; however, this year's sale was the last one. Age has become a factor for us as well as for most of our volunteers. It's been a lot of fun and we have loved doing events together.



Volunteers sorting garage sale items

MATCHING DONATION FOR ZGS

Recently, we received a very exciting e-mail. A donor has come forward and generously offered to match new donations collected during the months of August and September up to a total of \$10,000 in donations received! This means that every \$1 donated to ZGS will be doubled. If you are considering donating to our work, this would certainly be a great time to do so.

Donations can be made on the Home Page of our website:

<http://zimbabwegecko.com/>

Click on the **Donate** button.

EFCCM will issue receipts at the beginning of next year, in time for tax returns. Please mark your donation "Matching Donation" so we can keep track throughout the month. To also help us keep a record, I would very much appreciate an e-mail to advise me of your commitment to donate during August.

zimbabwegecko@gmail.com

As an alternative, you can mail a cheque and your instructions to my home address:

Sue Janetti
#102 1744 128th Street
Surrey, BC V4A3V4

Thank you.

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE

Rasper Church:

People are hearing about Sunday services at Rasper Church and are walking long distances from other communities to attend. To the right is a picture of folk from Sunnyside, a few kilometers away, getting a ride home after their lengthy walk to Rasper for the services there.

Pastor Tufudzwa at Rasper recently provided an update. He and other members of the congregation report that all is going very well. They have morning and lunch time prayers with the staff and anyone else wishing to join in. There are active home Bible studies, house visits and calls, outreach youth groups and Sunday services. In addition, there are assembly weekdays with school children and much more. There have been recent baptisms and people continue to join the Sunday service.

There will also be a 3-day ladies' conference for the Rasper and Sunnyside Church region during August. The conference will be based on the program "Shanduku" which Pastor Theunis Botha (now deceased) taught to our pastors and staff. Every participant has said it was life changing.

Rasper pastors are presently being sent to other communities who are asking for them to teach on Sundays. This is very welcome news but it might now be time to consider seeking more pastoral support.



Victory Church:

For many years, we have been involved casually with *Victory Church*, located about 12 Km away from Rasper, on the other side of the highway. They have always been very glad for our support and, recently, we provided them with funds to build a pre-school.

To date, the community has made all the bricks for two pre-school rooms. A third room which will be used for a sewing program is still in progress. The community also plans to make bricks to enclose the church, but this is a considerably bigger project that will need to wait a while longer.



*Above: Victory Church Pre-school being built
2 pre-school rooms and sewing room in progress*



*To the rear: Victory Church Framing
To the right: School Under Construction*



Victory Church Youth



Pastor Tufudzwa with Church Youth

Rasper Small Houses:



Brett, a single man with a prosthetic leg, was in the very difficult position of being asked to leave his residence because he could not pay the rent. A couple of months ago, we were able to bring some relief to him. Although we had tried to help in other ways, Brett eventually was moved in to one of our small houses at Rasper. He was delighted and grateful and we were glad to help.

Brett is the only white person in that area. His prosthetic leg no longer fits because he has lost so much weight, and so he was overjoyed to receive a wheelchair.

Brett will be helping in the workshop but if you would like to support him for a few months for groceries, he would be grateful.



Chugutu School:

The school in Chugutu is almost ready for students. The roof is being built and I am delighted to say that furniture is or will be in one of the containers.



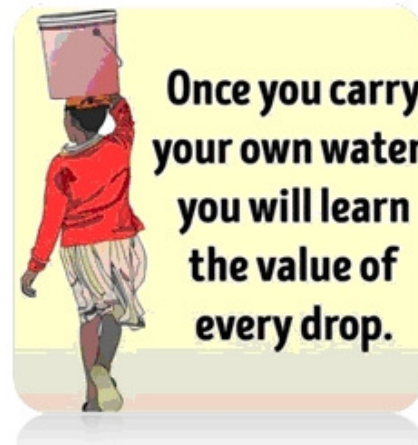
Building the new Chugutu School



Students in Chugutu loving their library books that were recently sent

Registration for the school already exceeds the number of students the school can accommodate. The kids are going in even without a floor in place yet. They may need to wait quite a while for the floor. Early childhood education to Grade 12 is the goal.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS



Due to a food supply urgency, we will be putting more energy and funds into wells and farming. The water situation is worsening as people move to rural areas because of a work shortage, and escalating interest rates leave people with no money at all. Above is a photo of a recent well being dug. We needed to go down 50 feet. New wells with solar pumps cost approximately \$3,000 each. Seed costs are \$500 per community. Before we put in a well, we ask those who will be receiving one to travel to Rasper to be trained in how to make compost and mulch, as well as how to plant and farm using the principles of Farming God's Way. Farming God's way is based on the Gospel, which is taught at the same time. Each step must be followed precisely in order to join the program. It is the best thing we can do for the communities right now,

Autistic Society of Zimbabwe:

We have partnered with the Autistic Society of Zimbabwe. There are very few places to take a child for special education. We also have volunteers who are putting together hundreds of craft ideas, and the supplies needed to teach the crafts. Twenty clients plus staff had a delightful day at Rasper visiting the pigs, chickens, etc., and playing games. The tea room made a lovely lunch and provided afternoon tea with muffins. We are so proud of them all!



Above: The children are loving the doll for which Wendy C made many outfits. They are learning how to dress the doll and how to ask or to sign for each piece of clothing they put on.

Gospel Choir Competition:

ZGS together with the Rasper team, plus separately and on a different day for Chugutu, are organizing a Gospel Choir Contest. This should be great fun! Theresa and I will be judges, along with a couple of others. What a terrific way to spend a couple of days!

We will arrange for ten churches to send a group of children and youth for the morning competition session. Each group will consist of 15 of their top voices and they will be allowed ten minutes to perform. In the afternoon, from the same ten churches, there will be a youth and adult competition that will also include dancing. We hope to record parts of this event for you.

At the prize giving ceremony, every team will, of course, win a little something but there will be one grand prize. This winning team will receive a sum of money that will go to supporting their church. The competition will be held on a Saturday and no doubt each group will be singing for their respective churches on Sunday.

The community will be involved and I know it will be a day of excitement. We are, in fact, rather concerned that our church won't accommodate everybody...

Does anyone know where we could get a very reasonably priced or free "Event Tent"? This would be needed before the end of August in order to go into the CRW container.

It will be rainy season in Zimbabwe when we arrive and it would be good to know we would not have to cancel plans at the last minute. An Event tent will also allow for many other events to take place and can be shared amongst the churches. It would be well used

The idea came from a desire to bring different communities together and support children and youth events in each church.

Agricultural Show:

The local Councillor for Ward 25, where Rasper and many other communities are located, asked if the Rasper Community Center would host this year's Agriculture Show. They were delighted to do so and even more delighted when they won two prizes! As we develop more wells and farming, there is sure to be much more competition.



A team from another community won the coveted wheelbarrow prize!

Marion and Sibbo from Rasper received community prizes of fertilizer and a crop spray pump. All were ecstatic and proud of their crops!

CONTAINER NEWS

MEMO EFCCM:

What a privilege it has been to continue to receive containers packed by MEMO EFCCM at no cost to us. (MEMO is an acronym for Medical Equipment Modernization Opportunity). The containers are packed with medical supplies as well as school equipment. The MEMO team is headed by Dr Jerome Harvey , Karen Parker and Tom Baxter.

Dr Paul Thistle of Karunda Mission Hospital, Laura Delport from Chugutu and Judy Travers from Imiri/Wedza District, as well as at least 50 clinics, all confirm the goods that are sent literally save lives, as well as improve lives. It is a tremendous amount of work to pack these containers and MEMO volunteers in Thunder Bay, Ontario are often packing in winter...it's like working in a frozen metal box!

Recently Dr Thistle traveled to his Ontario hometown and spoke to donors about the real difference MEMO is making. They are an incredible team many of whom are well over 70. We sincerely thank every one of them!

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, would you consider helping us to pay the necessary \$3,000 in costs to receive a container, pay a shipping agent, pay duty, as well as the landing, truck, crane and delivery fees? Donations would go to the same address as mentioned in *Matching Donation* section of this newsletter. Just please be sure to specify Account 2-3255 in the correspondence.



Left: Hospital Beds Tightly Packed in Container by MEMO



Even the kitchen sink was in the container LOL

EFCCM are also supporting Zimbabwe through their Benevolence Fund as starvation is already happening in this nation. There were good rains this year; the crops were growing very well and then a hurricane which started in Mozambique came through Zimbabwe, flooding and ruining the crops. That same hurricane also destroyed some of our pigsties, lifting off the roofing and walls.

COMPASSIONATE RESOURCE WAREHOUSE (CRW)

Compassionate Resource Warehouse, headed by Dell Marie Wergeland and a team that never leaves an inch of packing space, has also planned a container for us which will depart at the end of August. This year we are not asking for goods but we would love to purchase sacks of beans for eating and planting. If you would like to support one, each sack costs \$40. This container may be a bit more personalized as we can pack our own boxes containing many individual requests. For the past two years the team has collected what we ask for, and packaged and named every box for the recipient. This year they are packing again for additional Small Houses which we want to build. Each small house is provided with a table, chest of drawers, sheets, blankets, towels, pots and pans (see ZGS video). A bed that is made in our carpentry shop is also included. While we are building the schools, desks and chairs for them are being located as I write.

It was CRW who sent our very first container and the excitement of shipping containers remains as great now as it was then! We are grateful to all. A special benefit is that we are now good friends.

Happy Day Bags:

Recently a 92-year-old friend, Opal, and younger friend, Faith K, packed hundreds of packets of sweets for my next trip to Zimbabwe in January - March 2023 (God Willing).

Our grandchildren, Noah and Alesha, again helped fill Happy Day bags which will be given at random to folks walking on the road or just looking glum. It's a sure way to bring a smile to their faces. Other friends, Theresa and Alison, will be together with me in January and February respectively to enjoy my favorite part of the day--handing out the Happy Day treats.



Faith and Opal packing the sweets



Alesha working full speed



Noah is also sorting and packing



A close-up view of some of the treats for Happy Day bags

ZIMBABWE ECONOMY

Soon inflation in Zimbabwe will be as disastrous as it was in 2008. I communicated with my family this past weekend and they sent me a list of inflation rates since January 2022. I was in Zimbabwe from January to April and can assure you that the small differences were deciding factors of whether people ate or not

I can only guess at the horror of losing any cash put under pillows and it only becomes more useless as the days pass. When I was there in 2008, people would receive their wages and rush to buy sugar, flour, etc., because the only way to survive was to spend it the moment you received it. Then, they would buy extra food or something else useful because the next day you could sell for a higher rate. It was exhausting to watch, never mind having to take part in it.

January -	^{RATE} 230
February -	230
March -	245
April -	300
May -	430
June -	620
July -	840



Home News:

Recently I showed our latest video which reviewed some history and covered the ongoing work in Zimbabwe. Many people were surprised at how much we have accomplished. It is a 20-minute video. Would you please take the time to watch it and see what a big difference your support has made in Zimbabwe. We are proud and happy to be your hands and feet.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1067H8tNfR5J1hgFs1oSpWbFI5KnvEbJ3/view>

It has been a delight to share some of the news of what we are up to but ... it is truly only some of the news. Too many great things are happening to write about all of them. We do try to keep the newsletter interesting, factual and short. 10 pages of pictures and news IS short, isn't it? LOL

Both Frank and I would like to thank you for your ongoing prayer support for us and for ZGS.

Frank will once again be undergoing treatment for cancer but, as you can see, we are expecting a good outcome since I have already booked our flights to Zimbabwe



Susan and Frank Janetti
Zimbabwe Gecko Society