

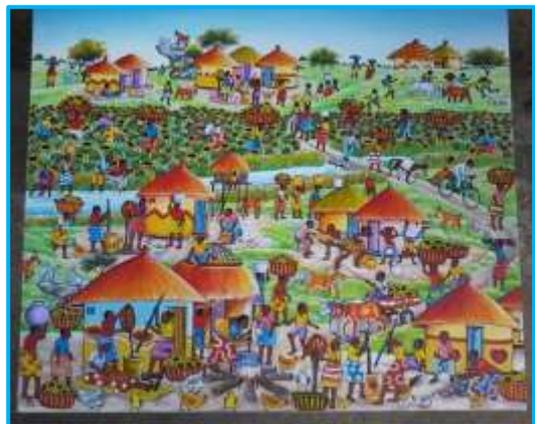
“Hello again” to all and many thanks to everyone who wrote in and called to say you enjoyed the long newsletter and pictures last month. You also encouraged me to keep doing the longer version so you learn more about what we do and, in so doing, be encouraged yourselves. I heard you and my response is another long one for you to enjoy.

### THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

#### KUDA CHUMA

You will notice the new letterhead. This was painted by Kuda Chuma as a gift for us. The painting depicts the Rasper Projects... the mill, pigs, chickens, school, church... you will find them all. There is a story behind the painting. Many years ago, we met Kuda and I loved his work, but the colors were dull and lifeless. I suggested better paints which he could not afford. However, my brother, also an artist, has a small sideline business selling paints, canvas, brushes, etc. We purchased them for Kuda and then, to his surprise and delight, purchased all his paintings which we sold at the art show in Ocean Park Hall each year. This, of course, gave him the start he needed, and he was doing tremendously well until March 2020.

If you are interested in his work, you can call me...604-531-3654. Do you know anyone with a gallery who would put on a show so we can help these artists out? We have supported many artists this way. Most have had gallery showings, and all have been featured in magazines.



Sunflower Harvest - Kuda Chuma art

**YOU MAY NOT KNOW:**



Widows Receiving Maize

We support an increasing number of widows and orphans in Chugutu and Rasper areas. One can't always give bags of food away, but we do have a daily meal cooked for them--up to 200 people at Rasper and 40 in Chugutu. So far this year we have given away 50 tons of food.

**YOU MAY NOT KNOW:**

We continue to support libraries in Harare, Chugutu, Karunda, Rasper, Wedza. The children are especially grateful this year due to school closures. Hundreds and hundreds of books are put in the containers and enjoyed by thousands.



Library Program



Kids in Chugutu picking up library books

The children first learn how to respect a book and then books are loaned out and changed daily and weekly. Story time in all places is a big hit.



Our first container into Zimbabwe was converted into a Christian resource library, the first of its kind with over 40,000 books given for weekly loan. The library sits in the Church of the Nazarene parking lot.

Nazarene Library

### **YOU MAY NOT KNOW:**

Over time the containers have provided movie screens, projectors, computers, VCR machines, DVD machines, etc. Movies are extensively used to share Scripture, such as the Jesus story, Noah's Ark, and many kids' movies. The whole village comes out to watch. The Lion King, Sleeping Beauty and such are also big hits.



Most people sit amazed and stunned and will come back to watch the movies over and over. Another big hit are the PowerPoints I send that show their younger selves, the people at work, the community as it was and how it is now. Weekly movie nights are an extremely big hit.

### **YOU MAY NOT KNOW:**

My favorite thing to do is what I call *Happy Days*. This is when I load my purse up with \$1 and \$2 bills (yes, USD have \$2 bills) and fill the car with clothes, toys, stuffies, etc., and set off. I watch for particularly unhappy looking people and then ask them if they would like a HAPPY DAY. They look suspiciously at me until I bring out a \$1 or \$2. "Here you go! Have a happy day." Many a time it will lead them to ask why I do that and I say, "Just sharing the love of God."

My favorite part is when I see someone at the end of the day who is still patiently sitting on the side of the road trying to sell tomatoes or potatoes, etc. I barter them down to almost free knowing whatever I buy will give them one more day of food. But, after I barter them down, I buy all the tomatoes. I pay the lower price, but the person is still so happy. Next, I ask what the original price was and make the payment up to the original price which is now bringing on giggles of joy. I then say, "But what are they worth?" And we giggle and laugh, as I pay an extra few dollars. Finally, I get in the car but immediately jump out again to enquire, "What about a dress or something for your children?" which, of course, results in opening the back door and gifts being given out.

At last, it's goodbye. Two happy people who just shared a HAPPY DAY EVENT, But the story doesn't end there. I now have a car full of tomatoes Off I go to find kids to give some to, or to give to others selling who don't have much left. I give them all I have... plus, a dress or two. ANOTHER HAPPY DAY EVENT!

There is even more fun is on the way back, if they are still sitting there and they usually are. I buy back all the tomatoes I gave them an hour ago. So much fun! Now I have a truck full of tomatoes again. It can go on like that for the whole day or for just a morning but it is always fun. Sometimes I take the tomatoes home and the next day teach the ladies how to make a chutney type relish. Theresa, who came with us on our last trip, also found this to be a highlight of her day and started to make her own gifts. We laughed so much picking the most miserable person and sharing joy. I will ask Theresa to write her story.

The funny thing is that when we got home to Canada, Theresa did not stop giving Happy Days. She now gives me happy days, often taking walks with me to get me going and healthy. There might be a dozen farm eggs! A bag of fun relaxing bath goodies! An invitation to coffee! An Australian Pie! A pack of biscuits!



Do they give me  
a HAPPY DAY?

**SURE DO!**

Thanks,  
Theresa!!

**YOU MAY NOT KNOW:**

We usually have a garage sale every May, a fund raising dinner in October and an art sale in November. I also cook for different events to raise money for Zimbabwe. Right now, we go day to day waiting for an opportunity. If you have fundraising ideas, please let me know.

**NEWS TO REPORT**

Where do I start? It seems the program at Rasper is running ahead of us all at times. Let me start with the church.



Pastor Darlington and wife, Plaxedes

Pastor Darlington has a sponsor. He was willing to give up his day time job and work full time at Rasper. (He previously volunteered on weekends.) He has had a dual position for a while as we needed to upgrade documents with workers' profiles, etc. His main function is as pastor for the community, but the ministry became so active we took on another pastor, also with ½ his wage being sponsored, by the name of TAFADWA SIGAUKE.

Pastor Sigauke is working under the leadership of Darlington and enjoying serving the community. They are both very relieved and pleased to hear the church can start up the youth group on the 13th March and the church on Sunday the 14th. They already had a teen program arranged for the day and after church activities they had games with prizes.



Pastor Tafadwa and wife, Blessing



*Sunday Church Service*

We are also taking on Tino Gwaze to head up all the youth programs and events as well as to utilize his computer knowledge and organization. The new name for this youth program will be **LIGHT OF THE WORLD YOUTH GROUP**. The young people really do need an outlet and will benefit greatly. I can see that before long he will need an assistant! lol. Tino also has a sponsor for ½ his wage. Needed are a \$25 sponsor and a \$40 sponsor for helpers.

Matilda, who manages the tea room, hairdressing, shoe shop and preschool along with many social service activities and challenging events, has also found herself quite heavily involved with Pastor D in the community... in particular, where single women are involved. We might need another mature woman to work with Pastor Darlington. Matilda has a sharp eye for detail, which has been needed. Matilda comes to us with 20 years' experience managing a hairdressing salon. We do need a sponsor for \$80 per month.

Should you wish to sponsor a pastor or general help for the church please let me know... Susan at 604-531-3654. This would be a commitment until December when it would be re-evaluated.

The work is expanding very quickly, even faster than the pigs and chickens projects which pay wages. So, if anyone would like to sponsor a staff person with an average wage of \$40 per month, we would appreciate it. We would like to assist their children with school fees and uniforms, etc.

Speaking of school, our Tailor is working flat out making school uniforms. We had great news on March 12th that our school has now been fully licenced and linked with one of the top schools in our area that we have supported for quite a few years, Kintyre School. They will supply the principal and teachers up to Grade 4 for now. We can accommodate up to Grade 7 but for the time being, we thought it best to adjust gradually. Up to now we have had 2 Kindergarten classes and Grades 1 and 2. So, going to Grade 4 plus a preschool is a big step. The preschool program starts on the March 21st. We need two teachers for the preschool, if anyone would like to sponsor them at \$50 per month. The government will be paying all the other teachers. All the numbers I give are USD so each \$10 is approximately \$12.50 CAD. We can, of course, have a couple of sponsors per person. \$50 is roughly \$62 CAD.

Richard Murpe



It is with thanks that we acknowledge the support of Richard Murpe, previous Principal of Kintyre School, for the many hours and dedication that went into securing the licences with Erick. They both put many hours and trips into this venture

Ministers celebrating our licence and enjoying hospitality in our old kitchen. The Tea Room is not yet ready.



## SCHOOL IS BACK IN!



Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Grades 2 and 3 (Below)



We have two more containers arriving at the end of this month courtesy of Compassionate Warehouse, Dell Marie Wergeland, and MEMO ministry of EFCCM, Jerome Harvey.

We are delighted to say that after a 12-year struggle getting containers into the country unopened, we have Government Ministers working with us, as well as the doctors to whom we supply goods. They recognize our work and the need for containers to remain unopened, or be opened at Rasper where no damage will occur. With medical goods, the boxes cannot be opened as a good deal is rendered useless for the purpose, e.g. sterile operating gowns. Or, for machines that need pieces to stay together. Once opened and unpacked, non-medical folk don't know what goes together and they are sent to different hospitals with pieces missing. We thank Erick, our Rasper Manager, for his perseverance, along with the Rasper area overseers. This is a huge relief!!

Bit of a dilemma ... Trying to deliver bricks and a container in the rainy season  
They got horribly stuck in the mud and took 5 hours to clear.



All these events came just in time for Frank and my 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on March 13<sup>th</sup>. No gifts could have pleased us more. Even some new piglets were born on that day.... 9 of them!

[Updated News ...](#)

7 more piglets born March 21<sup>st</sup> 😊



We have begun a new project--brown laying chickens!



Currently we have 100 chicks and 50 point-of-lay chickens which will enable the community to buy eggs nearby for nutrition.

The first 50 chickens will be laying soon and the 100 chicks will be laying in about 5 months.

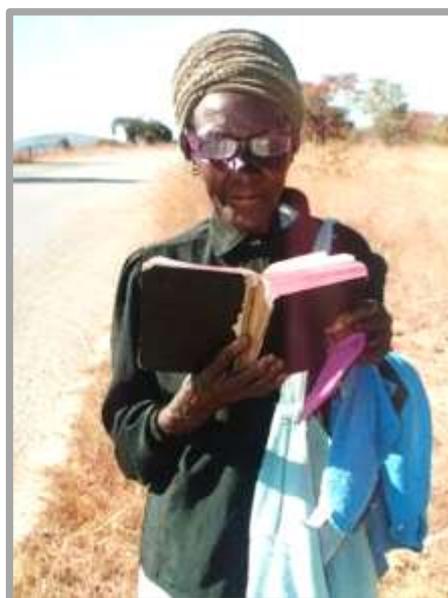
Our programs at Rasper now support 34 men and women with work. They are mostly paid by pig, chicken, shop, carpentry, and sewing programs but also by sponsors. This is not counting the 13 teachers about to start. It also does not include the 200 widows and orphans we serve food to, nor the church folk and the youth of about 200 in number, not to mention the community seniors' Wedza, Imiri, Chugutu programs, and so much more. Thank you for your love and commitment.

We want to say, "Many thanks!" to the EFCCM Benevolent Fund for supporting us with ten tons of maize to get us through difficult times. The maize crop should be ready in late April for harvesting.

And, as always, a big "Thank you!" to White Rock Baptist Church who have supported our ministry in so many ways.

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

We don't know who the lady is but Judy from Wedza was driving when she saw her, and stopped to give her a pair of donated glasses. After she had popped them on, tears rolled down her wrinkly, old, beautiful face and she said "I can now see God."



There is so much more to say but I will stop here so as to get the March Newsletter out in March. LOL

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

**AFRICAN PROVERB:**

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Susan Janetti  
Founder, Zimbabwe Gecko Society