
Dear friends,

It seems that in celebrating the Village of Hope so spectacularly over the month of March, it is only appropriate to revisit the dream... where we came from and where we are headed.

Please bear with us if you are familiar with the vision. But if you aren't, we hope this helps you join in and get excited over plans for the future...

HOPE...FOR THEIR FUTURE!

YESTERDAY....

The dream of the Village of Hope, from the purchase of the property in 2001, was to respond to the AIDS crisis in southern Africa. To house, care for and provide hope through the knowledge of Jesus Christ, for orphans and other 'children at risk'. From the beginning, the dream for this property in Zimbabwe was to affect little lives by....

- 16 orphan homes
- primary school
- church
- medical clinic
- community outreach

TODAY...

We are still celebrating in the throws of the Grand Opening of the Village of Hope, March 15th, 2008. It was incredible day as almost 600 people gathered from the community, local leadership and from other countries, to take part in a huge praise concert and listen to speeches, reveling in what God has done! The registrations of the primary school, and orphanage in 2007; the new school buildings; new water systems; new orphan homes; the children whose lives are changed forever because of this growth! Our dedication plaque is pictured below with Rev. Murray & Cindy Cornelius, founders (right), and Gord and Anita Cooleage, Directors (left). (Because it is impossible to share the whole day with you in this email, we will be sending out a separate sheet of pictures from the day. Watch for it, and thanks for being part of the day in prayer!)

We are now in fast forward mode as we look to plans for the future. But touching 400 children's lives daily at present is only a drop in the bucket compared to the immediate need in front of us in Zimbabwe today.

Today, the dream is well underway by the grace of God.

- 2 orphan homes already exist, housing 13 children and two house mothers. 4 more orphan homes are now under construction and slated to be completed in the next few months (Rev. Murray & Cindy Cornelius, pictured left, being shown the completed foundation of one such home by Gord).



Cornelius Hope Academy Primary School (CHAPS) is now open for 200 students, Kindergarten to grade 6.

Hope Community Church boasts a congregation of over 250 each Sunday and runs countless programs and ministries into the surrounding community, under the leadership of Rev. Munetsi Zowa.

The Medical Clinic has been mapped out with stakes on the grounds of the Village of Hope. Full funds for the building have been raised! We are now

in the midst of researching the registrations needed and ensuring that the Clinic is fully sustainable for years to come. We pray to have the clinic under construction in the last quarter of 2008, and open to the public sometime in 2009.



- The Community Outreach program operates out of 4 feeding points (called 'Chosen Ones'), feeding 300 children in the community each day, Monday to Friday. Another 100+ children attend after school programs where they are taught the gospel of Jesus Christ, play games & sports, do crafts and get help with homework..

TOMORROW...

In an economy spiraling downward, and a general feeling of depression and oppression in the country, the future could seem dismal. We are again seeing things disappear from the shelves, as the people of this nation sit poised and waiting

for the next phase of leadership and are uncertain. Yet God has given us this time of favour and so we keep moving forward. At times, the dream seems to take on a life of it's own as we watch the children grow in front of us and strongly desire to support them through to the realization of their own dreams. If the Village of Hope was ever needed, IT IS NOW! And so...

- 10 more children's homes, housing a total of 128 children, and already approved on our site plan, need to be raised both in finances and in building.

- We believe God's plans for CHAPS now include a double stream of classes in our primary school. This means another 8 classrooms are needed, a library, computer lab and sports facilities need to be developed. There are already plans in the works to build a 2 storey classroom block housing some of these needed facilities. (2008 prefect body of student leaders pictured left)

And what about after primary school? Well, we believe that we shouldn't take children half way and then drop out of their lives, and so we are now also dreaming of land purchase nearby and the establishment of a secondary school for our senior resident children, and CHAPS graduates. A vocational training centre is also being dreamed of.

- With the growth of the Village of Hope, the number of congregants on a Sunday at Hope Community Church is increasing, while our average age is decreasing. Therefore we now need to begin to think about a bigger meeting hall, and a focused children's program and staff that will keep up with the changes we are seeing on the grounds of the Village of Hope, but still serve the community as best as God allows us.
- Beyond Registration of Hope Community Medical Clinic and opening its doors we pray in 2009, we hope to further our service to the community by also pursuing Registration as an HIV/AIDS and TB treatment clinic. Right now, the number of clinics that treat these diseases in Harare are few and the waiting lists are long because of the availability of medicines and the economic environment. The children we now drive to these clinics every month could be serviced in their own backyard!
- The opportunities and needs are never ending when it comes to feeding the hungry, and reaching out to community children. Currently however, expansion of Chosen Ones and After Schools Discipleship Program would be simply to accommodate the growing number of CHAPS children as the primary school multiplies.

But the success of the Village of Hope today, cannot be measured in buildings and statistics, but in the lives God changes simply because the Village exists. Chipo is such a life (pictured top right)! We introduced you to her when we first met her in early 2006, when she was so ill she was kicked out of school. Yet today and with medical care, she is back in school full time, healthy and growing almost to the size of her peers, though she is 2 years their senior. She is a miracle of life, and one example of what God can do in the life of a child! What a privilege to see her kneeling at the altar in prayer a few Sundays ago, watching her grow spiritually and having a humbling moment to kneel and pray with her and over her.

Because so many of you have asked how to help...

Here's a few material needs that need to happen with current growth:

- A firefighting system at \$6,000, complete with hoses and reservoir.
- \$5,000 for a new soak away to service the expansion of the orphanage.
- \$5,000 for house furnishings per house, to fill the new children's homes once they are complete.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS MONTH /

- For our work permit which needs renewing.



- For the political and economic stability of Zimbabwe through this time, for peace.
- For a hunger for God, in our children at the Village of Hope.
- For the team of 8 due to land April 25th – for effectiveness in ministry and their safety.
- For our family's safety through this time.
- For the dark hold on Plot 17 – for deliverance for the people there, that they might see God's power.
- Unspoken request.

Thank you for the emails and phone calls we have received, as once again Zimbabwe is in world news! We are doing okay and life is going on as normal as possible. However we do realize the volatility of an uncertain future in this nation and so your prayers and encouragements are so appreciated! Thank you for standing with us once again! You are a blessing in our lives!

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**'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.'** Isaiah 43:19

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