



Christmas

Letter from
Hippo Valley Christian Mission



December 2019

A sign was taped to an old beat up car parked along the street in a south side Chicago neighborhood that read, "This is Not an Abandoned Vehicle". I suppose the owner was worried someone might haul it away while he was asleep.

Have you ever watched the news and wondered if this is an abandoned world?

If you have been following the news in Zimbabwe you can see where someone might reach that conclusion. Times are very hard right now over there. Everything is in short supply; especially currency. We had hoped that under their new President things would improve. They have only gotten worse - much worse! It has reached the place now where we have to send people to Zimbabwe to carry U.S. currency to our team over there so they can continue with the work we are doing. Wiring funds through the banks means we lose as much as 50% of every dollar we send. Although it is risky, it is actually cheaper for us to fly someone over with the funds than to wire it through banks.



Times are very hard right now. Recently a video has surfaced of people being beaten in the streets by police and military in the capital city of Harare simply for protesting what the government is doing. Times are hard in Zimbabwe.

Well, God has not abandoned this world! He has not abandoned Zimbabwe and He has not abandoned mankind! And Christmas is proof of that!

When you think of baby Jesus lying in a manger, we are reminded that **THIS IS NOT AN ABANDONED**

WORLD! The Son of God came to earth and became one of us! "The Word became flesh and moved into our neighborhood" (John 1:14 MSG). God sees us. God loves us. God values us. He has not abandoned us!

And God has not abandoned Zimbabwe!

In the midst of these hardships in 2019, we have advanced the gospel and the work of this great mission!

MISSION SCHOOLS. Our mission schools are thriving. We currently have more than 19,000 children enrolled in our 27 HVCN mission schools and at the time of this writing we are finally pouring concrete and making bricks for our 28th school at the 160 acre section of land we own in the Gutu region! We praise God for this and look forward to being able to evangelize the Gutu area in 2020 with this first phase of the Gutu project!

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ORPHANAGE. Since its beginning in 2000, the Chiredzi Christian Children's Village has been providing a loving home for children who had been orphaned due to many factors, but mostly the HIV epidemic which has ravaged Sub Saharan Africa. More than 100 children have been raised and well provided for through this ministry. Many have now gone out into the world as productive students, workers, husbands, wives, mothers and even Preachers! 2019 has seen several new children come into the fold and our caring mothers and staff love them all!



PREACHER TRAINING. In 2019 we conducted our 21st annual African Preaching Summit with about 150 preachers in attendance. We brought more than 800 books over for preachers and students at Zimbabwe Christian College as we continue with our vision for recruiting, training, equipping and sending out preachers in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. We currently have 10 students that HVCN is directly sponsoring at ZCC.



LIVING PROOF PROGRAM. The exciting Living Proof program is now in its fifth year. We currently have more than 1600 students enrolled in the program and are looking to move that number to 2000 in the coming year. We will now have around 450 of our LP kids in high school in 2020. These kids are the poorest of the poor, but thanks to this program and our faithful LP sponsors, 450 kids will be in high school that otherwise would not have this opportunity!

This past September we hosted the first ever *Living Proof College Days* at Zimbabwe Christian College. Our plan was to bus all of our LP high school kids to the college for 3 days of exciting preaching, music, prayer, activities, food and inspiration! Well, God had other plans! We ended up with over 800 High school kids from our churches that came to this event! On the last night more than 100 kids made decisions for Christ. We baptized several that night and 40 high school kids made decisions to enter the ministry! Wow!

So yes, times are very hard right now in Zimbabwe! **But this is NOT an abandoned world!** Zimbabwe is NOT an abandoned country! "For unto us a Child is born... And He shall be for All People!" Baby Jesus was Living Proof that God sees and loves mankind. HVCN's presence in Zimbabwe over the past 64 years and your support are all Living Proof that God has NOT abandoned this world!

We know that many of our faithful donors think about us this time of year and give an additional year-end gift to the mission. As 2019 comes to a close, we are trusting that God will provide what is needed to close the year out, pay all our bills and hopefully, be able to bless our faithful workers in Zimbabwe with a small Christmas bonus.

If you are moved to make a special Christmas or end of the year gift to HVCN, that will be most welcomed! As usual, we trust in God's provision.

To our faithful churches and supporters we want to thank you for your partnership and financial support, gifts and prayers. And from all of us at HVCN we sincerely wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and blessed New Year!



Al & Patty Serhal



Anita Lindeman



Rachel Werner & Cana Kidd