



Spring 2022

# LIVING PROOF HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

By Al Serhal, Executive Director

I spent the month of March in Zimbabwe and was able to get out to Pemberton Station for the dedication of the first 4-block classroom and also to meet with contractors. (Pictures) While there, we made the decision to contract with one of the most reputable builders in the country. If you have ever been involved in a building project, you probably know that there are many options available to you as far as contractors go. You can try to save money and go with the lower bid guys or you can go with the best. The best will usually give you their quote which ends up being almost twice what the other guys tell you. However, and inevitably, if you decide to go with the cheaper option, by the time the project is finished, they always seem to have add-ons and other expenses that usually bring it up to what the reputable guys quoted in the first place. Not to mention the quality of the work is nowhere near the standards of the higher end guys and it is never finished on time.

## A Shift in Building Strategy

This is why we decided to trust this important project to Maco Builders out of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. They came highly recommended by our friends over there in the business world who have worked with them in the past. If you've ever stayed at the N1 hotels in Zimbabwe, these are the guys who built them. They are top end builders who do commercial grade work. We want Pemberton Station and the Living Proof High School to be the best. So we made the decision to contract the best!

Our plan is to begin construction on the dining hall/kitchen, one dormitory, latrines and 10 apartments (To go along with the 2 duplex houses we already have built) as well as put in the power and water infrastructure for the whole project. This can all be

done by the end of the year which would allow us to open for the first group of form one students in January, 2023.

The cost of going with these reputable builders is nearly 50% more than we were planning and at least that much more than we currently have. However, we now see that this is the best way to go. We are trusting in God to provide the additional funds needed to be able to open the school in 2023.



Meeting with Maco Builders



## An Answered Prayer

Literally as I was writing this update, I received a message from a very generous donor who believes very much in this great project and the Living Proof program. I spoke with him on the phone and after hearing about our latest plans and increased cost, he and his wife have committed up to \$150,000.00 In matching funds between now and the end of July, 2022. That means for every dollar we can raise, they will match it up to \$150K which could bring it to \$300,000! This, along with the funds already raised, will get us there. We can do this!

Whatever you or your church can contribute to this matching gift between now and the end of July for the Living Proof High School project at Pemberton Station, it will be doubled! You can give through our website or call our offices to talk with us about it. Also, I would be thrilled to come to your church in the near future and tell you more about this exciting mission station. This is a great opportunity! This is a big bold step of faith that honors God! Let's build Pemberton Station!

## PATRONS CONFERENCE 2022

by Emmanuel Tembo, Living Proof Manager – Zimbabwe Office



We were thrilled to be able to treat our Living Proof patrons in each school with an encouraging and uplifting conference in March this year. COVID prevented us from meeting for two years, so the fellowship was much needed. In total, we had 56 patrons and chaplains representing 40 schools. The patrons were given new curriculum to use in their Living Proof club meetings. This new curriculum will give them new ways to teach

the Bible and memory verses. New games and activities were also suggested. The patrons tried out some of the activities and there was laughter and smiles from the groups.

The patrons and chaplains also had the opportunity to meet and listen to Al Serhal, (HVCN Executive Director) who was in Zimbabwe during the conference. He encouraged the group by telling them how valued they are and talked about some specific stories of sponsors and their Living Proof children, and how much it means to a sponsor to know their student is learning about Jesus and is part of a close group. He encouraged letter writing by the students to the sponsors.

As new friendships were made and old friendships renewed, all left the conference feeling rejuvenated. Our many thanks to Zimbabwe Christian College for hosting this event.

# UNIFORMS, PARTIES & SMILES!

By Patty Serhal, Living Proof Manager – U.S. Side

Looking back at the Christmas season, it was a bit tricky for our Zimbabwe team to travel to each of the 27 schools to pass out uniforms and hold the Christmas parties due to COVID. They have achieved it, however, and we are now reaping the joy of the smiles on the children's faces! It has been a tough year with so many shutdowns and school disruptions, and these kids have endured it all.



Many thanks to our generous Living Proof sponsors who provided funds for the children to enjoy the extras at the end of the year. We received donations from those who aren't even sponsors this year!



We are truly blessed with people who love these children.

We always strive to meet the needs of the children in the classroom, and these gifts are so much more personal to each child. I know the parents also appreciate the gifts for their children. We are looking forward to next Christmas and planning early to make it special.

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN ZIMBABWE

by Carolyn Mereki, a Zimbabwe Student Sponsored by HVCM Studying at Kentucky Christian University



The Zimbabwean culture requires school children to wear school uniforms. This applies to children in primary school (elementary and middle school) and secondary school (high school). Each school in Zimbabwe has their own uniform that they are identified with, and each uniform has a school logo.

The school uniform tradition has been created to unify every

student in the school. No matter what background they are coming from, everyone looks the same, which promotes unity in the schools. In most primary schools, girls wear dresses with white socks and black shoes. Boys wear shorts and shirts with grey knee length socks and black shoes. And in most primary schools they keep very short hair or shaved hair, and this applies to both girls and boys. This is because it's easier for children to maintain and it completes the uniform.



In secondary school, girls wear skirts and shirts and a tie, with black shoes and white socks. Boys wear trousers, shirts, and tie, with black shoes and grey or black socks. In high school, students wear school blazers and school sweaters. This applies to both girls and boys. To complete the uniform, boys keep their hair very short or shaved, and girls get to keep their hair in its natural color.



## LIVING PROOF STAFF

We are blessed with a dedicated team of Living Proof staff in our Zim office. Shown: Emmanuel and Alaska Tembo, & Judith Simango