

LIVING PROOF | Update to Sponsors

August 2018

EDITOR'S NOTE

We hope you enjoy this second addition of the Living Proof Quarterly Update. Our goal is to keep you informed as best we can with the ongoing progress, challenges and victories with this exciting ministry. In our first addition back in May, we wanted to be very open with you regarding some of the challenges we were facing, especially in the area of communication between sponsors and the LP children. We are working hard to make improvements in this program. The following story about Upenyu is a direct response to that need. As always, we welcome your emails and letters to our mission office letting us know the good, bad and otherwise when it comes to your experience with the LP program. We strive to be better and we thank you! -Al Serhal, Executive Director, HVC

HE IS LIVING PROOF!

Four years ago I was at Zimbabwe Christian College in Harare preparing to teach my Advanced Preaching course as I do every February. The first evening there, I joined the students in the Dining Hall for supper. A young man came up to me and politely asked if I would have time to meet with him later that evening. I said that would be fine, but in the back of my mind I was guessing he was going to ask me for financial assistance or something else along those lines. He then surprised me when he said, "You don't recognize me do you Mr. Serhal?" I looked at him for a moment and said that I wasn't sure. He then said "I am Upenyu Gogo. I was one of the first boys taken in at the Children's Village in Chiredzi when it first opened".



I tell you it absolutely warmed my heart to meet this young man! This was an orphaned boy that we had received back in the late 1990's when Hippo Valley Christian Mission first opened the Children's Village in response to the growing HIV epidemic that had ravaged Sub Saharan Africa. Upenyu was just a small boy of 5-6 years old and we had raised him all these years. And now,

here he was, a first year student at ZCC, preparing to go into the ministry. Wow!

Well, he and I had coffee together several times that month and have developed a strong mentoring relationship since

then. Last year he wrote me to tell me that he had been elected student body President of ZCC! He was very proud of that honor as we all were.

This last June Upenyu graduated from Zimbabwe Christian College with his diploma in Biblical studies and Ministry. He has plans and dreams of further education and we hope to see those dreams realized. However, for now, we are happy to announce that Upenyu Gogo has been hired as the newest addition to our Living Proof team in Zimbabwe! Under the leadership of Cephas Zivanai, along with Stephanie and Judith we now have a solid team of four dedicated employees over there working the Living Proof Program. This is in addition to the Chaplains and Patrons who run the club meetings.



In addition to his responsibilities with the Living Proof program, Upenyu also serves as one of the ministers with the Village Church in Chiredzi and works as a host when mission teams from the U.S. go over there.

Upenyu is a delightful young man with a fantastic heart for the Lord and the LP children. He is, after all, Living Proof himself!



Cephas Zivani

UPDATE FROM CEPHAS ZIVANI

We have had an exciting time this term, as we were visited by groups from the U.S. Some of the visiting teams were able to meet the Living Proof child they have been supporting. It is a feeling of joy for the student as well as for the sponsor to meet face to face!

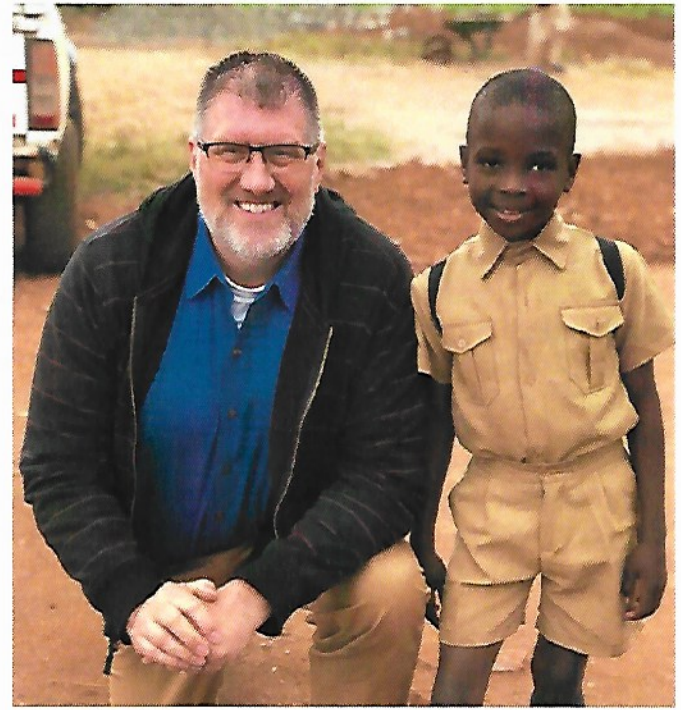
Schools will open again in September and two weeks after opening we will have a conference for high school with Young Preachers (YP) groups. The YP includes mostly of the Living Proof members and many other students. Patience pays off – we preach to young kids who will not stay young. One day they will each make an informed decision and come to the Big Family of God. We had six baptisms this

month, some of them in our Mission schools and churches and yet others from other schools that we have Christian influence in.

We are looking forward to recruiting more children if God allows. Across the board, more children mean more activities, volunteers, funds,



sponsors, equipment and space to cover. As long as this will help the needy children, we will be committed to work harder.



LIVING PROOF VEHICLE FUND GOES OVER \$35,000.00!

We are happy to announce that the New Vehicle fundraiser we launched in May has just exceeded the \$35,000.00 mark! This is fantastic news. We are now optimistic that we will be able to purchase two good used vehicles which will immediately make our Living Proof team so much more effective as they are constantly taking trips out to our rural schools to meet with the LP children, Patrons and Chaplains.

We are thankful to each church and sponsor who has given toward this effort. Hopefully, by the next edition, we will have actual pictures to show you.

