

Fall 2021

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HIPPO
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CHRISTIAN
MISSION



Hippo Valley Christian Mission • P.O. Box 686 • Grayson, KY 41143 • 606-474-3460 • www.hippovalley.org

Progress at Pemberton Station

This spring we made the exciting announcement about Pemberton Station, which is a big vision and a big undertaking. We set out to raise \$250,000 to get the basic structures and systems needed to launch the new Living Proof High School by January, 2023. Things are currently moving nicely in that direction.

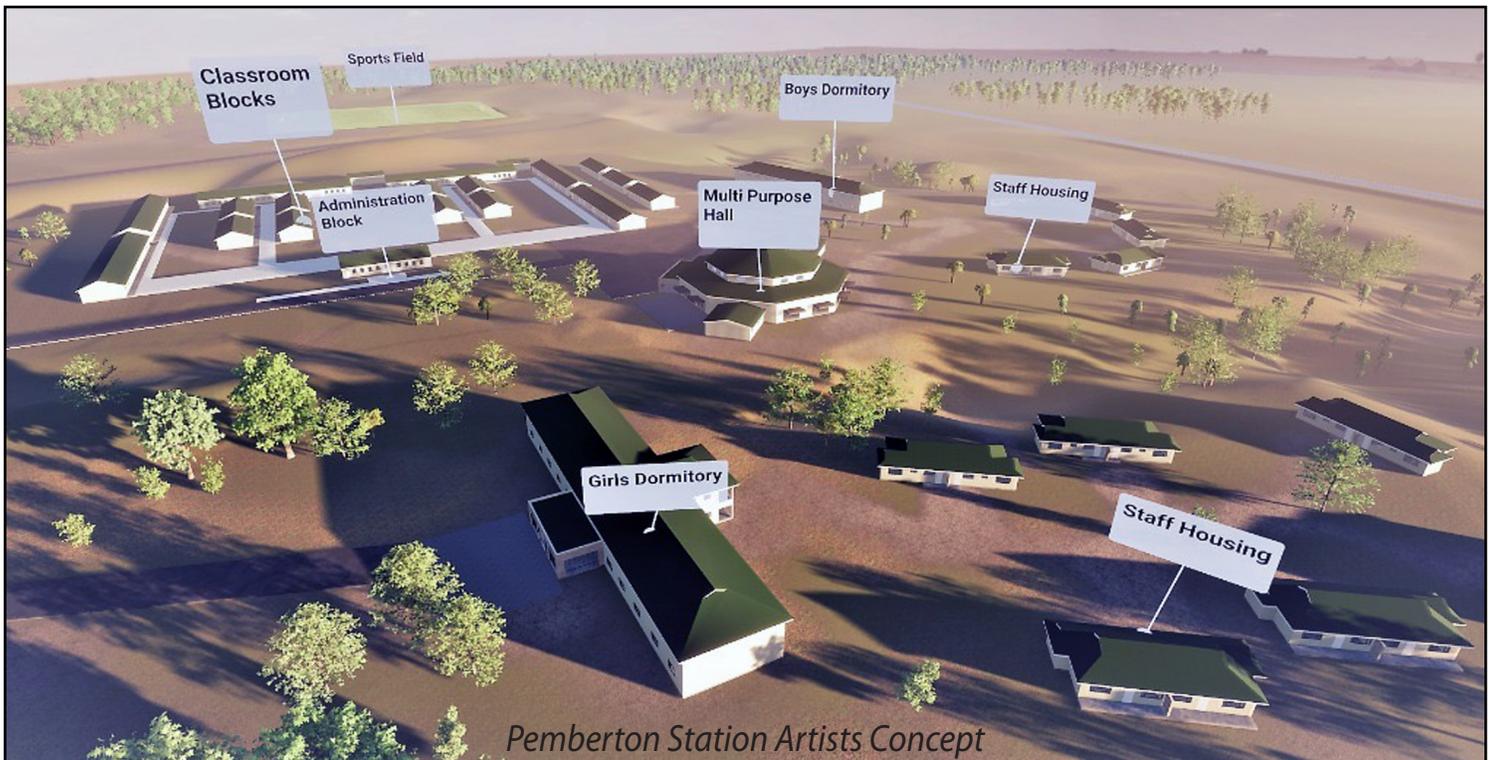
To date we have raised over \$170,000 towards that goal. We have completed the first 4-block classroom building and have built two duplex housing units to house the teachers and headmaster. In addition, we have been able to fence in the entire property (150 acres) as well as build and set up the large goat and cattle operation, which will serve a major role in the education of students along with the practical benefits.

We are now focusing on the water system and getting power connected to the location. These are big challenges, yet God has shown us again and again that He is blessing this project.

As funds continue to come in we plan to build the boys and girls dorms and then the kitchen/dining hall. This will allow us to open with 136 Form One students in January, 2023 – 86 of which will be tuition paying students while 50 will be full scholarship students from our Living Proof Program. Won't that be something?

If you or your congregation would like to hear more about this exciting undertaking, please contact our mission office to schedule Al Serhal to come to your church and make a presentation.

We are calling upon our faithful supporters and churches to join with us in praying and financially contributing toward this great project that will impact so many lives and advance the Kingdom. This will not only honor John and Marge Pemberton, but so many other faithful missionaries and indigenous leaders for many years to come!



Pemberton Station Artists Concept

Zim Team - Ambassadors For HVCM

This fall HVCM has been sending out our Zim Ambassador Team to some of our supporting churches. The team is made up of four Zimbabwean students who are sponsored by HVCM and on scholarship at Kentucky Christian University, here in Grayson, KY. They are Carolyn Mereki, Aggie Gudyanga, Upenyu Gogo and Brave Maguchu. They sing Shona songs, give testimonies and Upenyu preaches, if desired. They have been very well received by the churches.

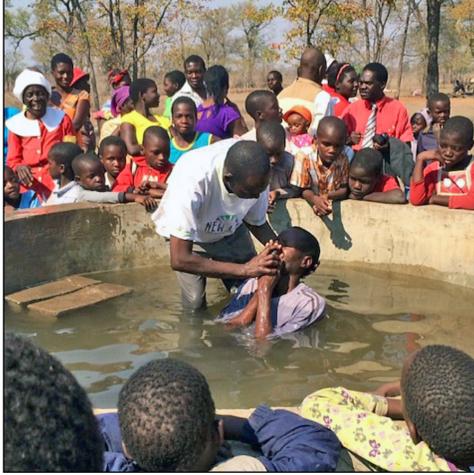
Scott Ford, minister of First Christian Church in Lexington, KY with our group ►



"Goho Re Churu" – Harvest of a Thousand Souls!

Beginning in January, our Zim team will be launching an Evangelistic campaign we are calling Goho re Churu, which in Shona means "Harvest of a thousand souls." Under the leadership of Alone Gudyanga (Manager of Evangelism /Church Development) we will begin a season of Revival within our Churches. Thanks to IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services) we are currently shipping half a million meal packets over to Zimbabwe which will be distributed among the churches that we directly work with.

The church members themselves will bring in vegetables and sadza and HVCM will also provide funding for meat. These revivals will



involve tents, a portable PA system, banners, special music, lots of singing, dancing and powerful evangelistic preaching!

We are praying to see a 1000 souls baptized into Christ during this season of Harvest! We currently are planning these revivals in more than 30 churches. HVCM has 18 Preachers

who are supported through our mission office in Zimbabwe. Let's be in prayer for our preachers, for Alone Gudyanga and for God to send a great Revival to the Zimbabwe Churches! Goho re Churu!

Broadening Our Territory – Botswana and 3-2-1

This fall we launched out into a new mission field into the neighboring country of Botswana. Botswana is one of the most economically stable countries in all of Central Africa, yet there is very little evangelism taking place there in terms of missionaries and missionary efforts. Since September, HVCM has been working with a



recent Zimbabwe Christian College graduate, Adenty to plant a church in Francistown, Botswana. Adenty is a very energetic young man with a zeal for evangelism. He is being sponsored to go into Botswana through one of our supporting churches (New Hope Christian Church, Washington, IN) on what we are calling, the 3-2-1 approach to mission work.

Adenty will receive a salary through HVCM of \$300US per month for the first year. Then, he will receive \$200 per month his second year and \$100 his third year. Meanwhile, he is encouraged from day one to view

himself as bi-vocational. We want him to work at a business within the community or start some entrepreneurial effort.

He will be planting a church and teaching Christian stewardship to the people in the church. We are hoping and praying that this will be just the beginning of a great movement for God's Kingdom in that region of Africa. We are also hoping that this model of evangelism and sustainability will catch on.



Vision

Moving From Dependency to Sustainability to Generosity

For some time now within the HVCM board and executive committee, we have been discussing and praying toward the future vision of this great mission. Within the past year, the Lord has clearly been leading us in a direction and a concept of mission sustainability.

In 1956, when HVCM began, young men were led to Christ and many were recruited and trained by John Pemberton and others to be preachers.

These men were sponsored by the mission to go out and preach the gospel and start churches. Most of those churches are still around today and many others have been planted and many more preachers have been recruited and sent. This is good!



Legendary Zimbabwean preacher Watson Mabona being ordained into ministry by Ziden Nutt as John Pemberton and others look on (1961)

However, after 65 years working in Zimbabwe, it has become evident to all

involved that the practice of preachers being paid their living wage through a mission organization, rather than through the local church, is counter-productive. In fact, the research is pretty conclusive that the most dynamic and growing churches in developing countries are churches that are self-sustaining. Meanwhile, churches where the ministers are paid through a foreign mission office tend to be small and stagnant.

We are now excited to announce that HVCM leadership is working toward an intentional and deliberate effort to move the mission from a place of **Dependency** to that of **Sustainability** and on toward **Generosity!**

Starting January, 2022 we will begin the process of moving in this direction. Beginning with our 18 paid preachers, we will be equipping and providing opportunities and resources for these valued Zimbabwean leaders to become bi-vocational. We will present them with the means and opportunities to do this and will equip them to teach their congregations about tithing and to become strong, self-sustaining, independent, autonomous churches.

We are partnering with an organization, Farming God's Way, www.farming-gods-way.org/ to train our people with agricultural techniques that can produce 10-100 times what they have currently been doing. These techniques are working all over sub-Saharan Africa while calling upon God's people to trust in the Lord of the Harvest with their fields as well as with their finances. Also, we will be building our



Randy Nicholson will be building a starter aquaponic systems this February at the children's village

first Aquaponics system in February which will serve as a pilot program for our people to learn from and possibly invest in for themselves. In addition, we will be offering opportunities for our preachers and their families to invest in peanut butter machines, tuck (snack) shops, and chicken and goat operations. We are moving toward sustainability!

This calls for a new mindset: A mindset that not only thinks in terms of sustainability and entrepreneurship, but also a mindset of generosity. And this generosity goes beyond teaching and practicing tithing within the church: It involves generosity toward the neighboring countries! Zimbabwe is one of the most evangelized countries in Africa. It is time for the Church of Christ in Zimbabwe to be sending missionaries, rather than just receiving missionaries!

Our vision calls for real mission efforts, preacher training, evangelism and church planting in Mozambique (where we currently have 6 churches), Zambia, Malawi, Botswana and even South Africa. We believe that God's blessings flow when His people and His churches focus on evangelism, missions and HIS agenda around the world! It is time for the church in Zimbabwe to become a sending nation!

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