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Summer 2019

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A Great Restart to the Mission Thrift Store!

This past January, HVCM made a big bold move here on the U.S. side by purchasing a wonderful old building here in downtown Grayson to accommodate our offices as well as our Thrift Store. We started the thrift store a couple of years ago in a vacant building in town which the owner graciously allowed us to use rent free (we only paid utilities). At the same time, we were renting office space from KCU. The Thrift Store experienced modest success at the old location, but the building had several issues with leaking and flooding. Well, we now have a very nice building that is nearly 6000 square feet to accommodate our offices as well as the store. And the store has really taken off! We have already made more in the first four months than all of last year! It has been a great addition to downtown Grayson and directly supports our orphan ministry in Zimbabwe. It's a win, win!



Of course, it didn't hurt that we reopened the store in mid-January having received most of the estate furniture from one of our dear supporting families, Jack and Edith Strother. Jack was President of Commercial Bank here in Grayson for many years. He and Edith were pillars of this community as well as First Church of Christ. Edith lived to be 102 and Jack died last year at the ripe old age of 106. Their son, Jack Jr., serves on the board of HVCM and it was his suggestion that most of their belongings and home furnishings

be donated to the Mission Thrift Store (they also gave us Jack's car to use for mission travel). So yes, we started off on a good note with the Strother estate! And that momentum has continued.

There may be others out there who might want to consider HVCM with their estate furniture, clothing, vehicles, etc. We have the building and the opportunity to receive full market value for most anything. Just contact our mission office to make arrangements.

What a great way to invest in eternity!

Zebedee Receives Honorary Doctorate From Kentucky Christian University

On May 11, our own managing director of Zimbabwe operations, Zebedee Togarepi was honored at KCU's commencement with the Doctor of Intercultural Studies! It was a fantastic day for Zebedee as well as the Mission. HVCM was actually born on the campus of KCU back in the early 50's through the dreams of John & Marge Pemberton and Dr. Dennis & Lucy Pruett. John and Dennis were WWII veterans and non-traditional students at KCU, there on the GI Bill. They heard the call of God and in 1956 this great mission began!



Zebedee came under the influence of the mission as a young boy growing up in rural Zimbabwe attending HVCM mission schools (along with his 24 siblings). He would later follow God's call into the ministry himself and became the first graduate of Zimbabwe Christian College. He was the first preacher



sponsored by John Pemberton and Dr. J. Lowell Lusby to come to the U.S. to earn an accredited Bachelor's degree. He would later return and receive his Masters from CCU. Today he runs HVCM in Zimbabwe. And on May 11, was honored with a Doctorate Degree! We are proud of Zebedee and all he means to HVCM. Congratulations Dr. Togarepi!



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Dine Dedication

By Donna Burris Stroop (HVCM Board Member)

Sometimes we build up expectations in our minds and then the actual event can be a little disappointing, but in regards to the Clinic Dedication for which I have been dreaming and working for two years, it was an event that absolutely exceeded my expectations!



Imagine a sea of faces, 1,000 school children around the periphery and at least 500 under the big top white tent. The stage is set with curtains draped lov-

ingly by the local church women. There is VIP seating with a bottle of water ready to host the numbers of dignitaries from government and health sectors. Pretty soon some seasoned old men start coming in, Kraal heads, some bent over old walking sticks, a sub chief with a cowboy hat and then a young Chief Maranda in a stylish three piece suit. American visitors sit fanning their beet red faces with permanent smiles etched on their mouths, eyes wandering to take in the whole scene. And many elderly people, worn from hard years in the African sun, wander in gradually, no concern about the time on the clock, often helped to walk many miles by a younger caretaker. There is much pomp and circumstance in the program Dr. Bungu from Mashoko has prepared... a ribbon to be cut and a plaque to be unveiled, and speech after speech of gratefulness until I thought I couldn't handle any more and wanted to jump up and shout, "all glory to God!" Also the deep, deep appreciation and honor shown to my parents, Dan and Esther Burris, whose names now read brightly from a shiny bronze plaque at the entry of the new medical clinic. Also, a plaque to honor Bob and Yvonne Isom to whom many generous gifts were given in memory. Somehow it seemed fitting to place it on the maternity room where new life will enter into the world. Oh, but you can't get the full impact in your imagination till you understand, it was swelteringly hot! The music was loud and the dancing was jubilant and dusty. It went on for hours and I loved every minute!



To everyone who encouraged us along the way and donated what they could to the project, I wish you could feel just a small portion of what it means to the people of Maranda to have a new clinic. I heard how people have had to stand in long lines in the hot sun because of the limited room to be able to process people through efficiently. Now they will have a cool airflow waiting room, with multiple treatment rooms to accommodate and process people in need of medical attention in a much more timely and efficient manner. I believe lives will be saved and souls will be reached because of this new facility. Fihla Mtimkulu, a local leader in the community, wrote a thank you note: "You have provided a life saving service



(continued next column)

to the people of my community that will go on for ages!"

The Weekend Revival kicked off that same night following an already full and exhausting day with much joy and singing and dancing like only our African brothers and sisters can do! My niece, Jenn Burris, hit it out of the park with her children's program. A sad note: a girl was taken by a crocodile while fishing at the river on Saturday, not more than a mile from where we were meeting. How I wish she had been in our children's program instead!

Keep praying! As I would fall asleep in our tent at night, rain fly off to try to get some air movement, I would gaze at the stars and praise God for all he was accomplishing that weekend. But then I would hear that familiar sound I remembered from childhood, the beat of the drums at a local beer party, and I would realize, the needs are still so great here in this place that I love! Our theme for the weekend was "Lost and Found" using the three parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Keep praying as Hippo Valley Christian Mission continues to follow hard after Jesus to seek and save the lost!

Preaching Summit

Dave Thurman (HVCM Board Chairman)

On February 26-28, 2019, it was my privilege to lead a wonderful group of Christian leaders from the US, in conducting the 21st annual Zimbabwe Preaching Summit. For me personally, it was my eleventh time to be part of this annual event, held at Zimbabwe Christian College. We hosted about 170 preachers and Bible college students from three countries.

Those leading sessions were Joe Coquillard, Sr. Minister, New Hope Christian Church, Washington, IN (with two of his elders), Scott Beauchamp, Sr. Minister of Station Camp Christian Church, Irvine, KY (and two of his elders); Tom Scott, Sr. Minister of Cumberland Christian Church, Indianapolis; Dr. Bill MacDonald, Sr. Minister of Crooked Creek Church of Christ, Logan, WV (and his son, Caleb); Dr. Pete Kunkle, Sr. Minister, First Christian Church, Kernersville, NC, and me. Also participating was HVCM Vice-Chairman Darel Pruett and his wife Mary.



As always, the Summit was well received, and many of the preachers said it was their favorite Summit ever. We enjoyed lively worship and interaction with the preachers and students of ZCC. Everyone in attendance received three new books on doctrine and apologetics, a tie, a ball cap, a legal pad and a pen. Thanks to those who continue to step up and provide these helpful resources.

We ate well with food purchased by a gift from The Church at Mt. Gilead. On the last night we were able to give away many donated commentaries and Bibles, including about 20 brand new beautiful leather-bound Bibles donated by Lee Ramsey.

We look forward to next year's Summit, as preparations have already begun.

