

# 3 BIG THINGS

In this annual summer newsletter for HVCM we are focusing on 3 Big Things that are going on right now through the Mission:

- 1) *The official launching of Central Africa Christian College*
- 2) *The opening of Pemberton Station/Living Proof High School*
- 3) *Goho Re Churu (Harvest of a thousand souls) campaign/ revivals that are taking place through HVCM in Zimbabwe*

Those are some extremely big projects! However, there are many other positive things going on as God continues to bless this great mission. We are holding tutoring camps for Living Proof kids with hopes of preparing them for upcoming exams. We will be having our 2nd ever College Days event for Living Proof High School kids, bringing them to the capital city of Harare and giving them the opportunity to spend three days and nights on the campus of Central Africa Christian College (formerly Zimbabwe Christian College) at a life-challenging faith event. And, we are continuing to develop and improve our orphan, education and Living Proof ministry.

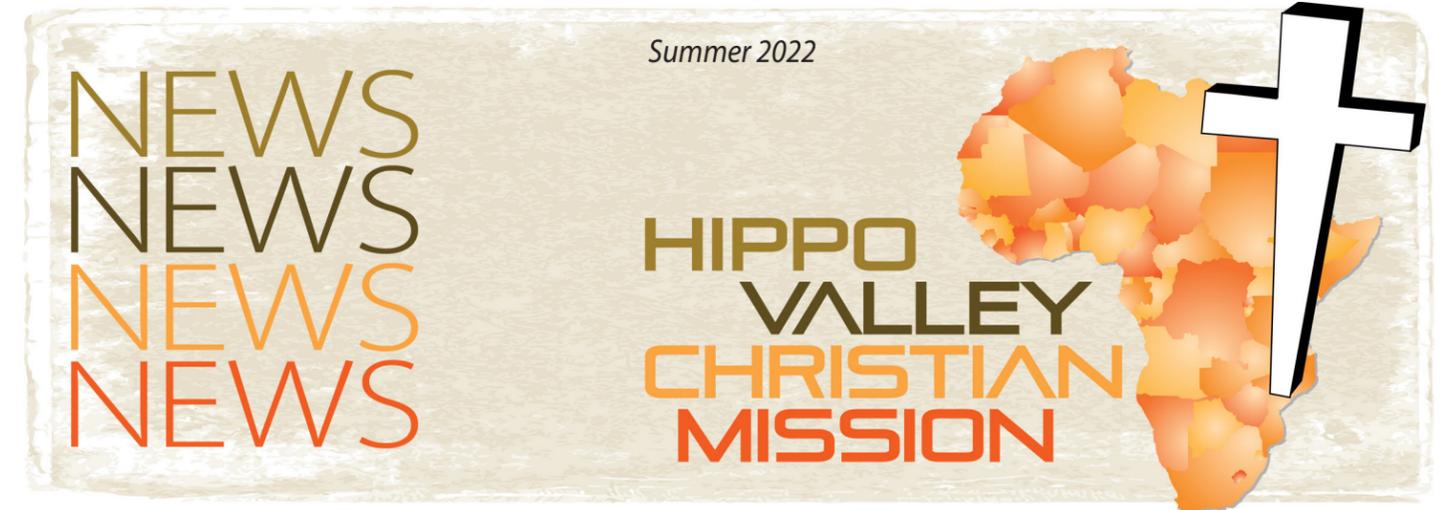
Make no mistake about it, these are historic times for Hippo Valley Christian Mission and it is exciting to be a part of God's great movement in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Making a Difference - Living Proof Program

by Patty Serhal

If you are currently a Living Proof sponsor of one of our mission school children, thank you! We are reaping the results of this program in many ways. During some of the revivals held this year, we have seen many of our Living Proof children accepting the Lord as their Savior and being baptized. We are so thrilled to see these pictures more and more frequently. Praise the Lord as we partner with you in these endeavors!

If you are not a sponsor, please consider this \$20/month investment in a precious child's life. Or, if you are already a sponsor and wish to sponsor more children, contact our office and we can match you with a child today.



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## Progress At Pemberton Station: Living Proof High School On Target To Open In January, 2023

by Al Serhal – Executive Director, USA

As most of you know, we have been working, planning, fundraising and jumping through multiple government hoops in Zimbabwe for several years with the hope of launching a mission school in the Gutu region. The 150 acre property we have is situated on a main highway directly in the middle of the country. We have named this property **Pemberton Station** in honor of our founders. In the spring of 2021, we announced that we were planning to begin with a high school, rather than a primary school, because high schools are in such demand in Zimbabwe. We made the decision to create a premier boarding school and provide opportunities for kids from our Living Proof program. These young people would have never dreamed they could attend a boarding school (let alone a premier one). With that in mind we named it **Living Proof High School**.

We set out to raise half a million dollars to build the dormitory, kitchen/dining hall, teacher/staff housing, latrines, electrical and water systems with the hope of opening the school in January, 2023. This past March we quickly realized that the costs and estimates we were working with were well under the actual cost...especially if we wanted it done right. Thus, we made the decision to go with a first rate and

reputable construction company in Bulawayo called *Maco Builders*, realizing that the cost was now \$900,000.

This required a lot of faith and holy boldness on our part but we know that we serve a big and generous God, and we trust Him to provide. Thanks to generous donors and especially a very generous matching gift promise, we are on track to open the school in January! At the time of this writing, *Maco Builders* tells us they will have the first phase finished by this September or October. This will allow all the inspections and other red-tape to commence in preparation for the first 135 form one students we will be receiving in January. Although there are still funds to be gathered and a great deal of work to be done on that end between now and then, we are moving forward in faith!

As of today, we are more than 2/3 of the way toward meeting our fundraising goal. If you or your congregation has not yet given specifically toward the Living Proof High School Project, we welcome your participation. If you have already contributed and can do more, it would also be most welcome.



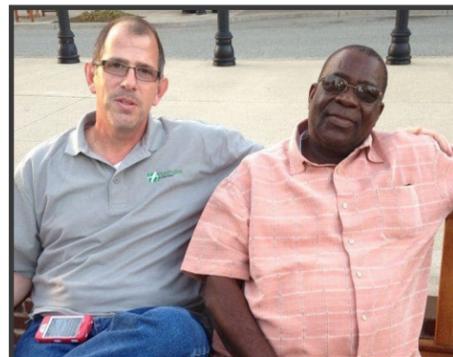
## Laid to Rest Under African Skies

Our dear friend and partner, Zebedee Togarepi, went home to be with the Lord this past February. He died on the operating table in St. Louis, MO due to a ruptured aorta. Zebedee was truly a remarkable man. One of 26 children born in rural Zimbabwe, Africa, he came to Christ through the influence of HVCM and our mission schools. He was the first graduate of Zimbabwe Christian College and the first preacher ever sponsored by John Pemberton and Lowell Lusby to come to the States to earn an accredited bachelor's degree at Kentucky Christian University. He later returned and earned his master's from Cincinnati Christian University, and in 2019 received an honorary doctorate from KCU.

Zeb was a church planter not only in Zimbabwe but also in Mozambique, after the fall of the communist regime in the late 1990s. He, along with John Mark Pemberton, helped establish an orphan ministry in 2000 to address the HIV epidemic that left so many children orphaned throughout Zimbabwe. He led Hippo Valley Christian Mission on the Zimbabwe side the last fifteen years before his retirement in 2021.

Although it took some doing, HVCM wanted to honor what we knew were Zebedee's wishes, which were to be buried at his rural home under his beloved African skies. It took 55 days from the time Zeb died here in the States until he reached his final resting place at his rural home of Benzi, in Zimbabwe. And what a funeral it was! From the time news first reached Zimbabwe that Zebedee had died, the Christians

and community began conducting services under a tent at his house in Chiredzi. Every night hundreds of people gathered to mourn, sing, preach, pray, comfort, reminisce and give testimony. This went on until the day his earthly body arrived in Zimbabwe.



More than 3000 people gathered for Zebedee's funeral



A service took place at a home close to the airport on the night of his arrival in Zimbabwe, Wednesday, March 23. The following day the journey began toward the Lowveld. Services ran all day and night Thursday, and again Friday. After a service at the church in Chiredzi, the funeral procession traveled two hours further into the bush to Benzi, Zeb's rural home where he was born and raised. Services went through the night and on Saturday morning the final services ran from 8 AM and until 3:30 PM, when his body was finally placed in the ground.

People came from all over the country of Zimbabwe as well as Mozambique to attend the funeral and pay their respects. They arrived packed in the back of trucks, on buses, and in cars. Many traveled long distances by foot. No running water, electricity or other modern conveniences exist at Benzi, but the people came and spent the night, keeping vigil until the last bit of dirt was placed on his grave.

Zebedee Togarepi was a remarkable man; a man of great distinction! He will be missed by his family and many friends throughout Zimbabwe as well as in the United States. His was a life well lived. Rest in God's Peace, dear friend!

# Central Africa Christian College To Be Established In Harare!

by Al Serhal – Executive Director, USA

Earlier this year we announced that we would not only be launching the new Living Proof High School at Pemberton Station, but would also be establishing Central Africa Christian College on the same 150 acre property in Gutu. This was a big, bold move and a big, bold vision! The plan was for CACC to train the hundreds who would reach the thousands throughout all of Central Africa!

Well, that vision is still very much alive, only with a new twist...

This past March while in Zimbabwe, we were approached by the administration and board of Zimbabwe Christian College, asking us to consider establishing CACC on their current campus and upon the already established foundation of ZCC, rather than building it at Pemberton Station. This, of course, was something we had hoped to do a few years ago but it was not yet part of God's timing. However, we learned that any hindrances, obstacles and reservations were a thing of the past and the ZCC board was eager to move forward with



CACC Board of Directors (Not pictured: James Jones & Al Serhal)

have a long history together. The first Bible College in Rhodesia was established by John Pemberton, Denny Pruett, and other missionaries as Mashoko Bible College in 1958. It later moved to Masvingo and was called Central Africa Christian College, before moving again to the capital city of Salisbury (now Harare) becoming Rhodesian Christian College. In 1981 the school officially changed its name to Zimbabwe Christian College when the nation became independent. Now, forty years later, we plan to move the institution further forward with a fresh new kingdom vision as **Central Africa Christian College**. CACC will be a four year institution offering accredited degrees in both Bible/Ministry as well as Bible/Teacher Education. Both degrees will have a strong emphasis on Bible and sound doctrine.

**CACC will be established on the campus and upon the foundation of ZCC with an expanded board, a new academic focus and a fresh vision for all of Central Africa!**

Zimbabwe is one of the most evangelized nations in all of Africa and has been greatly impacted by the Restoration Movement of Christian Churches/Churches of Christ. Zimbabwe is also one of the most educated nations in Central Africa. It is time for the church in Zimbabwe to start viewing themselves as a Sending Nation and not just a mission field.

The vision of Central Africa Christian College is to Train the Hundreds Who Will Reach the Thousands! Our vision is an international vision.

CACC will train students not only from Zimbabwe, but also the neighboring nations of Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, and even South Africa, where no Restoration Movement Bible Colleges presently exist.

CACC will greatly benefit from the infrastructure already in place at ZCC, not only with the ideally located property in the capital city of Harare, but also with the existing buildings, faculty, staff, library, chapel and more. In addition, there are people and churches already serving as a solid support base that can hopefully be expanded and built upon.

CACC will also benefit from the infrastructure of Hippo Valley Christian Mission in terms of having 28 mission schools with more than 20,000 children attending. HVCN desperately needs doctrinally sound Christian teachers and administrators for these mission schools. In addition, HVCN will open the brand new LIVING PROOF HIGH SCHOOL in January, 2023, at Pemberton Station. The school will also serve as a recruiting ground for young people who will be challenged to pursue God's dream for their lives. We are raising an army of future leaders for Central Africa!

This latest redirection was not our intention last January, but is an amazing opportunity for CACC to build on the campus and foundation of ZCC in the capital city of Harare. This is a kingdom opportunity too good to pass up! Our clear direction now is to invest our efforts and resources into developing CACC on the Harare campus.

At the time of this writing the name has been officially changed to Central Africa Christian College and the institution is planning to open next month under this new name and vision! The HVCN, ZCC and ZCF (Zimbabwe Christian Foundation) boards are united in regard to this historic merger. We believe God's hand is moving toward a great revival on the continent of Africa and we are so excited to have a strategic role in His plan!

## Editor's Note:

For clarity sake we want to make it clear that ZCC as a name is dissolved and replaced by CACC. CACC is under a new/expanded board which includes the following: James Jones, U.S. HVCN board member; Al Serhal, U.S. Executive Director, and, Sam Mahwehwe, HVCN General Manager in Zimbabwe. CACC is now a ministry within the umbrella of HVCN.

Although CACC is a ministry of HVCN and comes under our US offices in Grayson, KY, it is important to know that all funding and support given and raised for CACC is accounted for separately and only used for CACC.

Our desire and vision is to broaden and increase the support base of CACC as we seek to train the hundreds who will reach the thousands. We are very much in need of expanding the support base. If you or your church is currently supporters of HVCN, we encourage you to consider adding CACC as a separate mission worthy of your ongoing support.



# Goho Re Churu (Harvest of a Thousand Souls)

In January, HVCN launched an evangelistic campaign called Goho re Churu, which, in Shona, means the Harvest of a Thousand Souls. Under the leadership of our Evangelism Manager, Alone Gudyanga, we began multiple revivals within our schools and churches calling on young and old alike to repent and come to Jesus for salvation. We purchased a big tent, a generator and new sound equipment. With the help of our friends from IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services) we also provided nearly half a million food packets. All of this was accompanied by hard work, prayer meetings, calling, teaching, promoting, singing and good gospel preaching. The result is revival within our churches and schools. To date we have seen 583 souls won to Christ this year! For that we give praise God!



Jenn Burris working with the children at the Revival



Donna (Burriss) Stroop doing village calling

Donna (Burriss) Stroop, HVCN board member and former Zimbabwean missionary, recently returned from a trip to the mission where one of these revival meetings was held at Dine. Here is her story:

*We had been planning and praying for months leading up to the revival at the mission station where I grew up as a missionary kid on the fork of the Mwenezi and Dine rivers, a place very dear to my heart. We traveled the weekend before the revival to go calling in neighboring villages and also to work with the children at the school.*

*We told the kids at our two schools in Dine, "Vuyamangwana" (Come tomorrow)...and they did! I would say 2/3 of our attendance at the Dine revival were children. At one point, I looked at the line up for lunch and prayed, "Lord, multiply the sadza like you did the 5 loaves and 2 fish." A big thank you to my niece, Jenn Burris, and her children's ministry team! They were wonderful and we couldn't have done the work we accomplished nor had the results we had without their valuable contribution to the bigger picture.*

*The weekend revival at Dine was successful not only due to the months of preparation, planning and prayer or the fact that we had a great children's ministry team who did such a fantastic job. It was also because we did*

*the hard work of putting in the miles while doing village to village calling. This is something that I learned from my missionary parents, Dan and Esther Burris. Sidyne Mavodza, Central Africa Christian College's President, was on my village calling team on Saturday morning and we were reminiscing about my dad's evangelism class when we were in Bible College. Sidyne told me he had to get out and call on people and report back to Dad the next day in class. I said, "Yes, that's my dad." We put in some miles on dusty paths and visited people in their space, in their poverty, in their need. We loved on them and prayed for them*

*and we invited them to share in the joy of our salvation in Jesus Christ.*



A baptism at the river

*That afternoon, our Revival at Dine culminated in 35 baptisms down at the river. Tears were streaming down my face as my heart was rejoicing with the angels in heaven!*



Handing out rice packages from IDES

Contact Greg Holmgren 386-846-7172, greg@hippovale.org or Al Serhal, 304-710-0492, serhalal@gmail.com to arrange for them to come to your church and present the work of CACC

**583 BAPTISMS THIS YEAR!**