

Hippo Valley Christian Mission • P.O. Box 686 • Grayson, KY 41143 • 606-474-3460 • [www.hippovalley.org](http://www.hippovalley.org)

## Leaving a Legacy

### Mike Grooms Preaching Scholarship

*by Al Serhal – Executive Director, USA*

You may remember a couple of years ago we wrote about the Mike Grooms Preaching Scholarship. Mike was a friend of HVCN and the year before he died of cancer, Mike had visited the mission and spoke for our annual Preaching Summit in Harare. He and his wife Enise were so moved by the work of HVCN, and especially in the area of preacher training, that upon Mike's death they decided to give \$10,000 of Mike's life insurance to the mission. The policy was not for a lot of money and the \$10K certainly exceeded a tithe, but Enise said she trusted in God as her provider and insisted we take the money. So we did.

We made the decision to set up the Mike Groom's Preaching Scholarship to provide tuition, room and board for deserving young men, connected to HVCN, who wish to preach and attend Zimbabwe Christian College. We did not set up \$10K as an "endowment"; instead, we planned to use the principle amount for as long as the funds held out and to help as many young Preachers as we could (it costs around \$1200 per year to send a student to ZCC).

When I first wrote up the story about the gift, I titled it "A Widows Mite" because I knew the sacrifice that went into it. I knew that Mike and Enise had very little in terms of the world's possessions. They had spent 30 plus years in urban ministry as well as the mission field. They never drove a car newer than 10 years old and never owned a home. They just always relied on God as their provider.

In the article, I also called attention to another widow from the Bible. In the Old Testament, the widow of Zarephath trusted in God every day to provide for her, her son and the Prophet Elijah. If you recall the story in 1 Kings 17, her barrel of flower and jar of oil never ran out. We had hoped that God would do the same with this \$10K gift! We prayed that God would just keep that barrel full and it would never run out. Like Enise and Mike, we decided to trust in God to provide funding for as many young preachers as the funds would allow.

Fast forward two years later and God has done more than we hoped or imagined. Since that initial gift was made, there have been a number of individuals and churches who were inspired to donate toward the Mike Grooms Scholarship as well. So much in fact, that we still have not touched the principle of that initial \$10K while supporting four full time students at ZCC. Amazing!

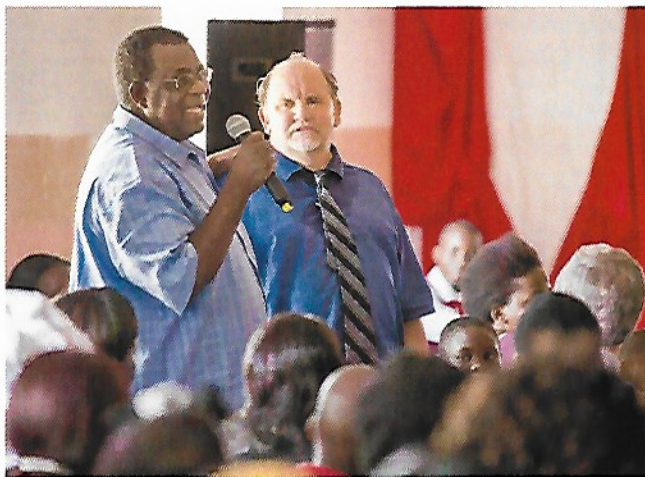
In addition, The Tomoka Christian Church in Ormond Beach, FL was inspired by the story and decided to sponsor four additional students and they now plan to increase that number to six students for the upcoming school term. And, earlier this year, we received an additional \$14,000 gift from another dear widow (Wilma Hoffman) in memory of her late husband Bob who went to be with the Lord last year. She too was inspired by the Widows Mite and we have since established an International Scholarship for students from Malawi and Mozambique who wish to attend ZCC under the Mike Grooms Scholarship in Bob's name. At least two Malawian students are set to receive this scholarship in this upcoming school term. It is just amazing what can be done

when we put things in the Lord's hand!

The bottom line is this: There will now be 10 students at ZCC training for the ministry who would normally have no chance of going thanks to this Mike Grooms Scholarship and that Widows Mite.

Personally, I can think of no better legacy than to invest in recruiting and training the next generation of leaders and preachers. Can you?

Have you considered leaving a lasting legacy through HVCN? The orphan ministry, Living Proof Scholarship fund, Mike Grooms Scholarship fund or any number of projects can provide a lasting legacy and an investment in eternity.





# Project Updates

by Al Serhal – Executive Director, USA

## 1. February in Zimbabwe

I spent my annual month of February in Zimbabwe; Teaching at the college and leading a team down to Chiredzi and then back to Harare to conduct the 20th Annual Preaching Summit.

We were able to take an amazing number of quality resources for both the students as well as the 140 participants who attended the Preaching Summit. All first year students received *NIV Study Bibles* as well as Wilbur Fields' *Old Testament History*. All second and third year students received Jack Cottrell's *The Faith Once for All* and Denver Sizemore's *13 Lessons in Christian Doctrine* and 12 *More Lessons in Christians Doctrine*. Teaching sound doctrine is crucial at this stage of the Church of Christ in Zimbabwe.

In addition, all students and participants in the Preaching Summit received the new preaching book from College Press, *Letting the Text Win*, by Mark Moore and J.K. Jones as well as a *Halley's Bible Handbook*. They also received gifts of pens, ties, and more.

We are so thankful to all the churches and individuals who pull together to make this event happen!

## 2. HVCM in Building Mode

There is a lot going on right now in the area of buildings and expansion. The Rushangarumwe project is nearing completion and appears to be completely funded thanks to the Mt. Vernon Church. The building is mostly completed and two of the three nurses houses are at roof levels. This will finish the Rush mission station, complete with the school, church building, and now the clinic.

Dine clinic is progressing nicely and relatively quickly. Lots of hard work from Donna and Steve Stroop in just a years time!

The Gutu School will begin within the next month. Sand is being purchased for bricks and hopefully, there will be a Primary school there by the new year.

The new Rutenga church plant, sponsored by the Lowell Church of Christ, Lowell, IN has received \$4,412.00 from GTO Evangelizing Association for a building stand and temporary shelter.

## 3. Living Proof

We currently have 230 LP children receiving high school fees. Presently we are operating with around 1200 children sponsored with 1400 or more in the program.

## 4. Aquaponics Here We Come

HVCM was recently contacted by a group from Tomoka Christian Church in Ormand Beach, FL about building an aquaponics system in Zimbabwe. Aquaponics can be a back yard business for our Preachers which could allow them to be financially independent. We are scheduled to install the first system in February 2019.

## EMAIL – What ?

We are needing to update our email address list. If your email address has changed, please email us at [hvcm@hippovalley.org](mailto:hvcm@hippovalley.org) to let us know about the change. We prefer to send any correspondence via email to help curb administrative costs and your help with this is appreciated.



Living Proof Chaplains and Patrons in their new shirts

## Chaplain's & Patron's Conference

In May a group from Indiana held a Living Proof Patron's conference, where 51 chaplains and patrons attended. Good food, fellowship, workshops, activities, and lots of encouragement and thanks were given to the Chaplains and Patrons, who give of themselves to invest in the Living Proof Children in their particular schools. We are so excited about the days ahead with this program. The next conference will be scheduled for next summer, and everyone is already looking forward to it. We are thrilled that we are able to provide this time of recognition and encouragement for them.

## Announcing the Living Proof Vehicle Fundraiser

We are calling on our Living Proof sponsors to respond with an EXTRA months \$20 donation that will go directly toward the purchase of this vehicle. Since \$20 is the monthly sponsorship amount per child, we are asking for this as a starting point. Of course, some of you will be able to give \$50, \$100 or more...and that will be greatly appreciated. Our goal is \$25,000! You can mail your check to HVCM P.O. Box 686, Grayson, KY 41143 or go to our website at [www.hippovalley.org](http://www.hippovalley.org) and give online.



We can't wait to see this vehicle rolling down those back roads of Zimbabwe announcing to the world that God is working through HVCM and together we are raising up an army of leaders! Who knows, maybe we'll raise enough for two vehicles!

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