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tlc Updates

2013 REFLECTIONS, **THANKSGIVINGS** and **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!**

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:1, 2

We cannot believe that another year has come and gone. Although the days are gone the memories and experiences and blessings are GREAT! As we reflect, these are just a few of our memories we would like to thank God for and share with you!

- **First family style home opened at COZV.** This is a home for 8 small boys from age 5 – 13 and a house mother. They have learned to do the many daily chores of Africa including plowing and watering/caring for a garden. This is moving away from the current dormitory type setting.



- The **school enrollment increased** for the day scholars (children coming from town and not Zion) from 33 last year to 63 this year. The number coming from Zion went from 27 to 20 since 7 graduated grade 7 and were attending grade 8 in the government schools. Zion Mission School is a private Christian School for pre-school through grade 7.



- **Two graduated from grade 12.** One is going onto university to study medicine and the other is not yet certain of his plans. **CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**



tlc Updates continued

- We received **new team mates**, Lena and Johannes Ebner, in June to stay long term here and serve with us. One team from Mt Zion UMC in Maryland served at Zion 10 days. Rebecca and Amanda, 2 wonderful girls volunteered for 6 months. One family came for a week.



- We attended a **Missions Conference for Africa in Ghana** and visited a few other missionaries on the field in Ghana.



- End of school celebration** in town with the **governor attending** along with other government officials. **Six learners graduated** from grade seven so they will attend a different school next year.



- First ever time to participate in a **fun run race** with food and prizes along with the Zambezi Private School.



- The first ever (as far as we know) **"field day"** was organized for the end of the school year by one of our volunteers, Rebecca. She made them tie-died shirts and organized many relay games and food and 2 blow up "bouncy houses".



tlc Updates continued

- We **experienced unexpected loss** of Lorna's sister-in-law and one of our older children, Julia who was back living with her family in the village.



- **Two staff Spiritual retreats.** One that focused on LOVE and the most recent that focused on "Stay the Course." These events include prayer, guest speakers, songs, activities and a craft.



- **Nightly Bible studies** are being taught to the children to match the character traits of Christ that are being worked on at the school. One night there is a reading with questions about the Bible Story. Then the next night there is a life application activity. Also there are **Saturday afternoon Bible Studies** for the children at Zion and also at least **20 children** from the **nearby village** are coming!



- The third annual **race around the world** happened in Katima in August and in other parts of the world a bit later in the year. This is a fund raising event for COZV which helps to meet the vision plan for Zion. The event was led by a beautiful banner that was handmade and created by **Judy Lenehan** from Mt Zion UMC in Maryland! Thank you Judy!!! The banner also led the end of school parade.



tlc Updates continued

- **Donations** were received from **Mt Zion Ministries**, from **South Africa** and **4 shops in town**. Additionally, **3 families** heard a **radio interview** that we did about our calling to COZV and responded with donations for the children. **Makinsey Allen** and her class sent gifts to all of the children. **Friends** that we made continue to contribute to Zion in many ways; from plants to construction to curtains and towels and prayer and much more. Even one **small 6 year old** girl that is new to town donated some of her toys to the children. **AND**, a gift of **3 bee hives** was donated to get a small business started and then pass on to the children.



- Organization and cooking/baking for **Christmas parties**. One party for **staff**, one party for the **Mafuta feeding center** to include the staff and over 50 children and one party for **our children** (this will actually happen in January when they are ALL back from visiting family). Also, we were blessed to be able to deliver food, toys and clothes to **7 different surrounding villages** and give a message about the true meaning of Christmas and sing a few Christmas carols.



- We have been blessed with a wonderful Christmas **gift of new life**. A 5 week old baby girl has joined our family here at Zion on December Friday 13, 2013. Her name is **Purity**.



TLC Updates continued

Please pray with us as we look to the vision for Children of Zion Village.



- **We pray for wisdom in discipleship opportunities.** That the children are getting filled with the knowledge of the Bible such that their hearts will soften to Him and He might be the light that shines through them when they leave this village. That they might know Him as their personal savior.
- As we shift from the big dormitory style setting to the smaller **family style homes**, we pray for the **house parents** and we pray that this will be a better environment for learning, loving and living. We also pray that the **funding** will come in to provide for this huge project. We know that nothing is too big for God!
- Continued development of the **Zion Mission School**. Pray for the correct way to shift the school since we have currently out grown the school block. We are thankful that this is yet another way to reach children for Christ.
- **Relationships** continue to build with the government and community and for our new team.
- That we could become **more self-sufficient** with the garden harvests, the rental of the trailer and the chicken projects. Also that other projects would be adapted for the ladies/widows and the children that do not make it in school. This would also be a ministry for sharing God's love.
- We pray for **development at Mafuta feeding center**. For resources for a **bigger school** and school supplies. For the capacity for a **more self-sustaining center**. For a garden that would bring great harvest and for staff that would share the word of the Lord.

May God richly bless you during this most wonderful Christmas season. May you feel His presence and His love and our prayers for you. If you feel called, please consider an end of year donation.

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Thank you and God Bless you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!
Because of HIM

Travis and Lorna Curry (TLC)