

targeting MCZF members but at a local level every fellowship group is encouraged to involve their main English service congregation .

It's mainly based on fellowship members making a contribution and the Midlands had a fundraising day on 21st May."

Michael Mapako

We hope to have more details in our next newsletter.

Visitor from Australia

It was good to meet Mark Edmonds at our AGM in April. He was in the UK on holiday from Australia and very kindly went out of his way to come and meet us all. He told us about the work he has done at MRCH to boost the food production with new irrigation and upgraded water supply and plumbing to each house. From the UK he went on to Zimbabwe to continue his work there.

"He has made a nursery hot house and this will help us to cut the expenses of buying raised seedlings, we will grow our own"

Lloyd Kupeta

Our next meeting, at which everyone is made very welcome, is 11am June 17th in Droitwich Methodist Church. Please contact our secretary for details.

Thank you to all who have raised funds for the Children in Zimbabwe, their need is still so great. Please continue your marvellous support and could you set up a standing order and/or gift aid your donation? Please remember we are all volunteers and apart from copying and posting this newsletter all your money goes to the Home.

New Treasurer

Immanuel Mudzingo is at last in post and looks forward to dealing with your donations and gift aid forms in the future.

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Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home

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NEWS FROM THE HOME

Our message this month is Thank you! Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the many renovations in the housing units, like these new kitchen cupboard doors.



Thanks to all the Friends, all the children are in school and have adequate stationery, school fees and school supplies. So we are saying thank you and God bless.

Zvirinane Matore

In April the Department of Social Services conducted assessments on all the foster parents and until these were completed the children were unable to go for their holidays. This meant that the staff were extremely busy over the Easter holidays. The highlight was that the older children, 15 to 18 years, received a week's training in animal production.

There is a rising culture in Zimbabwe of holiday homework. The teachers here give children lots of holiday homework that they need to complete before schools open. So you can imagine the kind of work undertaken when you consider the number of children we have of primary school age. The volunteers and interns are doing an amazing job supervising



this homework. We have 2 volunteers currently at the Home and together with 4 interns this team is an amazing resource for the children. They are also assisting with mostly sport and guided play.

We have received several young children the past few months who need lots of baby formulae. The deepening economic crisis is contributing to the children coming here. They come through the normal channels of the Department of Social Services,

but looking at their case files a lot of them end up at the Department because they have been abandoned or abused.

Rev Margaret Mawire



Children relax in their living room

Yes we were on duty over the Easter holidays and visitors came to tell the children all about the Easter story. Lloyd Kupeta

Staff being on duty meant they were unable to have time off with their own families. They must have been very grateful to have the small team of volunteers and interns to help supervise the children. Ed

MRCH Big Sunday was moved from May so it didn't coincide with Wesley Week, this year it is going to be held on 18th June. This is a big day on our calendar as it closes off the Matthew Rusike Week in which we celebrate the work of Matthew Rusike Children's Home. Our aim is to raise awareness of the Home in Zimbabwe as well as fundraise for the Home. Our Staff (Margaret, Lloyd, Rairo, Norlin,

Rev Chikomo and myself) visit the circuits to publicise this event. We expect all the Harare Circuits to attend because of proximity but in some instances, reps are sent even from far away circuits.

This is a full day event, which starts off with a church service and our guest preacher this year is the Harare West District Bishop Rev Sungai. Afterwards there are various activities such as entertainment (choir, poems, dances) and games (volleyball and netball). This year we also intend to have a bouncy castle.

On the day the circuits bring many donations in kind, mostly foodstuffs including maize and stationery. We basically sell everything we can think of. From the gate we have ribbons for sale that one can put on. We sell lots of food - burgers, fizzy drinks, water, rice, chicken, salads and braai (BBQ) packs as well. We sell produce from the hothouses depending on what is ready at the time, also chickens and pork for people to take home.

We really try to maximise on everything but we don't know how this will be this year due to the cash crisis in the country. This event grows bigger every year and we hope it will be another big success.

Zvirinane Matore

The weather!

Our March newsletter reported on the heavy rains which Zimbabwe experienced earlier this year. Fortunately they came at the right time and resulted in some bumper crops. This maize and other crops are growing in each of the house gardens tended by the house mothers. Ed



Mercy stands proudly with her bumper crop

These maize plants must feel like a jungle to these little ones.



Now it's nearly June and it's getting cold here but I'm sure you would find our cold very pleasant for you. You should see us, we are all wrapped up in lots of layers of clothing these days. Enjoy your summer.

Zvirinane Matore

A level sponsorship

Two young people did not return to MRCH school after receiving good O level results in February as their families cannot raise the necessary fees.

GC is 17 and had 7 good passes. She is fortunate that a group of friends at Wells Methodist Church, Somerset, have raised £1000 to cover the 2 years study fees, stationery and educational visits and she has already begun her studies.

LS is 17 and also did well at O level but so far he does not have sponsors. Could you raise £800 by Christmas to give him the chance to do his A level studies beginning next January when the new educational year begins?

If you can help please contact the chair for more information Ed

Methodist Church Zimbabwe Fellowship UK

The many Zimbabwean Methodists in the UK have a national network which meets regularly across the regions. They have always supported MRCH and this year decided to raise money for the eight houses to be tiled throughout. At the moment all the floors are polished regularly by the mothers and children, a very arduous job.

"We are doing regional fundraising events mainly