February Newsletter 2015 [www.gregsophiesangwine.org.uk](http://www.gregsophiesangwine.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

February has come and gone in a flash! 2015 is whizzing by and we have so much happening that we have to constantly check ourselves and remember to take a step back and observe what is happening around us in our work and personal lives.

**Personal Life**

We are well settled back into our home and work and are thoroughly enjoying the amount of time we get to spend as a family both at work and at home and it is doubly special that we get to spend so much time outside due to the wonderful weather Harare has to offer! Sophie is still spending a few hours every day at school with JT. Attempting to get office work done alongside supporting the continuing development of the teachers in all 4 classes. Greg is well settled with his Grade 2 class and is spending every day training the Grade One teacher in how to deliver her lessons, check her class progress, do assessments and so forth – so it’s busy!

JT is a constant delight and has got a proper ‘human belly laugh’ which brings us so much joy every day! He is incredibly happy and smiley and enjoys the amount of attention he gets! (Except from Auntie Lorraine whom he seems to cry for! She’s very sad about that!) We are blessed that we have all had good health since being back and JT is much more adaptable to the hot, humid, wet weather we are having so is sleeping well and generally looking more handsome every day! (We are a little obsessed with him!) As time progresses we will be looking into having some support with JT so please do pray we find someone we connect with to help support JT and Sophie over the next few months.

In other family news, we now all have a Visa! JT now has a TEP (temporary employment permit) in his passport which at least means he can now come to work with me! Haha! Our visas run out in October and we will be applying within the next couple of months for an extension for all of us. We will hopefully be applying for a longer term extension. However, we are aware that many Europeans are currently struggling to be accepted for Visas and it is possible less than 50% are being accepted so we must continually pray for success for ourselves!

**Project Updates**

We are thankful that since term has progressed we have gained some new registrations across the school. We now have 39 children in the ECD and 38 children in Grades 1 and 2 so we are nearly at the schools current capacity. We are continually in contact with the ministries for education and health with regards to expanding our licence in terms of the number of children we can have.

We are so thankful that the swimming pool we have been eager to renovate since we arrived, is now under renovation work! Pastor Gatsi contacted the swimming pool company who worked on One Way Ministries prayer mountain pool and they have graciously offered to foot the bill for the renovation work with the stipulation that we use the pool for school lessons and for community outreach – which we are super excited about! So Praise the Lord. It will be winter soon so we will be starting lessons for the children from September.

We are proud of the staff at One Way School who have already undertaken training and gained certificates and diplomas in ECD education. Betty and Masli are currently taking the ECD teacher training course to gain their certificates which is fantastic! Rumbi and hopefully a second teacher from our school will be starting a course in the next few months to upgrade their ECD certificates to diplomas for Primary Teaching, which is also incredibly exciting! We are so keen not only to educate children whilst we are here, but adults too, and we are so thankful that they have a heart to learn and a willingness to put their time and effort into expanding their knowledge and gaining new qualifications.

We have in the last couple of weeks, set up One Way School PTA. There are around 10 parents currently involved with 2 teaching staff, Prudence and Sophie. They are incredibly keen and want to get things done ‘now now’ which is almost unheard of here! They are keen to be the spearhead for fundraising for the new developments for the Primary School and have generated multiple ideas for fundraising. The first of which will be a breakfast morning, followed by a Fun morning at the end of March with all manner of fun and games! We desperately need the PTA to work well together and take ownership over the school and the children and its future in order for the project to be sustainable in the long term. So please do pray for this!

We are also in the process of setting up One Way School Trust. We are hoping this will involve Greg, a parent who is a lawyer and has offered to donate his time and support for all paperwork, a pastor, an elder and the local education officer. This trust will be crucial again for the long term sustainability of the project/ school and will be great for accountability for all involved. Please do pray that we would set this up correctly and with the right people with a heart for the school and the community.

**Fundraising**

With an ever expanding project, we are continually seeking fundraising projects, ideas and events both locally and internationally. With the PTA spearheading the events here we are hopeful that within the next 3 months we can generate a solid foundation for the new build for the new classrooms. We are hoping to raise at least $10000 and are thankful to all who support us financially in this. We are also thankful to those who support us in the collection of resources, books and other items which are brought here by visitors and volunteers.

We are hoping to run a fundraising event in the UK named ‘Power Cut Week’ where we encourage families or individuals to live for at least 4 hours each evening with zero power (completely cutting power to their house). This will give a small insight into how many, many families in Zimbabwe live daily causing struggles with cooking, washing, light, tv and storage of food. We would like to encourage people to get sponsored to live in this way for one week to highlight the struggle it can be. When we have definite dates for this week we will send a fresh email with sponsorship forms if you would like to be involved!

**Prayer Points**

* That we would continue to adapt to our new roles as parents and project leaders
* That the PTA would work well as a team and have success with it’s projects
* That there will be enthusiasm for the various fundraising events and they will be successful

Thank you again for your incredible love and support, we are forever grateful! Please do keep in contact.

God Bless,

Greg, Sophie and JT xx

 JT @ 4.5 months