June Newsletter 2014 [gregandsophiesangwine@gmail.com](mailto:gregandsophiesangwine@gmail.com) [www.gregsophiesangwine.org.uk](http://www.gregsophiesangwine.org.uk)

**Dear Friends,**

June 2014 means we have now been writing Zimbabwean newsletters for two years. Luckily for us we’ve been far more successful than any of the English sports teams in this time. I for one am, sick of watching them lose – Oh well at least QPR won at Wembley and are in the Premier League (for now). That makes it better for you all, right? No…just me?   
  
**Recent Testimonies – Thank-you God**The cynical amongst us would say that there is never a good time to have a baby. “*I haven’t got enough money*” or “*I’m focussing on my career*” and I’m sure there were a few people who questioned our decision to have children when we’re working as volunteers in a foreign continent with no entitlement to maternity pay. But God looks after us so well. I’m going to start this newsletter with many stories we can thank God for.  
  
1) When we told our staff we were leaving we saw it as an opportunity for them to rise to the challenge. Fortunately, or unfortunately (depending on how you read this) it has meant that Sophie and I are now almost redundant! The staff we have are well prepared, innovative, creative teachers and we are so proud of the people we work with.  
  
2) As we’ve written many times our situation visa wise can be sticky but when I handed over our documents this time I heard “*Hi Uncle Greg*” and it was a Dad of one of the kids in the nursery class. He took the folder and gave me a wink. God is in control!  
  
3) When we first came to Zimbabwe we thought we’d be teaching in the school that the church was setting up. However, things were slightly different, we ended up being the people running the school. Which was great and I believe God sheltered us from the true facts just in case we said no. Now though, the church is actively involved in the school and the schools work will be written in as part of the church’s constitution. When we come back to Zimbabwe, our roles will be volunteer head of school and volunteer infant co-ordinator and grade two teacher. No more finances or official ‘business’ documents. We’ll be full time teachers again. Yay!! Maybe Sophie will have a harder time not having maternity leave and having to work but I know she’ll love her new role and pistachio will be around school all the time so she is not worrying. God is really providing for us.  
  
4) Finally, we’ve had a hassle getting certain documents such as curriculums, building plans and council permits so we asked the children to pray for them and they turned up. Their faith is awesome – “*God did that Uncle*” one of them said to me and all I could think about was how the child is only 5…humbling!

**Fundraising Update**Thank –you again to Beckie Bowler for her fundraising run and we’ve had a few more donations come in recently as well. Currently, internationally we’ve raised $1045 towards our $5000 target and the stories of coffee mornings, stalls, runs and walks are inspiring the Zimbabweans to do the same. I know of two events happening in Africa in September and October. The first being a family fun day and the second an auction and three course dinner evening.  
  
I encourage you all (as a gift for reading this ;) to raise 50 pounds each towards our school. Alternatively, why not visit [www.hopeforharare.org](http://www.hopeforharare.org) and sponsor Ali Delacourt, Lucy Buckthorpe, Hayley Brown and Marie Goodes who are walking 15.2 miles (24.5Km) from Kew Gardens to Tower Bridge along the Thames Path on 15th August 2014. Thanks for doing it ladies – the Hararians cannot believe anyone would walk that far for them. You are an inspiration.  
Lastly, having read these things before and often thinking I cannot afford to send any money please donate what you can afford. 10 pounds doesn’t buy much in England but $16.50 buys a lot for a school in Zimbabwe.

**Volunteer opportunities!**We have been mentioning over the past few months that we would love volunteers to spend time in Zimbabwe for short or long term projects with us regardless of experience and we are super excited that we have had such an offer taken up by the wonderfully enthusiastic Ali Delacourt (see fundraising walk above!). Ali will be spending 3 months in Zim, staying in our house whilst we are in the UK and working on a variety of projects with One Way School, One Church and a local mission project ACTS for Africa. We have a busy timetable to keep her entertained and look forward to her sharing her knowledge and expertise in business, finance and computers alongside working with educating the children and adults that we work with here. We are so thankful for Ali giving her time to the projects and cannot wait to see just how big her support here will impact the community we work with! Thank you Ali, and please, anyone reading this who may be interested personally or know people who may be interested in volunteering with us, please do get in contact, we would love to have you on board!

**One Way School**Charles, who is married to one of our teachers; Rumbi works for the army and used to be a contractor. He’s a whiz with all things like plumbing, building, electrics and carpentry and has agreed to take a couple of months off work to join our staff in August and September to do our renovations. If we were to hire him for each job his labour charges would vastly exceed the allowance we are giving him so he’s supporting us so faithfully. We really appreciate his commitment to our schools work. We hope to have enough money to complete the renovations for the infant building by the end of September.  
Furthermore, we are in the process of conducting interviews for our new primary school positions. We wish to employ two qualified teachers and a teaching assistant. We’ll update you on that in July.

**Homecoming**We will be back Sunday 27th July and we are so excited to see everyone. Don’t worry though I won’t be lazing around for too long because (another testimony) I managed to secure full time employment as a year four teacher for the first school term. Personally I can’t wait to get back into school life and spend some time on my own professional development ready to bring fresh ideas back to Zimbabwe with us!

**Pistachio**  
Sophie had our second scan this week. He/she is healthy, happy, wriggly and growing well. Sophie’s clearly a good oven! The ultrasound technician even commented that our baby ‘is very active’ We’re predicting a diagnosis of ADHD in the future. ;)

**Prayer Points**

* Thank-you God for testimonies
* Pray for Charles and the renovations
* Fundraising including the walk
* Staffing for One Way School and all remaining paper work

Thank you again and God Bless!

Sophie and Greg xx