## May Newsletter 2015

Dear Friends and Family,

We thank you once again for your continued love, support and encouragement for our journey here in Zimbabwe. We have been blessed this month with a visit from a team from our home church, CCC including 7 adults and 1 very excitable little boy! Below is a snapshot of their time here in their own words, we hope you will enjoy taking time to read them.

Thank you for your prayers from our last newsletter. We are delighted that JT has settled very well with his Auntie Chessie and spends 4 hours each morning with her during the week, Sophie has built a good friendship with her and is spending more time in the school each day. We have now closed registrations for the school as we have 93 pupils; huge YAY! We are so delighted with the turn up in registrations. We have not been able to reapply for our visas as they are currently not taking applications and have been advised to try again in 6 weeks. We also do not have the paperwork in place yet for the Primary school licence.

Prayer Points

- That our visa application will be accepted and processed before we return to the UK in August
- That the Primary school developments would remain on track
- For JT as he goes through some big changes mainly teething and growth spurts as his sleeping is suffering

God Bless, Greg, Sophie and JT x

## UK TEAM 2015

I have had the best week in Zimbabwe! It has been so exciting and I have learnt so much. We have been made to feel so welcome and I have loved meeting and getting to know such wonderful, caring, faith filled people. One highlight of the week for me has to be getting to ride an elephant! An experience I definitely won't forget! I'm looking forward to returning in the future! Thank You One Way School! Natalie x

This was my first visit to Africa and I have had an amazing time. The weather here is amazing, even if it is winter here!! This trip has been such an incredible experience and one I hope I will never, ever forget. I have learnt so much since being here; I have learnt about the genuine happiness of people here even when it looks to me like they have not a lot. One thing they have inspired in me is to be more Christ like as I have seen in each of the people here at One Way. I loved the opportunity to see the school, and to take part in teaching a lesson and the Sports Day! You can see Gods work in this place and seeing Greg and Sophie's passion for the school has been infectious. I would love to see the school grow as they intend it to. **Sarah**  $\times$ 

I have had an experience I hope I will never forget. It has been a journey of faith (literally) and I expect it will change may life in way I will see unfold over time. I have had an awesome opportunity to visit this wonderful place and the people far exceeded my expectations of faith in God. This example I hope to fully adopt! I had the privilege of being part of the UK team and the Zim team and together I believe we made God smile. It was truly breathtaking to see both the sunrise (over here seemed like none I had seen before) and the sunset from the 'mountain' Domboshawa. We feasted at Braai's, gave pleasure in worship, were reminded of God's creation at Pamuzinda, saw education of different kinds, took part in the Olympic sports day and least, but not least, developed my relationship with the Sangwine family. After all, we serve a relational God and what better way to express love than to be together. **Tracy** 

One of my thoughts as we get ready to depart after a week in Zimbabwe, is "will we ever be the same again?" There are so many things that have made a deep impression.

One Way School is amazing. I thought I knew a lot about the work here before I came, but to meet the children and their teachers and see the school has been so inspiring. Even allowing for Greg and Sophie's talent, enthusiasm, determination and professionalism; what is happening at One Way School is a miracle, and it has been a privilege to witness that this week. Equally miraculous is the works some of the preschool teachers are doing in their own areas. They have started with nothing and are seeing the fulfilment of their dreams and visions and above all, answer to their prayers. They need our prayers too, as some of them face seemingly insurmountable obstacles. We can put a face to the people working in Hatcliffe, Epworth and Highfield, and we have lots of photos to encourage us as we continue to pray for them. **Maureen**  $\times$ 

Obviously, seeing Sophie, Greg and JT was a highlight of the trip to Zim. Even suffering the 'Jack Jack attack' in the back of the car was also a pleasure!!

Seeing my idea of painting chalkboards for the Hatcliffe Community schools through to fruition was great. The team worked well together and Sports Day was fab with all enjoying it and a superb braai after! Our day at Pamuzinda was fun and I really enjoyed the horseback Safari with Sophie, getting close up to the wildlife. The pool was a little chilly after however!

Getting to know some of the people here a bit better was great. Well done to all the workers here for making our stay easier. I'm sure Natalie is looking forward to a hot shower now however! **Sue** x

My time here in Africa has truly been one to remember. I found myself challenged spiritually and emotionally due to the people of Zimbabwe. They have a unique way of being so very generous and grateful for everything they receive. This was a totally different view to what I am used to back in London. I have really seen a difference from living in a material world. I have seen how genuine and happy people who love and trust God are and those from Zimbabwe displayed such a Christ Like image. They are truly role models and this has been such a wakeup call to the life I have been living and the changes I can make.

Zimbabwe is a beautiful country and it has been beautiful to see nature in its most natural environment. The sunset at Domboshawa was absolutely breathtaking and we took lots of amazing photos and managed to have so much fun - even with a suspected fractured toe!!

Nathaniel, when asked about his favourite part of the trip said "seeing animals". Then asked what was his second favourite said "seeing Jack Jack"! I think he mostly enjoyed playing with the children at the school each day as by the second day he was begging me to take him back to the school! **Shannon and Nathaniel x** 

My first ever week in Africa has been extraordinary. We have seen lions and Zebras, poverty and riches and welcome and kindness from everyone we have met. It has been a pleasure to work with the children and adults at One Way School and good fun running the first ever One Way School Olympics (my event was the obstacle race which was a new experience for everyone and resulted in the church pastor falling flat on his face when he joined the parents race!)

But, for me, the highlight of the week overall has been seeing Sophie and Greg operating in the place where God has called them. I've seen them teaching classes, leading praise and worship in assembly, meeting with the church pastor to discuss the expansion of the school, dealing with other staff at the school and helping the children and their parents. In all these situations their passion for what they are doing shines through, as well as their love for the children and their desire to see the children and adults they work with grow and blossom to their full, God given, potential.

Sophie and Greg have worked tirelessly this week to make it an experience to remember for the UK team (despite Jack's teething grumpiness) and I hope that we have blessed them and everyone involved with the school, and I am so grateful to them for this. We will keep praying that God will continue to show them his plan for their lives and the school, and that they will have the faith to keep following. **Ian** 

