



One Way Ministries Int'l
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Dear Friends

August 2012 – 2 weeks in...

Firstly, a thank you for signing up for our Newsletter, we hope you feel updated with our monthly happenings! We greatly appreciate the support we are given through so many of you with prayer, contact, donations and other ways.

We have been in Mabelreign for 2 weeks today, and although time has not flown by, we have had a productive two weeks. We are living in the church center – known as One Way Ministries Praise and Worship Center. We have one room which is a bedroom with a bathroom and a balcony. The space is a good size and we are hoping to maybe use a second room as an office/personal living space as currently we are using our bed to live, eat and sleep!

We have been made to feel very welcome by the church family and are beginning to form some closer friendships with some families. We have joined the church at a time of transition, over the past year some members of the church have passed away including Pastor Gatsi's wife. The church has had a time of mourning and is now rebuilding itself with members praying together for the leadership and their new responsibilities. We believe this makes the timing of our arrival more important as we are now heavily involved in the churches main new project and God will be at work through us to help the church through its transition.

We have been to one church service so far at the center which began at 8.30 and finished at 2 – slightly longer than at CCC! It was a churches together service to conclude the adult conference so we were introduced to all the churches within One Way – the reception we received was lovely and we were prayed for by all the members. Some members have approached us to thank us for coming and to say they believe it is an answer to prayer that we are here as the church has long prayed for the pre-school and they are delighted it is now becoming reality.

We are not completely sure in what other areas the church would like us to be involved in as there have been mentions of Sunday school, youth work and tutoring. So we are in need of prayers for guidance as to which projects we should be involved with as we are aware the school will take a huge amount of time and energy.

We are waiting for a meeting with two Pastors on Monday in which we will discuss all the practicalities for the school including renovations, resourcing, recruitment, health and safety, curriculum and other areas. From previous talks with the Pastors we are being given a relatively free reign over the school and can implement our own ideas, however, as we are new to Zimbabwean schooling there are still many questions we need to ask.

We were fortunate to be able to visit a couple of pre-schools around Mabelreign last week and we took some photos of the way they resource and lay out their schools. We were also able to ask a couple of questions to the teachers we met. We are hoping to visit one school – whose owner goes to One Way – when the children are back at school on September 11th. This will help us to explore the running of their school day and the lengths and times of lessons.

From first glance, the pre-schools are quite different to English schools. The classrooms are quite empty with little on the walls; some schools have painted little pictures as decorations. Each room had one or two tables with around 8-10 chairs around each – even in the rooms for children aged 2-3 years. The assumption we are making is that they place an activity on the table for every child to do, then when it is time to change the table is cleared and a new activity is put on. We assume all children or most children do the same activity at the same time – unlike England where there are many activities to choose from. The timetables all include an hour of praise and worship at the beginning of the day, an hour for lunch, an hour to an hour and a half for nap time and then a selection of teaching times. The outdoor areas vary throughout schools – some with good quality wooden climbing frames, some with old, worn metal frames. There are limited small resources.

We have also been into town to look at where we will be able to resource books, paper, pens, whiteboards, folders, toys, games and other resources. Schools in Zim do not have a website or a warehouse in which to buy resources in bulk from, so we have to find shops which sell larger quantities of items and buy them this way. This is both time consuming and complex, and may lead to buying in bulk from overseas in the future if that becomes an option. We are hoping to find some workers from the rural areas to create bookshelves, cupboards, outdoor climbing equipment and storage units.

We have been talking to some members of the church and community to find out what they are expecting from the pre-school and all of them have said that they believe there are a large number of families who will want to send their children here as a Christian pre-school in the heart of the community. They believe that children are the keys to the kingdom and investment in children is a solid investment in the future of Zimbabwe. The children deserve good, quality education in a safe environment where they are loved and

So please do continue to pray and support us. We are slowly becoming accustomed to the way of life here and now the children's conference is over and the team from the UK have returned, we can begin to throw all our energy into making the pre-school a reality, with the intention of opening in January.

The children's conference was a fantastic week and being able to spend time living with the children here and getting to know them individually was a crucial time for us as we began to see just how education can improve the lives of so many children.

On an exciting note – we have a car! We have named him Merv. Merv the Mitsubishi. An important step in being independent here! Minor bump and two new tyres after a week of driving and we're pretty well initiated into Zimbabwean driving – including the ability to manoeuvre a crazy number of pot holes/craters!

So, please pray! There are a huge number of things to get done in 4 months and the Pastors are leaving on 15th September to go to Israel for 2 weeks so we need to get the wheels in motion before then. Please also pray for us personally as the way of life here is very different with regards to the roles of men and women and we need to learn more of these so as not to offend anyone.

Keep in touch if you can and we will be creating a gallery page to upload pictures – so keep checking!

God Bless,

Greg and Sophie Sangwine x