



Zimkids has been operating for nearly three years now, working to provide social, practical and spiritual support to orphans, families and communities in Zimbabwe.

Zimkids News and the website www.zimkids.org will keep you up to date with what we're doing, none of which would be possible without your support.

This month, our guest editors of Zimkids news are Robert and Juliet Griffin who share their experiences of 3 weeks working with the Zimkids team as volunteers.

We are writing this with all the colour and vibrancy of Africa around us as we sit in the transfer lounge at Nairobi Airport on route back from our three weeks in Zimbabwe. We were in 'Zim' as volunteers for the **Zimkids** charity which we have supported since it started over three years ago. **Zimkids** aim is to support spiritually, practically and financially vulnerable children and families giving them hope for the future and a love of Jesus.

Ten pages could not begin to tell in detail the experiences, blessings and joy that Juliet and I received over the past three weeks. We were led on an amazing spiritual journey that has changed our lives. The Lord revealed to us in direct and powerful ways His love for the poor and His power to heal and transform lives. We witnessed physical healing as a loving outpouring of His Spirit. We saw Tommie, aged 74, who hobbled up to the church one morning with a lame right leg and partially sighted, healed as a direct result of laying on of hands and lifting him to the Lord in prayer. He was fully restored and returned two days later still praising the Lord and saying that he intended to return to his birth place and work with the local pastor to tell others of the love that Jesus has for everybody. We are not ashamed to say that Juliet and I wept with joy at this. We visited squatter camps and joined with Tracy, a core team member, leading bible studies (using a local man, Prince who is HIV positive, translating into Shona). In these camps, with shacks made with basic wooden frames covered with reeds and topped with plastic sheets, we saw children and families, many of whom HIV positive, living in abject poverty with little food and no facilities. We prayed with them, worshipped with them and saw spiritual richness and the joy that many had for Jesus – what a contrast to the often woeful apathy we see in Morden.



Zimkids News February 2010

Want to visit and volunteer in Zimbabwe?
Contact Peter Leech at info@zimkids.org for more information about this exciting opportunity.



In our second week we stayed three days in a small hut outside a small rural town more than 200km from Harare called Mutoko. It was here that we ran a teachers conference aimed at inspiring and refreshing local teachers many of whom had not been regularly paid their salaries by the government due to the dire economic situation in the country. More than thirty teachers attended some walking over 8km! It was a great occasion and took place in a ramshackle church building in 36 deg C of heat with not a breath of wind. The next day we visited four rural schools none of which had any equipment with most of the teaching using blackboards and rote learning. The school buildings were almost derelict and many classrooms had broken windows and concrete floors 'polished' with old engine oil.

Zimkids is totally against perpetuating a dependency culture based on simply giving food handouts but rather works with individuals and families to encourage and empower them to become self sufficient. For example a gift of 10kg of ground nuts can be turned into peanut butter which can then be sold with the money used to buy more nuts. **Zimkids** also promotes the 'Farming God's Way' ideals, teaching how to grow a variety of crops in a self sustaining manner.

Perhaps the greatest lesson we learnt is the central importance of first seeking God's will in all things and acting according to His word, this permeated everything we did. Whatever our limits are, we have learnt and seen that nothing is too big or difficult for Jesus. We return to Morden more humble and richer people.

Check out our Website

www.zimkids.org

Zimkids now have a mobile! Any queries please call one of the team on:
07906320950

(please email where possible)