

Jonathan's Impact Orphan Ministries

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Zimbabwe - A Country Beset by Worsening Challenges

If you ask any citizen of Zimbabwe, he or she would tell you that the living conditions of Zimbabwe have gotten much more difficult this year. For starters, much of the country suffered a severe drought that led to rampant crop failure, the death of livestock, and subsequently, hunger for many of its people. The land of Zimbabwe was declared a disaster by its government so that the international community could provide assistance. For more info., check out: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/zimbabwe-drought-million-face-food-shortage-160516142445157.html>

Then there is the issue of the lack of currency. Because of sky rocketing inflation in Zimbabwe in the past two decades, the Zimbabweans have abandoned their own dollar and adopted the U.S. dollar as the official currency. One major problem with this plan is that Zimbabwe is unable to print the U.S. dollar. Consequently, the American dollars that are being used in Zimbabwe are extremely old and dirty. Also, the number of available American dollars is diminishing, so much so that banks are presently only distributing \$30—\$200 dollars a day to their customers. A customer may have hundreds or thousands of dollars in the bank, but not be able to access it. This has resulted in customers having to wait in line for hours daily to withdraw their money from the banks. Each time a withdrawal is made, a \$5 withdrawal fee must be paid. This costly, nearly unworkable system has resulted in employers' inability to pay their employees, renters unable to pay their rents, consumers unable to make basic purchases, etc. To read more, see : <http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/10/11/497487307/the-u-s-dollar-is-zimbabwes-main-currency-and-its-disappearing-fast> and <http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimsit-m-rbz-to-act-on-high-bank-charges>.

The supply of electricity is also sporadic and unreliable. The electricity is often cut off for Zimbabweans by the electric company ZESA because of the shortage of available power in the country. Some of the power is imported from Mozambique and South Africa to help with this issue. Because of the power shortages, citizens often don't know when the power cutoffs will occur, making running a business or household difficult. Electricity bills are also problematic because the electric company has not made meters available for many households. The amount of the electric bills is a rough guesstimate by the electric company. Sometimes these guesses seem reasonable, and sometimes they don't, resulting in unexplainably high bills for some Zimbabweans. The Chileleko Home, like most in Zimbabwe, has been impacted by these issues. Check out <http://www.financialgazette.co.zw/zimbabwe-faces-electricity-disaster>.

Cassy DiLeo

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2016 - A Year of Firsts for Chileleko

Despite the dire conditions in the land of Zimbabwe, Lucia Dandahuni, the home director, aggressively initiated and managed multiple revenue producing projects at Chileleko this year. For the first time since the home's inception five years ago, Lucia positioned herself at the home full time for the purposes of providing direct oversight and moving the home towards a position of financial independence and self-sufficiency. With Lucia's vision and guidance, the gardens were greatly expanded; the chicken project was reinstated; a rabbit project was begun, and a fish project was initiated in the swimming pool. Jonathan's Impact contributed two to three thousand dollars towards these projects through assistance with the digging of a second well on the grounds, purchase of a generator, purchase of rabbits and rabbit cages, and renovation of the greenhouse.

Because of the drought, the crop production was very poor for several months this year. The chicken, fish, and rabbit projects are fairly new and have not yet produced significant revenue, but our hopes are high that the return on these projects will be abundant. We at Jonathan's Impact thank you very much for your ongoing support of Chileleko, which continues to be greatly needed at this time.



Rabbit Project



Greenhouse tomato crop



Lettuce

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Foster to Adopt

Lucia, the home director, has applied to Social Services to foster two residents of Chileleko, brother and sister Nyasha and Aaron Pasi, in her own home. The siblings will visit the Dandahuni family over the Christmas holidays and then begin the new year as foster children in the home. Jonathan's Impact will assist Lucia's family with the payment of the tuition for the two children, as needed. Public education is not free in Zimbabwe as it is in the United States.

Aaron and Nyasha
in their new
sunglasses, 2016.



CHRISTMAS 2016

Because all of the children of Chileleko will be visiting the homes of extended family or local church members for the Christmas holidays, Jonathan's Impact will not be providing Christmas gifts for them this year. We will, however, be giving Christmas bonuses to the staff. If you would like to contribute to these bonuses, you may donate online or by sending a check to 23445 Heidi Drive, Covington, LA 70435. You may call Cassy DiLeo at 985-273-1193 if you would like further information.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

To sponsor a child or contribute to Jonathan's Impact, go online to Jonathan's Impact.org.

MISSION TRIP 2016

Mission Trip 2016 is the last week of May/first week of June. The cost of the trip is between \$1500—\$2,000, depending on the cost of airfare. We welcome your participation. If you would like further information, you may call Cassy DiLeo at 985-273-1193 or Stephen DiLeo at 985-249-1612.