

Jonathan's Impact Orphan Ministries

July 2017 Newsletter



Shamma



Nyasha



Chipo



Claude

New Arrivals at Chileleko

After the exodus of four children from Chileleko last year due to adoption and reunification, Chileleko has again, in short order, filled to capacity. Within the span of one month this spring, four new babies were delivered to the home by the Social Services Department of Zimbabwe.

Our first arrival was Claude, who is 20 months old. Claude's mother does not have a place to live and stays on the streets. He was often left in suboptimal situations while his mother worked. He will remain at the home until his mother is able to provide a home and sustenance. Claude is a friendly boy who seems to have met his developmental milestones.

The second newcomer is five-month-old Chipo, who was abandoned one night on the doorstep of a stranger. Chipo's adjustment to the home has been difficult because she cries often at night and becomes frantic when left alone. Despite the frequent crying, she has a ready laugh when she is around the other children and is gradually adjusting to her new environment. She is able to sit up. The name Chipo means "gift."

Arriving two weeks after Chipo's homecoming, and on the same day, were Nyasha and Shamma. Nyasha is an 18-month-old boy who was abandoned on the streets at age 12 months. He was near death and barely breathing when found. He suffered from kwashiorkor and rickets. He was nursed back to health in the hospital, but had lived there for 6 months because no one could be found to take him, that is, until an opening became available at Chileleko. Nyasha is unable to walk, though it is believed that he walked at one time. He is crawling and beginning to take a few steps. He still has a swollen stomach due to malnutrition. Nyasha is very lovable and smiles when he gets a hug.

Also having lived at the hospital for six months was our last arrival, six-month-old Shamma. Shamma was abandoned at birth and rescued when someone heard her crying. She has a serious illness for which she takes daily medication. Shamma is very fussy and is not yet sitting up, but she enjoys the other children in the home who help care for her.

Without your support of Jonathan's Impact, these children would still be homeless. May God bless you richly for providing funds to care for the orphans and vulnerable children.

EQUIPPING THE BABY ROOM

The Chileleko Home did not have the necessary baby furniture and equipment to care for these four babies, so Jonathan's Impact purchased two baby beds, two chests of drawers, a play pen, two walkers, and several baby blankets. A highlight of this purchase was watching Nyasha laugh heartily as he skidded across the floor in his new walker, which should help to strengthen his legs.



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Chileleko Board Meeting to Discuss Projects – and a Blessed Gift!



Lucia Dandahuni, Pastor Daniel Francis



Cassy, Pastor Peter Mabasa, Tarasai,
Pastor Musimba Banana



Tonderai Gotora (L)

Agricultural Projects: During our mission trip, a Chileleko Children's Home Board Meeting was held and all ongoing agricultural projects which are in place for revenue production were discussed. The home vegetable gardens have suffered from intermittent water supply problems since the home has opened. The general area in which the home is located does suffer from these problems. Also, the original owners grew flowers (not crops) – this may have damaged the soil for later crop production. The field would need to be fumigated over a period of two months, which would be very expensive. Given the costs and continued water supply issues at the home, continued production at this site is not an option. Tonderai Gotora, an agronomist, has graciously offered to donate up to 3 acres of his farmland for revenue production for the home. This allotment may possibly be increased in the future. Tondurai's land has an ample supply of water. Several tons of crops were produced at this site last season. Tondurai has also offered his time and expertise; he will oversee all crop production and sales. Jonathan's Impact is providing a starter loan to Tonderai to begin the project for the home. The Chileleko home gardens will be grown only to supply needed food for the home, with Tonderai's land used for revenue production. Planting on the donated land will begin June 2017. Because of Tondurai's sacrificial offer, the Chileleko Home is moving towards self-sufficiency.

Rabbit Production: Taurai, an accountant, will also be lending his expertise in rabbit production (something in which he has extensive experience). He is able to find buyers for rabbits which will allow batched sales and a steady revenue source.

Chicken Project: In the past chicken projects have failed due to improper chicken run methods/housing. The home is now utilizing free range chickens with good success. This will be primarily a food source rather than for revenue.



Tonderai and Global Life Team on his land



Gardener with rabbit project

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Hands of Hope Meeting to Discuss an Aging Out Program



Pastor Mabasa, Steve, Lucia, Pastor Aaron, Charles (Director, Hands of Hope – Africa)



Same as left, with Glen Miller (founder of Hands of Hope), Cassy

A meeting was also held during this visit to begin the development of plans for children who age out of the Chileleko Home. Social Services mandates that residents must leave the system once they reach the age of 18. Of immediate concern is Progress, who is scheduled to leave in November 2017. During our discussion, it was determined that the Chilileko Guest House can legally house orphans who age out, but still require training or education to become self-sufficient. Global Life Foundation, the ministry partner which manages the Chileleko Home, will begin a foster care ministry in the church. Education and support will be provided to church members to assist them to foster children in the home, including those who are ready to age out of the home. A church member has agreed to house Progress when she ages out of the home.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

As is our tradition, we bring part of the children's winter wardrobe to them each trip. We also bring dressy spring clothes for each child to wear at Christmas. (Because Zimbabwe is in the southern hemisphere, Christmas is a spring holiday.) Below are pictures of some of the children modeling their clothes.



Chipso, Ado, Ella, Tarisai, Nyasha, Kuzi, and Ella



Kuzi and Bright



The girls in their pajamas