

Dear Friends of Zimbabwe,

Here is a quick overview of this Field Report:

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- OLDER STUDENTS' SCHOOLING – THEIR HOPE FOR A FUTURE: We are hopeful for these girls.
- GIRL GUIDES – WHAT A SUCCESS STORY!: Wow - they never cease to amaze me.
- GO GREEN & SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Our new process is rather organic and coming along.
- STAFF RECOGNITION – MUCH APPRECIATED: A bonus can mean a great deal during dry times.
- DONATIONS of THINGS FOR THE TRIP – THANK YOU! Office supplies, embroidery supplies and NMT materials! - Your contributions are so appreciated!
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- STAFF HEALING AND GROWTH: We are growing immensely as an organization!
- IN SUMMARY

BLACKBERRY PHONES – YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

For years I had coverage with Sprint. Where I live in the foothills of the Cascades there is no service available so gradually I accepted the limitation; I only used my cell in the car. I figured that eventually they would put up an antenna that would reach our little off-the-grid pocket. Then one day, Kristin was in my living room and she answered her phone with no problem. She was with AT&T. And now I have coverage! New plan, new phone.

So the blackberry phone I had with Sprint was useless. But, I took it to Zimbabwe this year and was able to use it! Now our Senior Nurse Fredreck Muchiriri has a decent phone. If you have an old blackberry that doesn't serve your current situation, please consider donating it to Ancient Ways. It is a tax deduction! I would be able to take it to one of our key staff on my next trip. Since most people do not have land lines at home the cell phone is the main piece of infrastructure that the majority has, or is hoping to have someday soon. A person can have a cell phone when they can't afford a car, a computer, or a land line phone. The "sim card" in the back of the phone is replaced with a sim card from Zimbabwe and there you have it – a new phone. Please consider donating your old (but functional) blackberry phone next time you upgrade - it can make all the difference!

GRANTS – ZIMFEST AND KUTSINHIRA

We were able to follow up on two grants that Ancient Ways received, one from Zimfest and one from Kutsinhira. The Zimfest grant provided support to our Youth Well Being program in a variety of ways and we were able to see the impact of many of those dollars. The Kutsinhira grant was for certified maize seed that would be shared amongst some of the best farmers from our last maize seed project, and they would then provide some of their maize crop to the preschool in thanks for the loan. We were able to see some of the fields and get feedback on the success. It is a medium harvest year and I am very grateful. Our last maize seed loan was washed away by flooding and there was very little success, so this report sounded great.

JANGANO – STARTING ANEW

We have been to Dewedzo Mountains and returned. The Jangano project is holding its own ground, although everyone completely misses Tawengwa Mujuru, like a piece of the puzzle has been lost. We spent 3 days sorting out enrollment with 3 new people to replace the one of him, and with Benita, our Executive Assistant, offering an excellent training to the new folks, on how we manage the data that is crucial to knowing what is going on. We track the living conditions of each of the families involved in the 6 villages in Dewedzo, over 1,250 in all, as well as the student's personal information. This year we were able to support 77 children thanks to the many of you who were able to re-sponsor your children.

I had never experienced the confusion in the Jangano schools as I did this time; it reminded me of the early days in Nhimbe. Without Tawengwa's attention to detail and diligence to stay on top of things, as he was the man on the ground, there were many unsolved questions. By the last day we had everything organized and most letters and pictures taken. The families of these children are so very grateful for the help, particularly the Dewedzo High

School parents, as the fees were over \$25 a term. That would put our expenses at over \$75 a year, more than we ask from you, but the primary school's lower fees help to offset the outlay so the Jangano project isn't totally out of budget.

OLDER STUDENTS' SCHOOLING – THEIR HOPE FOR A FUTURE

Thanks to some incredible generosity, Tawengwa's daughter Silence Munemo, will be able to go to the University this year. I so appreciate that you read the Field Report and respond! She is a bright young woman. She is featured in the 5 minute intro documentary to Jangano (on YouTube and our website) where she is expressing her gratitude for her and other poor students being helped. She is quite articulate and determined to achieve something for herself and her family. Thank you for your part of her success!

We also have another possible child to offer more support than average. Her name is Gertrude Muzanarwo; she is in Form 3. Her mother is the lead cook for our Nhimbe preschool which is set up to feed 140 children a day. When the dollarization changed school fees in town last year, her sponsor wasn't able to continue with the support of her as a "special needs" student. She was forced to return to the Nhimbe Secondary school. There the education is very inadequate for such a bright girl. The opportunity afforded a child in town is better, although the city schools too are struggling with the go-slow form of a teacher's strike. Her fees in town would be three times a normal sponsorship, so she would be attending for \$60 a term (\$180/year).

Gertrude's last grades from town were good, showing much promise. She received an A, two B's and two C's, during a time when the teacher's were not teaching much. One of her C's was in English and yet she was able to carry on fluent conversations with me without any translation. She also stood up at the general meeting where a couple hundred adults and children gathered, the only child who did so, to explain, in English, the tragedy in the school setting and how very important our tutoring program and Girl Guides program are to the children, as well as building our own school. I would love to see her receive the support she deserves to attend a school in town so she can finish her high school with potential for a future. Is anyone able to help this special girl? \$60 every 4 months is only about .50 cents a day.

GIRL GUIDES – WHAT A SUCCESS STORY!

Gertrude has been actively involved in our Girl Guides program and shows a great deal of leadership potential. She along with many others are benefitting from the incredible guidance of Voice Muchada, our Girl Guides leader, and now the district representative for this region of Mhondoro. Voice never ceases to amaze me, brimming with energy for the children, enthusiastically teaching them in all arenas, and always dynamically showering us with ideas for the children's program. This trip she recommended a campout for 3 days, as it is part of the standard suggested curriculum from Girl Guides. It was an extraordinary schedule that Voice proposed over Easter weekend.

We agreed to host the campout at the Community Center with the plan that it would be a great trial of the initiative. Each child would bring a blanket, clothing, and some food basics from home, and Nhimbe would sponsor a couple of dollars per child for acquiring the remaining staples from town. The children would prepare their own food, do their laundry, watch an elder making *rapoka* in a traditional clay pot (the original Shona food before maize was introduced to Africa, similar to millet), attend Health forums, play games, sing songs, and share stories around a bon fire.

We could hear the music ringing across the bush that night as we fell asleep in our huts. Most often when we hear music at night it is a funeral, and although the sounds are beautiful, one is reminded of the harsh reality everyone is living through during these times where daily someone you know is dealing with the loss of loved ones. I reveled in the stark contrast of this evening. The laughter, rhythms, and sweet song delighted the senses. I remember being a girl scout and those special camping experiences, day or night, that unified our young minds with a promise towards morality, obedience and helping others. These young African girls are just as moved and deepened by the opportunities.

What an accomplishment! The girls were so happy to have this privilege. They had never been away from home before except maybe to a relative's house, which is home. I have never seen such beaming faces, and such direct gratitude for a gift. I spoke briefly to the older girls and was very surprised to see that they all understood English. This is quite an improvement over the average child at the Secondary school, showing me that our programs and services are paying off.

The trial went off well and we now are seeking funding so they might explore this option two more times this year, experiencing the different seasons. The campout would cost around \$100 three times a year; we have already sponsored this first trial. Is there a Girl Scout or Ranger troop in the US that would be willing to sponsor this most inspired request? The impact on many girls' lives is immense when we consider that in the US we can recycle cans and newspapers, or reduce our lattes and movie rentals as a sacrifice. I'm sorry that I have to keep asking...it's a piece of the "tin cup trail" that has become part and parcel of my union with Zimbabwe. I have just seen such a profound expansion of our children's horizons there, and know how a little can go such a long way. Please write if you have any ideas! *Tatenda chiavzo!*

Another revelation we had was that once we do this campout successfully a couple of times, we should be able to book our Nhimbe Center to other Girl Guide's troops in Harare. What a perfect opportunity for some city child to experience the rural area with her peers in a safe and protected environment. Not everyone in the city visits *kumusha* (to the rural area where your roots are) because many people are disconnected from their families. When the District Office heard about our plan for a campout, they said that they wished they knew sooner because they had many children who would like to come.

I am glad that we didn't do our trial with children from out of the area, as it seems better to work out our kinks privately (little things like forgetting that cabinets and buildings are locked with only one person having the key, as Friday afternoon approached.) This campout proposal could very well be a way for Nhimbe to generate revenue for the Center, and the girls in general. One suggestion from Voice was to buy each girl a pair of underpants since many don't own any. As they have grown up the prices have escalated, leaving them without many basics. We might go ahead and spring for the underpants in any case – in the US the girls get badges, in Zimbabwe they get panties. What an eye-opener!

Our Tutoring program is another part of our Youth Well Being Program. We found that the tutoring had fallen off at the beginning of the year. Since the teachers didn't show up in school and the children were just sitting around for over a month, the kids made a decision not to come to tutoring with apathy tearing down our efforts. Our tutors gave up and stopped coming to the Center, with no one to teach. We have hopefully gotten the program back on track. How can you explain to a child that education is important even if the teachers and schools are failing? A new level of motivation has to bubble up from within. Our staff is being creative to find solutions to this dilemma.

GO GREEN & SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

We worked hard all month long to verify enrollment. Initially we delivered your letters. The children who received your kind greetings were very happy. Then, we came at it from two directions. First we needed to know who they wanted to sponsor in school. Rather than support children who really don't care, we found out which children are dedicated to their studies and deserving of our support, and which parents don't keep their children home to work in the fields. The second step was to find out who of you were able to continue sponsoring a child. We took all the children who didn't have sponsors and put them on a waiting list. We took letters and pictures from all the children and saved them on the computer, renaming each file with the child's name. This showed us at a glance, which student was missing what. Benita, our Executive Assistant, is now completing gathering anyone's picture or letter that wasn't present. We tried for 100% but instead we ended up with capturing closer to 60% of the pictures and letters of the children. It was a great learning experience. Our goal was not only to simplify our process in the states, and give you the Go Green option of automated pictures and letters, but also, a key was to empower our Zimbabwean staff to take control of the enrollment process. We discussed the fact that we put in an awful lot of effort to get just a 60%. Like at school – we expect higher marks!

For those of you who don't want the pictures and letters sent to your email, we will print those out and send them like normal. Maybe in time more people will be interested in the automated version. Personally I have put off this entire idea for several years because I am overwhelmed by the amount of incoming into my inbox and so do not personally want more email. There is an interesting split between those who are really behind Go Green and many who like it the old fashioned way. I think if I was a recipient of a sponsored child's information, I would probably decide to Go Green after all.

Now that enrollment is almost complete, we are ready to buy fabrics for required uniforms. Hopefully all of the fabrics for the children's different schools will be available in the stores. Between Jangano and Nhimbe we are now sponsoring over 555 children. The preschool enrollment is always slow to get solidified at the beginning of the year. Once preschool enrollment settles and we have the 140 maximum there, we will be around 585. Thank you

for all of your part of that! You have no idea how much it means to the families there. Even though the schools are failing, it's better that the children attend. We are continuing to work on our plans for a primary school and are getting closer all the time, thanks to you.

STAFF RECOGNITION – MUCH APPRECIATED

Our staff was in need of uniforms to wear. This is the standard in Zimbabwe – the employer provides the uniform. This is what the English instituted and even though it isn't our cultural norm, Ancient Ways is responsible to step up to the requirement. We hadn't bought any last year and so everyone was long overdue. We went to the normal store we have always loved that had great ethnic fabrics and found it closed. This outlet was a cornerstone of key fabric manufacturers in Zimbabwe having been in business for years. They had to close because they couldn't compete with the imports. I don't know the whole story, but I do know that each year we have been buying special fabrics there and now there was furniture for sale instead.

We decided that, rather than search out the other ethnic fabrics in town, we would buy standard uniform fabrics of purple skirts and lavender blouses and shirts, give the Health staff standard white, the cooking staff complete lavender, and provide the guards with normal blue work suits. Everyone was pleased to have new outfits! We buy the fabrics and they get them made. It's another part of our working together ethic always reminding them that they must do their part and contribute towards the project. It sounds tough in a way considering their poverty, but we in the states know how insidious the evolution of welfare mentality is and so we continue to look for ways to avoid that.

We also took the opportunity to buy each staff who hadn't qualified for the *mombe* deal, a goat (*mbudzi*). That totaled 8 *mbudzi* in all. Everyone was very happy, dancing and singing. It was the least we could do to offer them a bonus and show them we appreciate them, since their wages are far below average. The dollarization caught us in a difficult situation and what was squeaking by before, is now quite unacceptable. Our Board of Directors has some serious brainstorming to do to find ways of raising funds for operations, both in Zimbabwe and in the US. If you have any suggestions, like grants you are aware of, or employer matching funds for your donation, or you are simply able to put together a small fundraiser with your band, local church, or school, please let us know. Any and all ideas are welcome! Thank you!

DONATIONS of THINGS FOR THE TRIP – THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for responding to my plea for office supplies, embroidery supplies and NMT training materials. We were able to offer these items to those involved so they felt particularly supported in their work. The office supplies found their way primarily to the staff in both Jangano and Nhimbe. Calculators, rulers, pens, filing attaches...they were all so very well received. The embroidery floss and some needles were given to both the textile group as well as the Girl Guides, as the young girls are learning the skills of their mothers. We were able to give out over 40 floss skeins to each of the 24 women in the textile group! Normally they have to buy their floss as part of a group loan so it was a superb economic help. We also had some special Girl Scout gifts to bring Voice from Lebanon's Hamilton Creek Girl Scout troop.

We were also able to transport an entire set of DVD trainings and the latest manuals for NMT. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Les Feinberg, the developer of this incredible modality, the materials made their way to our Senior Nurse, Fredreck Muchiriri, who is absolutely "all over it". He immediately took home and consumed the latest information in the 2009 Annual Symposium – he knows that NMT encompasses all the latest new physics and he was hungry! Thanks so much Les!

HEALTH CENTER UPDATE

Our primary dedication at the Nhimbe Health Center is to education. NMT (see nmt.md) is a powerful healing modality, but also is certainly an educational tool for our body systems. Through dialogue with the other-than-conscious body/mind we can access the needed information (often hidden from our conscious mind), assess the health conditions, as well as assist in modulating or making adjustments towards ideal health. The whole process involves education of the body/mind system towards remembering itself as a miraculous machine and recalling its innate intelligence.

Fredreck understands this concept and continues to be very excited by it. I am always astonished to find someone like him whose roots are in our rural villages, but whose mind is penetrating the latest in new physics with his

heart expanded to comprehend the highest of spiritual values. How blessed we are to have him as part of our team!

Fred and I worked with people during my visit utilizing NMT. One was a little girl who has had various challenges her whole life. She was the one that I reported on years ago who would only eat dirt as an infant and with NMT I was able to turn around that pattern. It seems that I see her every few years. So now she is close to 8 years old and came to our Health Center complaining of an odd pain around her belly button. It wasn't a hernia but it wasn't clear what was involved. She had a fever as well. We gave her 2 NMT sessions and then I was scheduled to leave for town.

Fredreck was thinking maybe the parents should take her in for an x-ray or some review at the hospital just to be prudent. The parents had taken her to the hospital for other things in the past and they never had a solution there, but would comply with Fredreck's request. I asked them to bring her in one last time so he could evaluate the result of our work with her, before going to the conventional medical approach – I knew they would give her drugs as its standard protocol, and I wanted to observe her before that kind of intervention. She showed up the next day, completely cleared of her belly button pain and fever. The parents of course didn't take her to the hospital. Fredreck and the family were elated.

The Shona people are particularly open to such intercession. There is something about their DNA and culture that predisposes them to being receptive to the other-than-conscious dialogue and intentional focus. Many people in the states are also sensitive and open but the dramatic results we get in Zimbabwe are very affirming. I am so grateful for NMT and the power of healing that is made possible because of it. Otherwise, what does a person do when living in the African bush, miles from any laboratories or specialists? Thanks Les for the empowerment to help others!

We also invest in some basic supplies for treating wounds (betadine and bandages), scabies treatment, and parasites control at the Health Center, but one of our primary goals is to provide the best public health education around anywhere in Zimbabwe. We have developed a Health Forum, delivered it to all the families in our villages, and are now expanding it to reach the children at each and every age. Now particularly as the children are not able to spend time in a healthy school environment, we really need to reach them in all other ways possible, particularly being frank and open about sexuality, HIV/AIDS, and their future. Once the upgraded forum is developed to better address the needs of the children, we want to share it beyond the horizons of our immediate villages. If you have any knowledge of grants for this application, please let us know! Thank you!

EMBROIDERY CRAFT – COMING AT A CRUCIAL TIME

We have been working with a special store in Salem Oregon, called Greenbaum's, The Quilted Forest, for going on 2 years now. It began with a few nudges from my quilting friends. They told me that Sylvia Dorney who is in charge of the store, is not only innovative about what is made available to sell, but she had been known to support humanitarian projects such as ours in reaching the store's following, which is huge. Sure enough, she began by introducing our embroidery to the quilters, and they wanted more. The women in Zimbabwe responded vigorously and again the quilters in the states were happy. The quality keeps improving and the quilters have continued to be interested. Sylvia has let me know that it most likely will not continue as people want new things all the time. But, for now, our women are extremely happy, and are perfecting their skills. They are able to feed and clothe their children and that makes me very happy! A new artist joined the group and he is bringing great new designs as well as advice on colors. All in all, the growth of our Textile group is superb.

We returned with over \$4,000 worth of embroidery this trip to fill Sylvia's order. The store plans on auctioning off a quilt they made with the very first set of blocks this next summer at a large quilt show, and the proceeds will come directly to our project. The woman who made those blocks, Chipu Muchiriri, is now passed, and so the idea that her blocks have been quilted and will be sold in support is a nice remembrance. That sale will help immensely. We are looking for more markets, since Sylvia has warned us to expect a decline in interest. Anyone have any ideas? The quality of the women's work is commendable. It's been quite a process over several years that started with finding and sharing a t-shirt idea with them. Now they are empowered to compete in the world market.

We met a marketer while visiting a *n'anga* (medicine woman) this trip. It was the *n'anga's* daughter and she shared a great story about selling one's wares. She represents many different groups of artists around rural Zimbabwe and has traveled to many countries including Canada, UK, Belgium and Italy. When in Italy she was

showing a sweet tie-dye that she had just found in the rural area. It was part of her display and the folks from the Vatican happened to be there at the show. They were particularly interested in this tie-dye. So interested, that they ordered some for the Pope and purchased the sample on the spot. She went back to her hotel, got on her email, confirmed they could make it up quickly, and send it on DHL (like Fedex) for a day's journey to Italy.

The package was delivered in time for her final showing. The Vatican was there and picked up their order. But now, they wanted more fabric so that all the nuns and monks could also wear this beautiful fabric. So she placed that order, it was delivered, and to this day, the Vatican continues to order the sweet tie-dye from some small rural village in Zimbabwe. The Pope, of all things!

We pray for inspiration...maybe someday we will have our own version of a Pope story. Right now, I'm very grateful for our Greenbaum story and appreciate any suggestions you might have to nudge us towards a breakthrough for these women, who grew 400% in response to the challenge! They are primed and motivated to work! They are organized! They have come from all of the villages and have become a social unit, with new friendships developing along the way. I always feel my mother, a lifetime seamstress, dancing in the afterlife when I see these women's success!

STAFF HEALING AND GROWTH

Our staff has grown tremendously over the years. Not just in numbers, but in teamwork and awareness of their responsibility to the community and our donors. But now, the community is jealous of them, leaving them without the normal support one would expect from their neighbors. It's an odd thing to contend with, when one has put their lives in service to their community. It is a Shona cultural characteristic that finds its roots in polygamy. It is not attractive and it always causes discord. There is nothing we can say or do to change it. Americans can also be a jealous lot. I am always surprised by the amount of jealousy I have faced over the years because of what we are able to do in Zimbabwe. Some people are threatened by it, as if it affects how they see themselves. We only hope that the jealousy subsides because other than that, our staff has a very hopeful path in front of them.

Kristen Magis, my assistant this trip, brought her skills to the table and gave us all an enormous gift with her generous participation in every way. Besides just being a great traveling companion, she was able to help the staff and I work towards resolution and change to support empowerment. We make a great team and I am so grateful for her choice to take us so fully into her heart and mind. Here is a note from Kristen:

Jaiyen and I facilitated a series of staff meetings designed to support healing, introduce decision-making and problem solving tools to staff, to resolve pressing issues and to plan the path forward. The first meeting focused exclusively on publicly recognizing and honoring the extremely difficult circumstances in which Nhimbe staff live, i.e., *zvakaoma*. The challenges articulated to Jaiyen during individual meetings were summarized and information was shared to deepen people's understanding of the issues. An open space was created for staff to continue the discussion. Finally, Jaiyen submitted an analogy of staff being like the aunts and uncles, *tetes* and *sekurus*, of Nhimbe. As *tetes* and *sekurus*, they are responsible for the health and success of the organization. The idea was tentatively accepted that meeting, but grew over time as staff found a new commitment to the project and to their critical roles in its success. We ended that first meeting by joining hands in a circle and publicly stating our role as *tete* or *sekuru* in Nhimbe and our commitment to making Nhimbe successful.

In the second meeting, we intentionally moved away from the oppressive feeling of *zvakaoma* to start developing and renewing the sense of strength, opportunity and excitement about Nhimbe. We discussed the idea that we needed to find a way forward, or *kuenda mberi*. Staff broke into teams with the task of describing strengths and successes of individuals, staff as a whole, and the organization. The staff emerged from the exercise invigorated and proud of their many accomplishments and reminded of how very much they bring to the people of Mhondoro. Stories of people with clean water for the first time ever, people getting certified maize for planting assuring a good crop, children being fed and going to school, etc. were punctuated with accounts of people saved from cholera and famine. All the stories shared the same thread - they were the result of the efforts of staff at Nhimbe and the generous financial support by you, their partners in the United States. The meeting ended in singing, drumming and dancing as people celebrated their long-overdue gifts of *mombes* (cows) from Nhimbe in lieu of compensation.

At the third meeting, attention shifted once again to the introduction of the first staff development tool, i.e., thinking outside the box. Dealing with *zvakaoma* day-in and day-out can have a depressing effect on people and

can make abundance thinking extremely difficult. So, we introduced a situation and walked through it using the analogy of a box, all the sides representing perspectives that can influence our thought process, e.g., financial concerns, education, cultural expectations, organizational difficulties, personal beliefs, etc. As each side of the box is examined, you learn the influencing factors that create your perspective. With this information, you can modify those influences that hinder creative and abundance thinking.

At the next staff meeting, critical thinking was introduced with the Idea Development tool. Through analysis of the strengths and challenges associated with a specific idea, the staff could design ideas that are feasible and appropriate to implement. Of import, the staff learned to identify Nhimbe strengths and to use them as new ideas are developed to ensure their success. This focus on strengths further buttressed the staff's growing confidence in themselves and in Nhimbe, getting a real sense of the *kuenda mberi*.

In meeting five, the staff continued use of the Idea Development tool and started working with the Idea Selection tool. This tool simply provides a structured way to select the best idea from a list of potential strategies to address a presenting issue. The tools were applied to real situations and questions and led to thoughtful decisions that were supported by the entire team. The staff was then introduced to the Idea Implementation tool, which facilitates project planning processes, doing the actual work and evaluating the work to make improvements. Several projects were selected and assigned to teams for follow up. For example, the Girl Guides and Machapro (male chastity program) Boys will offer community service work to Chiedza, the grounds maintenance person, to help her keep the grasses on the grounds cut. This is a huge project as multiple scythes are used, not lawn mowers! A Health Forum team will develop curricula materials for continuing education around sexuality and youth. A Youth Empowerment Program using well-building will be developed to provide job training to older boys. And, the tutoring program will be evaluated to re-engage the adults and school children. The staff at Nhimbe is truly astounding! They are committed to the idea and actualization of Nhimbe for their villages. They are an incredible resource to this organization and a bright star of hope for the people of Mhondoro!

I have worked with many NGOs over the years, but this was my first time working with an organization in a different country. Throughout the staff development process, I was struck by the fact that the challenges these people cope with on a daily basis surpass anything many Americans will ever experience. That they would feel discouraged and tired was not at all surprising to me. What was surprising was their quiet fortitude and resilience. Each day, as the birds announced the arrival of the oh-so-hot sun, staff arose to take another step in the difficult journey of their lives. I felt honored to spend this time with them and to work side-by-side with Jaiaen. I want to end with this note of thanks to everyone I met in Zimbabwe. I was welcomed immediately with gracious and open hearts by all whom I met. Our hosts in Mhondoro and Dewedzo opened their homes to us and spared no means to make us comfortable. I went to Zimbabwe to make a contribution of myself. I returned home certain that the gifts given me far exceeded the gifts I offered of myself. It truly was *nhimbe* and *janganano* (both meaning working together) - we all do this thing called life, together.

Kristen

IN SUMMARY

Thank you for your ear. Knowing that some of you are reading this, are interested and concerned, means a tremendous amount to all of us, both here and in Zimbabwe. You bless us with your attention. You affirm our work with your love. You support us greatly with continued words of encouragement, your donations of time and money, and your private thoughts and prayers for our well being. Thank you, from all of the villagers in Zimbabwe, who cannot speak to you directly.

Our very warmest regards,

Jaiaen and Kristen

p.s. In case you weren't aware, Zimfest, the Zimbabwe Music Festival, will this year be held in Corvallis Oregon August 20-22nd (see www.zimfest.org). Ancient Ways will be present as one of the many great vendors, where we'll be sharing the products from our villages, as well as sponsoring children, and playing music on the afternoon stage. There are classes each day as well for those wanting to learn more about Zimbabwean music and culture. The music during the days is free with cover charge for night concerts. Do let us know if you would like to help at the table or if you have any questions about the festival – hope to see you there!