

Nov/Dec 2015

ZAWT- Empowering orphans to feel relevant and effective

Whilst we have had fewer funds available to us to work with over the last year, our impact has nevertheless made a difference in the lives of those we support. We have been greatly encouraged by the reports from our different projects and thus feel that our work is meaningful and pertinent. It is clear that much aid sent to third world countries a) is consumed by internal costs and b) is not used wisely, and thus billions of dollars of aid to Africa have gone to waste over the last 50 years.

We are mindful of that and as a result, our funds only go to projects that we believe are both relevant and productive. Our only costs are basic admin and some travel costs. No-one receives an income – all coordinators are volunteers.



Energy Maburutse – now at Lynn University USA. - born with Brittle Bone Syndrome - ZAWT helped him achieve this

Touching lives

Giving farm orphans and farm children a chance to make something of their lives and demonstrating to them that we care about them is really important. Empowering people to feel relevant has to be the most important thing that all of us can do, whether for those we support in Zimbabwe or indeed our own children.

True compassion is not just about giving: it is about recognizing that what we are doing is empowering others to empower themselves – to give them a sense of relevance in this beautiful and yet challenging world.

If we are able to achieve this, even for a few, then it is money and time well spent. Nothing is more satisfying than knowing that in some way, we have been able to offer a leg-up for a few young people whose lives would have otherwise been dreadful – with no prospects ahead.



Former Churu students near completion of their courses at St Peters

As the six month course nears its completion for 11 of the former Churu students, we wait for news of the outcome. Reports in the intervening months have been excellent and The Principal has expressed her pleasure at their progress to date.

The next step is to determine what they might do with their lives subsequent to their training. As they are all orphans who have known each other for some years now, we are encouraging them to form a kind of 'collective' where they encourage and look after each other in the years that follow, like a small community.

We are considering whether to give them each a basic tool kit to get them started. After that, they will be on their own and ZAWT will have fulfilled its aim to give these farm orphans a chance to begin their adult lives with a good set of skills.



“The biggest challenge now in Zimbabwe is that the economy is balancing on a knife edge. What encourages me so much is how resilient the population is – they somehow just keep going!”



The Agricultural Map and Database project recognized at the highest level

The Agricultural Mapping project and Database, which ZAWT has helped fund through supporting John Laurie's vital work is now held in the highest esteem by both the World Bank and the IMF. Indeed earlier this year, the Minister of Finance considered it a remarkable piece of work and set up a working group to determine the compensation to be awarded to former farmers for 'improvements'. We are aware that there are many former farmers who are in dire financial straits who are desperately hoping for a settlement in the near future. John continues to gather more information for the database with the intention of ensuring it is the most up to date figure possible to ensure the best possible results for all those who were affected by farm takeovers.

Bear in mind that this map and database will not only assist in resolving the past – it will also be a brilliant guideline and starting point for those who are tasked with rebuilding agriculture in the future. It provides the entire history of each farm, all its previous improvements, what was grown, what yields were achieved etc. and so will be a goldmine of information. The World Bank has publically stated that they have not seen as comprehensive a database anywhere else in the world.

“Thank you for your continued support of these students. May God greatly bless you.”

The principal, St Peters

Fourteen ZAWT orphans are writing ‘O’ levels right now

Fourteen farm orphans are writing ‘O’ levels as I write and we wish them all the very best of luck. We asked their schools to assess them after their mock exams and they have assured us that this year's group have a far better chance of succeeding. We shall wait and see.



Android tablets for Schools in Zimbabwe

We have been delighted to receive two Android Tablets and a couple of Google Play gift cards from a keen supporter of ZAWT. We are currently assessing where best these should be placed for maximum benefit.

“This year we are on our own: aid agencies do not have the budget to help, our government does not have the capacity to step into the breach and the private sector is as broke as everyone else.”

Eddie Cross - Economist



Thank you for the school fees assistance. Please be informed that I passed Grade 7 with 9 points. I intend to enrol for form one at Mzimba Secondary School. I will send the results slip after photocopying it.

Musha Wevana – struggling to find additional funding

With 82 children still in residence, Musha has its work cut out. Herewith a report.



“The orphanage is oversubscribed and this is not without its financial constraints. The continuous job of trying to reconcile the children to their families is a priority for all involved. Aside from this, the children are happy and healthy and being educated. Four of our youngest are enrolled in ECD, and we now have three children in university – namely Martha (Chinoyi), Talent (Midlands University) and Kudzanyai (Great Zimbabwe University). We also have two girls studying hotel catering at Mount View Training Institute. The rest of the children continue to be educated in local primary and secondary schools.”



Two of the pets kept by children at Musha

ZAWT provides a monthly donation towards the upkeep of these orphans and has done so for the past ten years.

Farm orphans in Matabeleland – writing exams

With the current deficit in the economy and the fact that Matabeleland is not considered politically a part of the nation, there has been little relief for the district. Despite this, children here have the same hopes and dreams as others around the world and ZAWT continues to support those that we can. This last year we have had to trim our funding, but continue to support those writing their exams this year. Herewith a report.

“Due to limited funding, only students who are in their final year (thus form four students) received help from the fund. The rest of the students in lower forms and grades did not receive any assistance. Students will sit for their examinations in October and November. Results are expected in the first quarter of 2016.”

The Trenance Feeding scheme continues – helping families survive

Last year we switched from assisting children with one good meal a week to supporting a selection of families who were really destitute so that whole families benefitted together. This has proved more effective for the recipients and their children are now much more active and effective at school.

With the coming drought, there will no doubt be more who will be in desperate straits, so we shall keep a close eye on progress in the Trenance district.

How can I continue to support ZAWT?

Specific projects

If you would prefer to donate to any one of these projects specifically, please inform us when you forward the details of the donation

A standing order in multiples of one pound a week

Please would you also consider setting up a **standing order**. Such support makes it easier for us to plan our work and also enables us to respond to crises as they occur.

We would like to suggest an idea which may appeal to you. By contributing in multiples of a pound a week, i.e. **£52, £104, £156, £208, £260 or more per annum**, it is easier to work out exactly what you are giving, making the whole experience much more satisfying.

The **standing order mandate** can be found on the reverse side of the ZAWT letter that accompanies this newsletter.

The following quote is from the film 'Lincoln' and it embodies a realization that sometimes, in order to get to where you wish to go, you may need to take one steady step at a time.

Abraham Lincoln to Thaddeus Stevens from the film 'Lincoln'

"A compass, I learned when I was surveying, (will) point you True North from where you're standing but it's got no advice about the swamps and deserts and chasms that you'll encounter along the way. If in pursuit of your destination you plunge ahead, heedless of obstacles and achieve nothing more than to sink in a swamp... ..what's the use of knowing True North?"

There are five ways by which you can support ZAWT's work

- Make a regular monthly gift by **standing order**
- Make a gift donation by **text**. Dial 70070. Text ZAWT11 £10 (or a lesser amount). Donations can only be in the amount of £1, £2, £3, £4, £5, and £10.
- Make a one-off gift by **cheque** (use enclosed envelope or Freepost address)
- Make a monthly donation **online** or a one-off gift at www.zawt.org
- Make a gift donation by **transfer** to our Bank account; ZAWT, CAF Bank, Sort Code 40-52-40, Acc No. 00019818

However you give, if you are a UK taxpayer, please don't forget to **Gift Aid** it. That way ZAWT can claim tax back from HMRC.

Please complete the **Gift Aid declaration** and send it to; Freepost RTCG-YHRA-SYAE, ZAWT, 20 Green Street, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex, TW16 6RN, or by using the enclosed envelope.



A young orphan at Musha Wevana in Marondera

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