

# Mashoko Hippo Valley Christian Mission



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January 2010

Dear Co-workers in Christ

I will never forget the first time I met Ruth Buckley. It was when Nancy and I were raising support to go on the Mission field and I was filling in for Dad at the Madison Park Christian Church in Quincy, Illinois. This congregation has supported the mission since it's beginning in 1956 but this was my first time back in many years. No sooner had I walked through the doors of the church when an elderly lady came up, greeted me and said, "You are Robert Lee Pemberton, born January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1958 in Zimbabwe." When I admitted that's who I was she said, "I'm Ruth Dudley and ever since you were born I have prayed for you every day, just like I prayed for your whole family, individually, since your Mom and Dad went over there in August, 1956." I gave her a big hug and thanked her for her faithful support. That weekend I came to know Ruth and her sister as ladies who were passionate about reaching the lost. As a result of their active prayer life they knew not only all about our family, but also all about Mashoko/Hippo Valley Christian Mission. Truth be told, not only did the Buckley sisters teach me a fact or two about my own life that I did not know, they taught me so much more about the reason for the success and growth of the Mission. They taught me about the power of prayer.

Since that time it has been my privilege to meet many other such prayer warriors and it affirms my belief that the reason God has continued to bless this work and keep it functional through dire circumstances is the power of prayer. Over the past fifty-four years we have been able **"...to reach the lost, develop leaders and plant churches through a Christ-like ministry of compassion, empowerment, and community partnership, in Zimbabwe and Mozambique."** despite, famine, flood, war and recently the worst economy for a country in the history of the world!

We know that our most valuable resource is ... "the prayers of righteous." We know also that if we are to continue to carry out our mission and purpose statement to God's glory, then the more of his saints that we can enlist to be our prayer partners the more effective we will be.

That is why, as we embark on a new year, we would like to **recruit you to be an official prayer partner**. If you are willing to commit to regularly praying for the work of Mashoko/Hippo Valley Christian Mission then click reply on this email, or send a note using the return envelope, and let us know. Each month we will be asking for prayer for a specific ministry that we are involved in. In order for you to pray more effectively we will be sending you information about that ministry monthly. This will be in addition to our regular newsletter.

We also realize that commitment to a prayer partnership should go both ways. If you have anything that you would like us to pray for on behalf of you or your congregation then let us know and it will be included on our staff prayer list.

When the Apostle Paul was fund raising for the beleaguered church in Jerusalem he wrote to his partners in the Gospel at Corinth and encouraged them to **"...finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means."** (2 Cor.8:11) That is exactly what we are asking of you as our prayer partners, now. The most important "means" you have at your disposal is prayer and we desperately need it!

The following brief synopsis is meant to provide a broad overview so you will better understand our newsletters and prayer updates. This will also help you as you begin to pray immediately.



Weekly Chapel Service at Shingai Christian Primary School

*...And how shall they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14*

Directors

T. Lawson • P. LeMaster • J. McKenzie • D. Thurman • L. Pemberton  
R.L. Pemberton • S. Pemberton • P. Perry • S. Allen • Z. Togarepi



Communion Service

As a teenager home from Boarding School, I would often go with Dad to Mashoko Mission to pay teachers. As we would enter the Mission there was a sign indicating the direction for the school, church and hospital with the words, "JESUS TAUGHT, PREACHED and HEALED" Just about every time Dad would explain to me that as a Mission our purpose was to Minister to the "total man" and to teach the local church and leadership to do the same. Now, some 30+ years later, that still aptly describes our approach to evangelism.

### JESUS TAUGHT...

As the Responsible Authority of 27 schools with over 17000 students we are responsible for the staffing and running of them as agents of the Ministry of Education. The teachers are paid by the government and we are to run the schools to their standards and with their rules. We are given complete freedom of religion and Bible Knowledge is taught as a subject.

This is totally in the hands of a local board, "Mashoko Christian Schools" with the mission providing accountability and leadership in the form of their Chairman and our Managing Director, Zebedee Togarepi. The funding that does not come from government is raised in the form of school fees.

The Mission also provides a full time Chaplain, Cephass Zivanai. He regularly visits and holds services at our schools with children and teachers. He also co-ordinates and organizes our School Revivals. In the near future, as funds permit, Cephass will be communicating via a letter sent regularly to our schools with lessons and devotions. Cephass also holds weekly devotion times and lessons at our two local schools in Chiredzi.

### PREACHED...

We work primarily with the local Lowveld Minister's Fraternal who meet monthly. All new church plants are planned and implemented by this group in coordination with the Mission. They are also responsible for coordinating all local church events, conferences and evangelistic campaigns

In Mozambique there are three local ministers serving 4 congregations, and a new planted church starting this year. As of last year one Zimbabwean missionary working with a new church in the boarder town of Chiquilaquila. All are in various building stages and continuing to grow.

### HEALED...

The entire Medical work is under a local Board called ASHEIS. As a mission we have representation on that board and are currently funding two clinics that are administrated by ASHEIS.

We operate an AIDS Orphanage with 80 orphans. Currently operating from two locations: Chiredzi Christian Children's Home and Chiredzi Christian Children's Village. We are in the process of building houses so that all 80 can be housed at the Village. Then the Home will become a Youth Hostel for older kids. We have also purchased two half-way houses for the graduated orphans during career training and education. So far we have six young adults eligible for this program.

Ruth Buckley was not only a faithful prayer partner. All her life she strove also to be an answer to prayer, right up until the end. When she went to be with the Lord she willed several thousands of dollars to be divided among the Missions supported by herself and her home church.

Thank you for your willingness to pray for us and in many cases, like Ruth Buckley, to be an answer to prayer, **"according to your means."**

Yours in Christ

Bob Pemberton

**Note: Leanna, Kera or Bob Pemberton are available to come and update your church about the work, visit your missions committee or share during your VBS. They can be reached at hvcm@hippovally.com or telephone our office at 606-474-3567.**



Baptism at Mozambique Conference

...And how shall they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14

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