



Newsletter 4 – April 2011

News from Zimbabwe

THE HUGE METAL BOX the saga continues...



The container arrived in Harare in March this year. It had arrived in Port Elizabeth, South Africa on 2nd Dec 2010 but faced congestion and numerous other delays. The 19th March 2011 saw it arrive at Renewal fellowship, where we live, and it was unloaded in only 2.5 hours!



There has been some damage of goods and it was obvious that months of sitting on a dockside as well as having been quite severely basjed in the side had taken its toll but for the most part everything appears to be there!

We now face the mammoth task of inventoring everything for A2ZWWW and ensuring that distribution of the goods is done in good order. We are also still waiting for a vehicle for ourselves so that we can travel to Victoria Falls, Jambesi, Mununa, Ndlovu, Lupane and Bulawayo and we are looking forward to posting pictures of this as soon as we have managed to get out there!



The boxes that we had packed which included donated medical and health supplies have been retained by Zimbabwe Revenue Authority and we are still trying to get them cleared and released.

A2ZWWW has taken on two casual workers (twice a week) to undertake this task, both ladies are very needy and extremely grateful to have the opportunity to earn a little bit of money to support themselves and their families.

We would like to share one of their stories with you...



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Sarah is a widow with 5 children. The whole family is understood to be HIV positive and Sarah does not have a full time job but relies on casual domestic work. One of her daughters has a very large growth on her knee and needs surgery but this will cost around \$3000 and when casual wages are \$1 per hour and you only work once in a while it is obvious how difficult – dare we say impossible (humanly) - this will be. The girl is no longer able to walk and therefore can no longer attend school – anyone who is interested in donating towards this very worthy cause please consider making a transfer to the bank account as detailed below and reference the payment Kagondo.



We have certainly faced a few challenges since arriving here in Zimbabwe – not least being that of having no personal vehicle and relying on borrowed ones. We are very grateful for the generosity of the people who have ensured we are mobile, this however does mean that we cannot travel out of town which is where the real work of A2ZWWW takes place. We do believe however that this will be resolved in the not too distant

future and are very excited at being able to get the school bags and many other items delivered to those for which they are intended!

Another challenge has been our bankers in Scotland. The week before we left for Zimbabwe we went into our bank and updated the signatory mandate. The bank then promptly lost the updated mandate and to date we have been unable to resolve this matter despite sending a further mandate from Zim! That means that there are no signatories on the account in Scotland and we have not been able to transfer any money to Zim at all. The donations towards orphans, etc., remain untouched for now! We are however looking forward to the time we can get the money across and start ensuring it makes a difference in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children.



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A Starfish Enterprise

A2Z World Without Walls is inspired by 'The Star Thrower' written by Loren Eisely (1907-1977). With this story in mind the charity aims to make a difference in Zimbabwe. An adapted version of 'The Star Thrower' is written below.



After a great storm, two men were walking along a beach, which was littered with starfish. There were miles of beach and thousands of starfish. The sun was rising in the sky and it was beginning to heat the sand, it would soon become a problem for the starfish, in fact it would mean certain death for many of them. One of the men bent down, picked up a starfish and threw it back into the sea. The two men continued to walk along and every now and then the man would stoop to pick up another starfish and throw it back into the sea. His companion asked "Why are you doing this, it's impossible to save them all, you can't possibly make a difference?" The man smiled, picked up yet another starfish, returned it to the sea and replied "Yes but I made a difference by saving that one!"

SPONSORING

Given our difficulties with a vehicle and the bank signatory mandate we have unfortunately not been in a position to get out into the bush or to start helping the sponsored orphans.

However we believe this is in fact a blessed opportunity because the sponsorship which has already been donated is building up and when we have our vehicle (which we have been told is imminent) and when we are able to transfer money then we will plan a trip to the Victoria Falls, Lupane, Jambezi region (10+ hours by car from Harare) and take the school bags as well as having a larger amount of money with which to apply to the immediate needs of the designated children,

We will be photographing and registering their details as well as meeting with the 'guardians' in order to stipulate how the support is to be administered.

Those who have sponsored individual children will receive updates them individually and those who have sponsored groups of orphans we will ensure you are sent the necessary details and updates as soon as possible.



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Cards

A2Z World Without Walls is always interested in different ways of fundraising. The charity held a couple of table top sales at fairs at the end of 2010. There the idea of selling cards for the charity was born. The last couple of months there have been some investigations related with this. To make this a worthwhile fundraiser, it is the best to print at least 5000 cards of each design. The best quote so far gives than a cost of £0.15 per card. So, to start this project, a lot of money is needed. Once this project is running it can pay for itself. The charity is hoping to find a company, person or group of people who are willing to sponsor the first cards. Any suggestions for this are more than welcome. If you can get a better deal for printing the cards, please let us know. The charity can't do this without your help!

Rafting

A2Z World Without Walls is holding its second sponsored RAFTING trip. This event will take place on Sunday 28 August 2011 at 1pm in Aberfeldy. Last year about 20 people went rafting on the river Tay, a beautiful and calm river with a few low grade rapids. This year there is a choice for participants between the Tay and a higher grade rive the Tummel.

The Tay is suitable for anyone aged 8 years and older. Participants need to raise only a minimum of £50 to take part.

For the Tummel a minimum of £70 needs to be raised because as it is a higher grade river the costs are higher.

Last year was a great day out – please encourage everyone you know to join in this year. Family groups, friends groups, corporate work groups, there are boats to take 6, 8 and 10 people groups.

Please email us (see last page of this newsletter) if you would like to book your place.

Many thanks to Jane Binnie

On Sunday 20 March, Jane Binnie ran the Alloa Half Marathon for A2Z WWW. The conditions were great for running, so it took her 2 hours, 2 minutes and 53 seconds to run from Alloa to Tillicoultry to Menstrie and back to Alloa.

So far, she has raised £340. If you still want to sponsor Jane, for achieving this challenge, please use the bank details at the last page of this newsletter (payment reference 'Jane Binnie'). A2Z WWW is very thankful to Jane, for raising money for the charity and also to all her sponsors. Well done!



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