



Zimbabwe Mission Partnership

ZMP supports Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care (HCOC) in twenty-one villages in rural Zimbabwe. Please see zimpartnership.org for more information.

Thanks To ZMP Donors, Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children Receive Medical and Spiritual Support in Addition To Meals and Education

If you would like more information, please see your church's ZMP representative.

Last summer Beauty, the nurse for HCOC, discovered Tyler, a nine-year-old boy living with his Gogo (Grandmother). His mother had passed away and his father was unable to take care of him. Tyler had an undiagnosed large, swollen gland under his left jaw, and he was not attending school. Because of her religious beliefs, Tyler's Gogo was not allowing him to receive medical care for the swollen gland.



Beauty, shown delivering supplies to the villages, knew he needed medical help so she intervened. She had several conversations with Gogo and finally convinced her to let HCOC help him get treatment.

This is one more example of the value of the HCOC staff, including Beauty, who have credibility in the community and are therefore able to help the children in many different ways.

HELP ON THE WAY...

The process began to get Tyler registered with HCOC as a vulnerable child. That designation was quickly granted by the Zimbabwean government which allowed Beauty to administer full medical care. Tyler was very quickly taken by Beauty and Susan, a ZMP board member visiting from Denver, to Harare for diagnosis and treatment. Tyler had a biopsy and even though he had tested negative twice for TB, the results of the biopsy showed TB. Happily, he is still living with his Gogo and Beauty is able to manage his treatment at the HCOC medical clinic.

Tyler is just one example of a child who becomes ill with a treatable illness or disease but has no one who can be responsible for his medical care. Through the generosity of ZMP donors, children like Tyler can be treated near home and continue to go to school and receive all of the other benefits offered by HCOC.

In addition to medical care, Tyler and the other 600 or so children looked after by HCOC receive spiritual support from Stewart Marufu. Stewart, who is speaking to the children in these photos, is the religious leader on the staff of HCOC.



Stewart makes weekly visits to each of the 5 primary schools and 3 secondary schools attended by HCOC children. He leads devotions and Bible studies for ALL the children in each school, not just the children cared for by HCOC. Although the schools are run by the Zimbabwean government, they allow religious education from outside sources.



Jackie, a ZMP Board member and visitor to HCOC last summer, says Stewart's teaching style really engaged the children, had them participating and laughing throughout his message. "I watched as the children lifted their hands in praise and worship, many times with tears in my eyes."

ALPHA

As religious leader for HCOC, Stewart launched the ALPHA program in 2022. (ALPHA stands for Anyone Learning and Laughter, Plate of food, Helping one another, Ask anything.) In this program, Stewart meets with the children of HCOC in small groups to explore some of their unique issues of daily life, challenges they are facing, and issues of faith and God. Some of the cultural issues they face are drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, and elopements. In his 2023 Annual Report, Stewart noted that in the year since ALPHA started the elopement rate had fallen from fifteen cases to two cases per year.