



# Home Sweet Home

Proving we can make a difference in the nation of Zimbabwe simply by loving God and loving our neighbors.

Hello friends of Refuge,  
October is typically known around Zimbabwe as “Hot-tober” or because it is usually very hot and everyone is holding onto hope that the rains will come. This has been an odd October, in Harare we have already had severally rainy days and the heat arrived late in the month. When it did come, we had a record-breaking heat wave—the hottest summer since 1962! We are anxiously awaiting the real rains as November comes and seeds are planted!

Here in Harare we have been plugging along! Our Foster Care Discussion Group had a lively meeting discussing the current state of community based foster care and how things could improve. Again we found ways that the church and communities can join forces with social services to improve the standard of care for these children we love so much.

The launch of our internet campus has been overwhelmingly exciting. On our trial run we had 204 people log in to watch the service at [woodside.tv](http://woodside.tv). October 20<sup>th</sup> was our official launch and we were so pleased to be able to share the Gospel and pray with people via the internet! 704 people from around the world logged in! What a great way to utilize technology for the Kingdom of God. Please join us one of these days, we will be online churching each Thursday at 2pm in Harare (UTC) time. There are several other service options as well so check out the website and like us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/refuge)!

I had the privilege to join some very dear friends from various places in Southern Africa for a convention where I was able to share the story of my past and my life changing journey with God. A group of 10 Indian men from Durban, SA came and we became quick friends. One day we were visiting a small chapel that is a memorial of love from a father to a daughter and these men asked me to pray for them. Please visit my [blog](#) to hear the whole story!

I have so much to share, but I will close by giving you an opportunity to share your heart as well. Christmas is coming, if you would like to help one of our kids or families feel loved, you can do that by giving a gift or a meal to be distributed at Christmas! For more details read “Get involved” on pg 3.

With love from Zimbabwe,

*gigi*



*Spending some time with my new friends in a very special chapel.*

## What We Do:

- Show love to the kids on the street
- Counsel children living in orphanages and provide training for the staff who love them
- Try to reunify families separated by a relatives death and/or poverty
- Organize teams of volunteers to hold babies abandoned in local hospitals
- Teach ‘Training Hearts for Jesus’ parenting classes in poor, urban areas
- Encourage the adoption of orphaned children by Zimbabwean families
- Partner with local projects and organizations to improve programming
- Encourage Zimbabweans to serve one another in love.

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His dwelling. God sets the lonely in families. Psalm 68:5-6*

## Training Hearts for Jesus

New class, new opportunities to make a difference



*One of the projects we are currently involved in is helping to teach Zimbabweans about foster care and adoption. God will set the lonely in families, but the families must be willing and available!*



*Our newest group from Training Hearts for Jesus-Highfields*



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This curriculum, Training Hearts for Jesus, has made a difference in so many lives already in Zimbabwe. I have been blessed to utilize its lessons in family counseling, staff trainings at orphanages and of course in the Highfields community where we have trained parents, teachers, caregivers and pastors. We have received so many letters from men and women who have taken the class and have wanted to share their experience with me.

This month I want to share a letter from a woman who took our class some time ago and from the very beginning we started to see change in her family. She was referred to the class because of her oldest son's troubling behaviors, but quickly learned she was there for herself! This is what she writes,

"My name is Makaita and I am 28 years old. I am a single mother of 2 boys, aged 10 and 6.

When I joined the parenting class I really had no idea what was in store for me. After my first lesson, which was really an eye opener for me, I realized I was way behind. What I thought was right was in fact the opposite. Honestly I was not training OR raising my children in any Biblical way. I was not using the Bible as a manual to train my children.

After a few weeks of attending the classes I made a commitment that I was going to serve the Lord together with my children. I also encouraged reading the Bible and praying together which I never did before attending the class. I was one lucky person to attend the class while my children were still young. Many of my classmates who had older children had deep regrets that they didn't learn these lessons earlier.

This class helped me a lot. I now know that the purpose of my authority in the lives of my children is not to hold them under my power, but to help them learn to be self controlled children who should live under the authority of the Lord. God willing, with instilling the lessons I learned in my home, my children will continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus and not only will they be a blessing at home, but when they leave home, I will be able to trust that their lives will honor God... what more can a parent ask for?"

Makaita is an unbelievable example of what God will do in our lives, if we give Him the opportunity. She is ALWAYS found serving at church these days, and her oldest son has no signs that he ever had such difficult behavior problems. He counts down the days until Sunday and loves coming to Sunday School. All of the teachers speak of how respectful and helpful he is!

**(Continued on next page)**

## Get Involved

We are getting ready for Christmas! Would your family/small group/co-workers like to join us?

*We are going to try to make Christmas special for the children we work with in orphanages, villages and poor urban communities. If you'd like to be involved, here's what you can do:*

- Email [Regina](#) to let her know if you would like to participate.
- Decide if you would like to give a gift to a child, a family or a group of children.
- If you don't really want to buy a gift or give to a specific child you can [Make a donation](#) to help us plan our Christmas meals! All financial support donated through ROCK of Africa Mission is tax deductible and will be used to show the love of Jesus to someone this Christmas!
- You can either purchase a gift and ship it (would need to ship the first week in November) or you can tell us the gift amount and we will purchase something here!
- Host a Christmas shopping fundraiser: do you know people who would buy **Mary Kay Cosmetics**, **Arbonne** or **Cookie Lee Jewelry**? If so their orders could be providing donations to support Refuge's Christmas! Do you have another great fundraising idea? Get in touch!

### Parenting

(cont. from page 2)

Teaching this class is a lot of hard work. We have to use an interpreter. Many of the lessons that I would like to breeze through quickly, take quite a while for everyone to have a clear understanding, but I am so blessed when people, like Makaita, share their testimonies. Each time I see a mother or father who entered our class full of stress, dissatisfied with their family life, start to walk through the door a little more relaxed or excited about life, I feel like I have been given a gift.

I love seeing lives changed. I LOVE seeing the life of a parent changed because I know the impact a mother and father have on their little ones! Please continue to pray for our parents!



*The vehicle I have been borrowing had a breakdown. The mechanic determined it is time for me to buy my own vehicle! If you would like to help, please visit [www.rockofafrica.org](http://www.rockofafrica.org) to make a donation!*



*Nov. 18-20 we are hosting a kids conference. Pray that our children will impact their communities!*

*Find more stories about life and ministry in Zimbabwe on my blog [gigiinzim.blogspot.com](http://gigiinzim.blogspot.com)*

*If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to support the work we are doing, or for the purchase of a vehicle, please visit [ROCK of Africa's](http://www.rockofafrica.org) website or email [Debi](#) for more info! You can also donate Bibles, maize seed and mosquito nets to be distributed on our upcoming Thanksgiving outreach!*

## LOCAL HEROES

### Zimbabweans serving boldly in their own communities

A few years ago when Zimbabwe was said to be at its worst, three Zimbabwean ladies joined together to encourage the local churches to work together to help care for children who were being orphaned by political violence. Sheree, Sheree and Jacque called themselves 'Miracle Missions'. Little did they know that their "short term mission" would still be keeping them busy years later.

Today, these ladies run networking meetings in Harare and Bulawayo connecting the people in the nation who work in similar capacities so that they can learn and grow from one another as well as to share resources and contacts. These three networking meetings meet once a month to discuss working in the prison system, working with orphans and vulnerable children and organizing community clean-ups and environmental education. At each meeting an expert is brought in to teach about a topic or an organization will present about the services they provide in the community.

MM has been instrumental in our "Foster Care Discussion Group". These ladies are an inspiration to me—always challenging, teaching and encouraging me. If you would like to get to know them better, please like their [facebook](#) page! In the coming weeks they will do a training program for teens who will age out of their orphanages and in December will host the best Christmas party in Zim, for hundreds of kids who live in orphanages. Truly these women are heroes to me as well as the nation of Zimbabwe!



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*Help make Christmas a very happy day for some very special kids! Buy a gift or sponsor a meal this holiday season!*