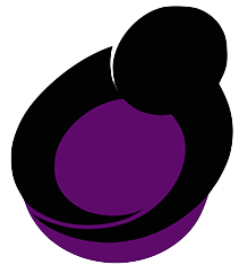


Feed Love Change International



FLC International
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December 23, 2024

Greetings Friends of FLC!

Do you realize FLC has been in operation for 11 years and many of you have been with us since the inception of the board; many of you have been with Carolyn in this journey for more than double that time? Many of us remain here because of the people we serve in Zimbabwe, but honestly, especially because of the *people serving people* in Zimbabwe. There are more than a handful of people who, through their actions, *impress upon us the need for our stewardship* as they serve their community.

Dumisani Ndlovu comes to mind - Dumisani oversees our education scholarship program and works diligently to identify orphans committed to a hope and a future. This year, Dumisani lost one of his program participants to suicide over an unexpected pregnancy. Please keep them in your prayers.



Themba Sibanda is also top of mind. Themba Sibanda, our management team chair skillfully works to maintain the challenges of legacy leadership after Jackson's passing. The management board is restructuring in the new year, as part of our overall strategy. Shortly after I left last year, Themba was mugged on a street not too far from his home. These men continue to press forward.

However, there are two members we are especially grateful for this Christmas season. They are the reason we continue to take risks, to change direction when required. They work tirelessly for FLC Zimbabwe, despite the challenging demands of their professional and family lives.

We were first introduced to Belinda Ncube in 2018 as part of a team evaluating our programs for efficiency and effectiveness. We asked Belinda to join our team approximately 3 years ago as a board member, and now she liaisons between FLC Zimbabwe's management team and our board. I watched her work skillfully last December as she introduced changes to the food distribution program with love and respect to the participants. Now our recipients have more autonomy over purchasing needs for their families as she oversaw that transition to a voucher system. At home, Belinda parents three children, her eldest son 18, and two daughters 13, and 10 years old. She juggles her demanding work schedule



facilitating inter-party dialogue among political parties in Zimbabwe. I see her literally as a modern-day “Joseph.” She is principled, disciplined, faithful, and humble.



Last but not least, is Guide Sibanda, now our executive director in Zimbabwe. Guide worked quietly and tirelessly beside Jackson and stepped up as he fell ill. When we required paperwork to maintain our fiscal integrity, it was often Guide with whom we counted on to get it to us in a timely manner. Guide spearheaded the initiative for our first well development in the Nketa community, and now, the second well initiative - hopefully in operation by late December in the neighbourhood of Queen’s Park East and West! Guide and his wife, Lindoe proudly raise three biological children - two lovely girls and a bright, soccer-loving boy. Their family has also been enriched by two additional children: a son from Lindoe's sister, who's recently graduated with a degree in Environmental Science, and a daughter from my late brother, whom we adopted at just four years old and is now a thriving 18-year-old. Guide works as a procurement officer, Lindoe works as a Regional Secretary for the Grain Marketing Board,

and together they farm on the weekends selling their produce (onions, cabbage, and butternut squash) which supports the extended family as well. Guide is our Daniel - working steadfastly. Quietly. Like Daniel, Guide leads by serving, stands tall while kneeling, is brave, but humble in his “asks” for the blessing of his community.

Our rub with these individuals help chart our direction; we trust them. While we plan, we pivot according to their nuanced understanding of their culture, their politics, *their hopes for the future and their needs for today*. Under their tutelage, our learnings this year are resulting in some changes in the way we are working.

Last year, I wrote about our desire to birth the farming initiative called Fig Tree in which we have access to up to 40 acres for crop development. Fig Tree remains a goal for us. However, a clarifying insight over this past year is that this initiative is one that requires the support not just of FLC, but more than one community church in the area to partner with us to ensure its success. So we have pivoted. We were focused this year on building a relationship with Queen’s Park Community Church. Moreover, FLC Zimbabwe’s management team is restructuring their management team. They asked several members to step down to make way for community members from Queen’s Park. Guide and Belinda specifically are putting a framework in place to ensure any potential members are vetted for the necessary skills. This is a fundamental first step in moving towards laying the groundwork now for success at Fig Tree later.

Last year, I asked specifically if you would consider increasing your monthly or yearly giving, and thank you to those of our supporters who responded to this call. We want to thank all of you for your faithful stewardship of FLC. Every dollar you put towards FLC, is met with thanksgiving and gratefulness.

In closing, we could not do this humble work without you. Thank you again and always for the way you partner to end resistance, encourage resilience, and restore hope. May Joy, Peace, Love – all the very best gifts of the season, continue to be yours.

As board Chair and on behalf of FLC International, and FLC Zimbabwe, blessings to you this Christmas season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. S. M.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.