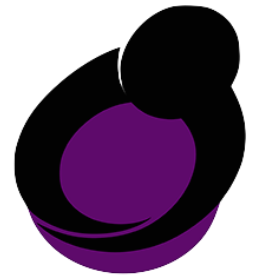


Feed Love Change International



November 1, 2020

To our Partners,

Our last update was prior to realizing the impact of Co-Vid 19. Who would have known the world shortly thereafter would experience a crisis transcending global borders, economic status, and cultures? Many of us experienced personally, in a short span of time, how important connections and relationships are. For many of us, it was a 'compass righting' moment, and we were faced with - beyond word speak - what we value: the blessing of security or not, and who and what is important. Values and relationships were tested. Likely many of us experienced situations we would never like to go through again, but maybe just maybe, in retrospect, we wouldn't trade some of the treasures mined during these more uncertain times.

While Covid-19 has dominated news outlets across the world, other story lines fell from the headlines. My casual observation was stories of transitioning energy sources, regional divides and tensions, politics, and climate impact fell from the newswire (the one exception... seemingly our Northern fetish with our Southerly neighbours!).

I confess, in a time of personal transition with family, I did not give as much thought to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe. To have yet another hardship layered upon the pre-existing challenges is more than you or I can appreciate. Never once have I gone to the tap and found it dry, nor flipped a light switch under normal circumstances and fail to have a room illuminated. And yet, because of technology we heard firsthand that in addition to strident lockdown measures, families were without electricity for days on end, and then intermittently between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00am. Those who are fortunate to drive for water, continue to do so.

The city's water sources were dry often for one week at a time, and sometimes as long as two. Can we even begin to imagine? Because of these moments and conversations, I am reminded that my "hard" is not hard.

What is surprising is the thin veneer of 'normal' between us and our partners/leaders in Zimbabwe. We talk via WhatsApp or Messenger, texting and emails. However, I am reminded when seeking news of Zimbabwe, that this "NOW" generation will transform their nation for better or ill but also very sobering is the realization that two generations of young people have not been able to secure some form of employment, couldn't count on a stable public education system, and are dependent on handouts for survival. What country wouldn't teeter on the brink of catastrophe?

Close to us at FLC, our beloved Zimbabwean co-founder and faithful partner suffered a stroke in July. While Jackson is recovering, it is unclear how or if he will be able to continue in his role. We are so thankful he has access to physio and the medications necessary to facilitate his recovery, and equally thankful an FLC management team in Zimbabwe was put in place January of this year. They remain committed to carry on the work of feeding and caring in Jackson's absence.

To this end, members of the FLC management team are in the process of securing land for a community garden. Our role is to continue supporting much needed projects under their direction and discernment. As a board, our conversations are not without difficulty, but I believe the growing pains are part of our individual transformation as much as they are

about tangible progress in Zimbabwe. Your faithfulness, and theirs, is seeing this dream become a reality.

Recently, I have pondered at length, both the vision and the operations of FLC. I begin with the former. Our vision has been three-fold, feeding, educating and empowering. Jesus mandate to “feed my sheep,” and the challenge within Jeremiah, “rise up and build, and strengthening their hands for good work” in a barren Jerusalem, is really the picture of community. What is our role in the process of healthy communities? What would Zimbabwe look like for this next generation if we were faithful to Jesus call of coming along side others, of feeding, educating, and building? This is a gnarly goal. We are but one small organization in but one small community. It seems progress is measured in inches, and we are restless for faster progress and outcomes. This is not a bad thing. But increasingly it is the steadfast patterns of “yes, Lord” to the call in this community that compels us to stay the course

The latter is the here and now. What operations are hindering our partners, what steps can we take now? We feel incredibly good about our management team in Zimbabwe and their willingness to lend their time and expertise to their community. My last call took place this morning with Guide, our interim leader in Zimbabwe. After nearly 2 hours, I became aware of the obvious. Water is an issue for this community. Can we endeavor to lighten the load, so that indirectly the hours queuing for water at a pump can be used to face other challenges in their day? We do not want to lose site of the mission, but nor do we want to miss an opportunity to be relevant in the day to day. Responding to this need begins the process of how best, and who best to put a well in place in this community.

Prior to closing, I want to apologize for my oversight in not conveying a new date for our open house, nor updating on FLC especially considering Covid-19. It is not lost on FLC, that competing organizations, and good causes are also requesting your resources. However, we appreciate that you continue to remain with us on this journey. Please at any time, if you would like more information or a follow-up call, reach out to me at 226-750-2110.

On behalf of FLC Canada, and in partnership with you,

Lisa Sailor,
FLC Board Chair

*And what does the lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8*