

Welcome to the 1st issue 2022 newsletter. We hope that you find it informative as you read the articles. Thankyou for taking an interest in the work of Nehemiah Project, and for the many of you who contribute to its success in so many ways

## Classroom development

On a hot, early morning in October 2012, I stood with a number of other people, shovel over shoulder, on a piece of urban waste ground the sides of which had been used as a household refuse dumping area for more than a decade, and no, I didn't see the potential, I just saw – well – a dump, but the person next to me; the visionary, she could see what I couldn't, and what a sight it was and has become!

Tents and long-drop latrines have become brick buildings and flushable toilets. Rondaavals have appeared, stone constructed with beautiful, thatched roofs. Running water, water storage to protect to some extent against the worst excesses of the water cuts, mains electricity, successes, failures, ups and downs and here we are 10 years on.



We have our first school classroom, and we have canopies either side so that 3 classes can be taught in all but the worst of the weather. What can we say to all those who "bought bricks", who donated funds, who came to fund raisers like curry nights and crazy golf evenings, and to Rayleigh Baptist Church whose heart has come to beat with the same rhythm as Nehemiah Project in the current season of life, and whose significant donations & pledges have in no small part brought this classrooms block vision into being. Thanks to all; we are a small charitable organisation to whom this investment has been huge – and a bit scary for some of us. You gave us the confidence to take a deep breath (and a big gulp) and place the necessary orders.

It will be great to get the infill brick work done so we have three all weather enclosed brick classrooms – but for now we are amazed at what has been achieved. We've been praying; we know others have too; and we know that whether you believe as we do or whether you don't, all who've contributed to this in so many ways can be proud of how far we've come.

We never set out to build a school, and we're still not doing that. But the education system in Zimbabwe is broken and whilst schools do the best they can, and it's better than nothing, we felt that with a registered charitable educational facility we could give some kids a real chance, and the fact that we can't do that for every child doesn't mean we shouldn't be doing it for every child **we can**.

Nehemiah Project Support Trust in the UK works in Bulawayo to support two main Orphan-Care works. One in the North of the City out towards the Airport, in the suburb of Sauerstown, and one far out in the West of the City, in the suburb of Cowdray Park. If you're a financial donor to Nehemiah Project, this is where your money gets spent.

On the next page are two stories straight from Zimbabwe;

the first from Cowdray Park, and the second from Sauerstown.

## CAREER GUIDANCE

We never tire of saying it (and it's already been used once in this very newsletter, so we're hoping regular readers of our newsletter never tire of hearing it) - Education is the primary route out of poverty. We were therefore heartened to hear that the Zimbabwe project staff had worked hard to put on a Career guidance event at their site, Ithemba Centre, in Cowdray Park.

Many young beneficiaries of the project attended and Nehemiah Project had lined up some great exhibitors to expand the minds of those who came as to what may be open to them. Westgate Industrial Training College sent representatives to show their facilities and courses in various engineering opportunities; Zimbabwe School of Mines was there to talk about how they might help young people access opportunities in Zimbabwe's mineral extraction industry (one of the few industrial ventures in Zimbabwe that is doing well, so potentially a great line of work to get into. In addition, representatives who had studied at two of Bulawayo's most well known educational establishments (Bulawayo Polytechnic College, and the National University of Science & Technology (NUST) were also there to give attendees the benefit of their experience.

A picture paints 1000 words so I will leave you with a couple, but suffice to say the event was a great success and gave many young project beneficiaries both food for thought, and inspiration.



Project beneficiaries concentrating to get all they can from the event



The Industrial School of Mines inspires young people about Zimbabwe's rich mineral extraction history

### Bulawayo North Early Childhood Development (ECD) graduation ceremony

If there's one thing a Zimbabwean educational establishment loves, it's a graduation ceremony – and every school year seems to have one involving caps/gowns/the lot. Nehemiah Project is very proud of its ECD program which institutes sustainability ideals by asking that those that can afford pay a little for their place at the school (education is NOT tax-payer funded in Zimbabwe) and this payment enables the school to also offer places to those children who come from families who almost literally have nothing.

So when you're paying for something, or when you know that others are paying so you can go to school, moving up to the next level is massive. And of course, behind the scenes, Nehemiah Project's donors (that's many of you reading this newsletter) are quietly making up shortfalls, putting in small infrastructures and contents (painting & decorating, toilet facilities, desks, chairs, etc), responding to emergencies. You're all underpinning the success.

After a great deal of planning, the day arrives and if you look at the photo below, well, it isn't difficult to see what it means to these very young children. Graduation is something to look forward to, experience, and look back on with pride, whatever your age. Well done to all the graduates, and grateful thanks to all in Zimbabwe, the UK, and probably elsewhere too, who make this venture possible.



Lots of happy children graduating at Bulawayo North ECD School (OK, I agree, some of the kids look like rabbits caught in headlights, but they're very young)

### Nehemiah Project UK Trust

Established in 2010, but who are the Trustees?

- Steve MacLean (Chair)
- Ruth & Andy Thorn
- Don Cooper
- Simon & Carol Jones
- Rosemary Parmenter

Some are known to some of you, some reading this letter know all of them, and some readers may know one or none, but all are working tirelessly and wholly voluntarily to bring about lasting change to orphans and vulnerable children in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Thanks, as always, for all your support in so many ways.