



# GECKO TODAY

July 2011

## EVENTS

We invite you to our upcoming events.

### Langley's International Festival

August 27th & 28th,

Willoughby

Community Park

7888-200th Street,

Langley, BC

Come and enjoy The many stalls INCLUDING

entertainment

As well as

Geckos and

Crafts from

Zimbabwe

If you would like a Copy of the report prepared for EFCCM highlighting our trip please e mail by return and I will make sure you receive a copy

### Hope Comes in the form of support from Canada

Zimbabwe is still suffering from one the most major economic crisis in the country's history. Thousands of families are displaced, children orphaned, 93% of adults without work as the nation's market continues to worsen. What was once the jewel of Africa, overflowing with a sea of tourists, has now become a nation filled with poverty. Frank and I have just returned from Four months work in Zimbabwe. On arrival we thought "wow" "things have improved" there is now food in the shops and the US \$\$ is the stable currency but as time passed we witnessed much sadness and despair. Lack of Medical and dental assistance stands in the forefront. Children are dying from common treatable illness. Suffering for most due to lack of funds. Even \$20 to go to hospital after a stroke is unaffordable. We often stood by, helpless, making tough decisions knowing we could spend every penny of funds raised in Canada on medical treatment but knowing that is not what our mandate states or what we told you we would do with the funds. We spent your donations wisely and in keeping with what we promised. We accomplished a great deal. Too much to write in this newsletter. Perhaps you can come to our October 29<sup>th</sup> dinner and hear and see what was accomplished. Thank you to all who gave so generously. You definitely made a difference in many lives and gave hope and opportunity to many for the future.

### \*\* Please Take Note \*\*

We are changing the Month of our Annual Fundraising Dinner from March to October to facilitate travel to Zimbabwe before the rainy season. (ready for planting)

Dinner date October 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30 \$30

Tickets sell out very quickly so if you want to book in advance please call Sue 604-531-3654 to book.

Delicious Meal - Great Entertainment - Silent Auction and more. Come and see the slide presentation and see where your donated dollars were spent.

### Below is a photo of the Saffron Church /Chiedza Pre School and Community Centre

This was our biggest project in Zimbabwe

Turning an Old tractor workshop with few walls into this multi-function building. The Church immediately filled causing great excitement in the community. Local witch doctors now attending church !!!

The Chiedza preschool (meaning light) already has 50 children in attendance with 3 teachers.

Pastor Donny was reduced to tears of Joy on opening day. He and the team at Saffron say a

**BIG "THANK YOU"** especially to the Willingdon Church Youth Group who raised 80% of funds needed to build and equip the Church and School.

This Church/School was built mostly by community volunteers alongside a builder - amazing to watch and a privilege to take part in.

They now have ownership and pride for all they have achieved for the community. I would love for you to meet them and hear the stories of all they have overcome to build this church/school.

Well Done Saffron Team!!





## Garage Sale



On May 14<sup>th</sup>, we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> successful garage sale .

Almost \$4000 raised for projects!!

We were truly blessed by your support, donations and attendance. We also appreciate the many people who volunteered their time and energy to make it the successful event it was. We could not have done it without YOU.

Grateful thanks especially go to Marie and Mike Smith , Jackie and Norb Neufeld and their families for taking the lead in organizing this event in our absence. I know it was a huge task. Your efforts are truly appreciated and will make a huge difference in many many lives.

Well done!

Thanks also go to the White Rock Baptist Church for the use of the church hall and the many volunteers who made the work move along with ease.

Much appreciated!

Remember the 100's of puppets we made! The children put on many puppet shows. They loved playing with them. As well as telling many heartbreaking stories.



Other Projects taken on during the months March to end of June

**Jirus Jiri** - We were unable to add to this program during this trip but have bigger plans for our next one. Distance/transport/ telephone communication were an issue.

Petros Yergatin Area Manager EFCCM and Cerelina Gurat Volunteer were able to Join me in March and witness the many areas of ministry we are involved in. In just 8 days Petros was able to meet and greet all the Team leaders and the children and joyfully verified and approved all the ministries we were involved with. Cerelina also met the teams and was deeply moved by all she saw and met. Then Cerelina joined the teachers at CTT and made quite an impact. This was verified by myself when I went to one of the classes a month later and two of the children came up to me and sang "you put your right hand in and your right hand out....." followed by "I spy with my little eye something beginning with Red....." The moment she left the team and the children missed her presence . Thank you Cerelina You made a difference!

CTT(Center for total transformation)

We installed a 260 egg incubator designed to support the 200 children attending school and receiving meals on the premises daily. Of the 250 chicks born each 21 days 75 will go to our other projects. ie Saffron, K Project, Christlike ministries etc.

We provided donated seed for the agricultural projects and for seed harvesting as well as micro businesses.

A micro business loan program was started for the widows. (Much rejoicing)

Card making was taught.

A highlight for me was the building of two homes for child headed families and seeing the joy of one of those families that moved in. 3 girls and a boy (the girls more than likely saved from sexual abuse) The delight on meeting their new "mother" receiving new clothes, mattress and blankets was a delight that I was only slightly able to catch on Camera. Following this a couple in our church have come forward to sponsor them. What a blessing.

A second couple from our church have come forward to take on a second child headed family but right now we are working with the social workers to complete the move.

So many stories to tell about these child headed families. No space here. Invite me and some of your friends over to hear more.

Kambazooma Project - We started a Micro Loan Business and funds to build a toilet, chicken run and garden project as well as school funds. All of which will benefit the children.

We have 26 children in this project needing sponsors or support to continue with their education. I have their profiles/stories from as little as \$10 your sponsorship is needed. \$10 a month helps with schooling \$20 schooling, uniforms, books. \$ 30 includes food. Some of the children have widowed mothers who have low paying jobs the others are orphaned. **Please call if you would like to sponsor a child.** E mail communication will be provided between you and your sponsored child.

Hands of Mercy - Seed provided for seed harvest as well as seed for sale.

A good visit with Keith and Kathy was had with the goal to look at proposals to continue with the child village on the next trip. Keith made all the benches and tables for the Saffron Church/School.

Some of the 26 children needing sponsors to continue with their education. Kambazooma project. E mail contact will be available for you to communicate with your child. \$10 a month education only \$15 includes uniform \$ 20 includes books \$25 includes food.



[www.zimbabwegecko.com](http://www.zimbabwegecko.com)

**Summer Festival**  
We have a table at this festival please come out and enjoy yourself as well as meet and greet I would love to chat and tell you of our recent trip to Zimbabwe

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10 –  
Uptown  
Summersault  
Festival**  
(Russell Avenue  
White Rock ) 11 am  
to 4pm – parking  
available behind  
Central Plaza Mall.

Zimbabwe  
Gecko Society

#102 1744 128th  
Street  
Surrey, B.C.  
Canada  
V4A 3V4

604-531-3654  
Sue

Annual Fund  
raising dinner  
October 29<sup>th</sup>  
Surrey Golf  
Course

Buffet  
Entertainment  
Silent Auction  
P.Point  
Presentation  
Call Sue for  
Tickets  
604-531-3654

