



Mr Astonishment Mapurisa

Director - Matthew Rusike Children's Home (MRCH), Zimbabwe

Mr Mapurisa is the Director of Matthew Rusike Childrens Home (MRCH) in Zimbabwe and he is coming to Australia in July in a trip sponsored by long-term supporters, Qantas.

Mr. Mapurisa is a dynamic, sociable and charismatic leader who brings a vast experience from various public institutions such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Department of Social Welfare and Ministry of Justice. Mr. Mapurisa is a social worker by profession and holds a Masters Degree in Policy Studies.

Matthew Rusike Children's home is located in Epwoth, 20km from Harare, the capitol city of Zimbabwe. The home was started by Rev Matthew Rusike in 1950.

Since taking up the position of Director in 2002, Mr Mapurisa has been responsible for transitioning the home from a dorm-style institution to small home-style accommodation in the effort to best to provide individual care plans for the children with a focus on cultural and spiritual heritage, as well as to promote the special gifts and talents processed by each child to help overcome trauma and empower them for the realization of his/her full potential.

As a part of this progress, under the leadership of Mr. Mapurisa, a number of development projects have been implemented by MRCH. These projects look to build the capacity of the participants in vocational areas such as local farming techniques, tailoring, etc while generating income as well.

Mr. Mapurisa will be in Sydney from the 19th – 26th July, and as part of the UnitingWorld School Program, is available and willing to meet with schools and speak to staff and students groups about Zimbabwe, his work and the growing partnership with UnitingWorld.

About Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe currently faces an array of development issues. The government is facing a shortage of foreign exchange, and a shortage in essential supplies and food. According to the World Health Organisation, Zimbabwe has one of the lowest life expectancies in the world, at 37 years for men and 34 years for women. Additionally, the country suffers from one of the highest HIV infection rates in the world (15.3 per cent in 2007).



UnitingWorld in Zimbabwe

UnitingWorld is the international development and partnerships arm of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe is trust partner of the Uniting Church in Australia, a partnership with is facilitated by UnitingWorld.

The Relief and Development Unit of UnitingWorld works in partnership with the church in Zimbabwe through their development arm, Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA) on a number of development projects in Muzarabani, located in northern Zimbabwe.

A Water Harvesting project is providing storage for rain water in very low rainfall areas, and leadership training is being provided for disaster management strategies in times of flood .

A Community Livelihoods and HIV/AIDS project commences this year. Almost 200 vulnerable people in the village of Warambwa will be empowered through livelihood projects (including training in carpentry and sewing, and awareness of human rights) and education about HIV/AIDS .

UnitingWorld is seeking to further engage with the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe in the future, through the deployment of Experience volunteers to work with the church and its organisations.

Our Trusted Partner - Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe was established as the result of Methodist mission work in Southern Rhodesia. The church has been independent of the Methodist Church in Britain since 1980, and has been steadily growing in membership since.

The Church is also in need of more leaders to increase their capacity – there are currently 116 ordained clergy, including 14 women. There are 79 student ministers.

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe runs 11 primary, nine secondary schools, and four community centres.

For more information about UnitingWorld and our work in Zimbabwe, call + 61 2 8267 4267 or visit www.unitingworld.org.au

