



The Maynard Family

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

Our Church Partner

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe is the result of British Methodist mission work in Southern Rhodesia. In 1980, the church gained independence from the Methodist Church in Britain. Since then The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe has grown and broadened its communities. Currently the growth of the church is proving to be a heavy strain on church leadership. The church is also faced with a high death rate from HIV/AIDS and many orphans in immense need. To address the rapidly increasing needs of the Church's member great emphasis has been placed on training. Approximately 90 percent of The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe clergy have received training. At present there are 116 ordained clergy including 14 women and 79 student ministers.

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe runs 11 primary and nine secondary schools. In addition to this the church runs four multipurpose community centres, used for work among women, youth and non-church groups. The schools and centres are used ecumenically.

About the Project

In the town of Epworth, 15 kilometers from the center of Harare where Matthew Rusike Children's Home is located, many orphans are cared for in community by foster parents or in child-headed households. A majority of Epworth's residents live below the poverty line and are caring for children with very limited resources. In order to continue much needed social services to the surrounding community, Matthew Rusike has developed a number of economic empowerment projects to enable vocational skills and income generation for carers of orphans.

A tailoring workshop, community garden and poultry breeding project all aim to provide vocational skills, nutritional support and income for both participants and future development projects.



Experience Program



About the Maynard Family

The Maynards are a family of five from Tasmania. Grant and Anthea have had a longstanding interest in Africa since they visited soon after getting married. Zimbabwe in particular left a marked impression on their lives and they are excited to now have the opportunity to learn from and contribute to the work of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.

In Tasmania Anthea has been working for the Tasmanian Gourmet Sauce Company making sauces, chutneys, jams and mustards. She has a background in Medical Science and has also recently completed a Masters in public health and tropical medicine. Anthea will be working alongside the nurse clinician at the Matthew Rusike Children's Home to assist with public health education and awareness especially relating to HIV/AIDS. Grant is a primary school teacher and Chaplain and will be involved in teacher mentoring and chaplaincy with the small community school based at Matthew Rusike Children's Home for children who cannot afford to attend another school.

Grant and Anthea will also be homeschooling their three girls, Abbey, Clare and Bridie during their time in Zimbabwe.

Abbey is eleven years old and loves to read, swim, fiddle on computers and dance. Clare is nine and enjoys playing imaginative games, doing ballet and highland dancing, playing with friends and swimming. Bridie is six years old and loves playing with Clare, learning violin, swimming and cooking.

Of their hopes for their time in Zimbabwe, Anthea says, "We hope that we can be an encouragement. We hope to form strong positive relationships and celebrate the good things that are being done. We want to listen to people's stories and hear about the things that God is doing in their lives and that God has taught them from generations long ago. If we could be of service in the area of primary health care and education/chaplaincy, we would be delighted"

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