



Giving
Hope
Today

Global Link



Supporting China

By Lt-Colonel David Hiscock

A few months ago I had the opportunity to visit projects supported by the Canada and Bermuda Territory on behalf of the world missions department. My journey took me to many regions, towns and villages in China and involved numerous individuals.

The projects were initiated to bring economic stability following the devastating Sichuan earthquake in 2008. This included a honeysuckle planting site (1,000 plants had been planted in the fall), a ready source of water as well as a planting association organized with local farmers who were very happy and optimistic about the venture.

I was privileged to visit a school for "left-behind children" allowing for interaction with the headmaster, teachers, social worker and children. This is an amazing sustainable ministry to children, but it has significant challenges.

My visit to the Canyuan County and its people made the deepest impact upon my life. Here in the villages I discovered extreme poverty and the most obvious degree of human need. There is a complete absence of clean water, basic hygiene and sanitation. The villagers are very industrious but are limited to develop new sources of income, primarily due to their mountaintop location, to develop new sources of income.

There is an unlimited opportunity for the ministry of The Salvation Army in mainland China. If we are there, God is there and his Holy Spirit can be experienced.

Please pray for the unique opportunities of The Salvation Army Hong Kong and Macau Command as they respond to the needs of vulnerable people in China.

Lt-Colonel David Hiscock with children from China



The Love of Jesus

*We have caught the vision splendid of a world which is to be,
When the pardoning love of Jesus freely flows from sea to sea,
When all men from strife and anger, greed and selfishness are free,
When the nations live together in sweet peace and harmony.*

For many Salvationists, these are familiar words from our song book. How we long for a world where sharing and caring for one another comes naturally. A world where "nations live together in sweet peace and harmony."



Major Gillian Brown
World Missions Director

We are grateful to those who support the ministry of the World Missions department as we play our part on behalf of The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory to encourage and empower those serving in vulnerable communities around the globe. In Salvation Army churches, congregations are being reminded of our role as "partners in mission."

In this issue of the *Global Link*, we share insights of Heather Osmond from St. John's, N.L., as she writes following her experience of travelling with me to Zimbabwe in 2014. Heather's husband, Matthew, produced several short videos which we hope everyone will have an opportunity to watch, either within your congregation or by going to our website at www.saworldmissions.ca.

We also feature updates of the children's programs supported through the Brighter Futures Sponsorship program. Major Donna Barthau, our sponsorship co-ordinator, had the opportunity at the end of last year to visit Kenya and Uganda and provide us with a firsthand look at the difference that sponsorship is making in the lives of so many young people.

God is at work in the world. We know that the words of the song quoted above will have their ultimate fulfilment when Jesus returns, but that does not change His calling for you and me to be agents of change in a world in need of peace and harmony!

Thank you for being our partner in mission. We do not take your generosity for granted.

Gillian Brown

Gillian Brown (Major)
Director of World Missions



THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADA & BERMUDA TERRITORY

PARTNERS IN MISSION

Focus on Africa

Liberia, Malawi and Zimbabwe



By Heather Osmond

I first travelled to Zimbabwe in 2008 and immediately fell in love with the beautiful country and the wonderful people I met there. I was so thankful to be invited to visit Zimbabwe again in 2014 as part of the Partners in Mission annual trip, and for the opportunity to see more of the country and witness The Salvation Army's work in our partner territory.

The Salvation Army has two busy hospitals in Zimbabwe; Howard Hospital situated 80 km from the city of Harare and Tshelanyemba Hospital near Bulawayo. The isolation and rural setting of the Tshelanyemba Hospital brings unique challenges, but the dedication of the medical staff and the officers was a reminder of the commitment to sacrificial service that is part of the ministry of The Salvation Army around the world. Major Edwin Jeremiah, the administrator of Tshelanyemba Hospital, commented, "People come from everywhere and are healed. It is a blessing to be used by God." This officer had not drawn his salary for two months to support the work of the hospital. How many of us would sacrifice our salaries to give to another?



Tshelanyemba Hospital



Youth who attend Howard High School

The Zimbabwe Territory also has four boarding schools and many community schools. As a teacher myself, I know that every child has potential if given opportunities and resources. As we visited three schools, I was overwhelmed to see almost two thousand young people who are being given that opportunity by their dedicated teachers and the resources provided by the Army. The leaders of the schools did share the need for certain supplies that are beyond what the school can presently afford, and for many students it is a challenge to afford the fees to go to school at all. The schools do generate some income through a piggery or the raising of cattle, but challenges remain. It's interesting to sit in my studio now and hear from my own students about a boring day at school. My mind goes to those children who can't afford to go to school but want nothing more.

We attended two different worship services. Not knowing the language did not affect the sense of being a part of worship with the congregation. Most people will walk for miles each Sunday to attend the services which typically run for five or six hours. There are many traditional instruments being played, including a traditional hide drum. As I was told there is more energy out of a traditional drum than our western ones and I had to agree!

The Salvation Army ministry in Zimbabwe has continued despite political upheaval and economic crisis, because God is faithful. We need to pray for the ministry of the Army in Zimbabwe and the many other countries where The Salvation Army has a vibrant presence in the midst of vulnerable communities. By the giving of our resources, we can tangibly offer assistance to the work of our brothers and sisters in the Lord. God is still using the Army all over the world and if we continue to seek His guidance, I believe He still has work for us to do together.



Church services in Zimbabwe are always full of song, joy and praise for the love of God

A Reunion - Likoni School for the Blind, Kenya

For decades, The Salvation Army in Kenya has specialized in education for the blind and physically disabled. There are a total of nine schools, four in Thika, four in Kisumu located at the western border, and Likoni Primary School for the Blind located on the extreme east coast. This is a story of Major Donna Barthau's (sponsorship co-ordinator, world missions department) reunion with a former student.

Major Donna Barthau shares this photo of Elizabeth, circled below, taken in 1989



Major Donna Barthau (left) stands with Elizabeth and two children from Likoni School for the Blind

develop our education programs even more.”

Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship – what a great, expressive name that conveys exactly what our program is all about! Sponsorship enabled Elizabeth to walk into a brighter future – and now she is active and intentional about bringing a brighter future to the blind children at her school.

Likoni has a unit for multi-handicapped children – those who are blind and crippled, and several who are blind but also developmentally delayed. The school has a medical room and they are working on a computer and multi-media room. This room will be equipped with special machines and computer programs (brailers, enlargers, braille copiers and spoken words) to help blind students progress in their lives.

She and her staff truly care about their children. They are working towards, and praying for, a wall that will surround the school to protect them from human traffickers.

She asked me to pass along deep and grateful thanks for all that our donors do to help the vulnerable blind students that are under her care.

I travelled 10 hours by bus to visit Likoni Primary School where wonderful education and ministry takes place.

Several of the teachers and staff are former students from Salvation Army schools for disabled children. The children receive nutritious meals, participate in regular studies, are trained to read braille (if necessary) and develop life skills. They also learn personal independence by doing their own laundry, keeping their beds tidy and sweeping the buildings and grounds.

A former student of mine is now the headmistress (principal) of Likoni. Elizabeth was in my home room class for four years. She was capable, smart, musical and athletic. Elizabeth passed her Kenya Government exams and went on to do her “A” levels in high school and then trained as a teacher.

As we sat together, I asked her, “Elizabeth, what brought you way over here (her home was near Lake Victoria) and into special education?”

“Oh, Madam Donna, I just had to do something for God. My heart was so full of gratitude for Salvation Army sponsors who helped me go to school. My family was poor and could not afford to send me to school after my primary level. It was only because of the sponsors who supported the Salvation Army sponsorship program for those six years that I was able to become what I am today. At the end of teaching one day, I felt convicted and promised God that I would do extra studies to work with blind children as my gratitude to Him for providing for me. I used my little savings to take courses in braille and other skills. I was hired to work at Likoni as a teacher, then they made me the deputy headmistress, and last April I became the headmistress. I love what I do here – and we have wonderful plans to continue to help these children and to



A child at Likoni Primary School reads braille

Give Something unique this Easter

Last year, through disaster relief donations, you helped to provide:

- gloves, protective wear, rain boots, face masks, rubbing alcohol, chlorine, sanitizer and safety buckets to help fight the Ebola outbreak in Liberia
- winter clothing, blankets, shawls, wool pullovers, rice and wheat flour benefiting 4,500 people in Kashmir, India, during flood crisis
- safe drinking water, rice, linen and roofing to 20,000 people during floods and landslides in Sri Lanka
- mattresses, pillows, beds and utensils for 73 families in Pakistan during flooding
- blankets, bed sheets and tarps for 1,000 families affected by heavy rainfall in Uttarakhand State, India

The Salvation Army is currently responding to the needs of vulnerable families in Malawi after severe floods caused devastation. Ensuring that the most urgent needs are met, distributions are being planned to deliver items such as maize, peas and beans to help support the families' requirements for food, along with mosquito nets to protect against the threat of malaria, and blankets to help people cope with the cold.

Immediate responses are required when disasters strike. Help us to build our resources through our Gifts of Hope disaster relief option so we can be ready to respond quickly when their world is turned upside down.

www.SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope

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