

Living Beyond Hope

6/1/2017

Issue 1

Teamwork Makes Dream Work

A letter to our donors

On behalf of the Arnoldine community, I would like to thank all who have supported the Arnoldine mission since 2014. A significant amount of work has been completed through your donations and we have already impacted the quality of lives for the school children, teachers and the entire community.



I hope you will take a moment to review this newsletter and see the progress that has been made to date. I am in touch with the community at Arnoldine on a regular basis and they always express their appreciation for your generosity.

As an organization, we continue to grow and plant our roots, as there is still more that can be done to ensure a bright future for the people of Arnoldine. We are working hard on becoming an established non-profit organization, and we have set a new goal to raise funds for building new classrooms in the village. More information about this project can be found later on in the newsletter.

Once again, I thank you for your support and I look forward to sharing our progress with you!

Farai

Building the Future



Living Beyond Hope began with a dream to improve the quality of life for the people of the Arnoldine mission, a small, underprivileged, village in Zimbabwe, Africa. Through your generous support, the people of Arnoldine now have hope beyond what they have experienced throughout their lives.

Read on to learn more about the progress that has been made in this community in 2014, and see what our plans are for future projects.

If you are interested in supporting our organization, please contact Farai Rukunda at farairukunda@yahoo.com or 269-930-3959.

Arnoldine Community

Restoration of Arnoldine Church

In the summer of 2014, I travelled, along with former missionary Dr. Norman Thomas, to my home village, Arnoldine mission, located in Zimbabwe, Africa. The purpose of this trip was to visit relatives and friends in Zimbabwe and my home village. Dr. Thomas and his wife Winnie were



former missionaries at Arnoldine mission back in the 1960s.

When we were at Arnoldine mission we toured the village, meeting family, and other members of the community. It was during that visit when my

perspective to life changed. I noticed all the mission work done with Norman and Winnie was still impacting lives 50+ years later. It was at this point when it finally clicked for me— in life sometimes we have to live beyond ourselves and focus on others.

Since my return to the U.S.A, in Stevensville, Michigan (August 2014), I partnered with my home church, Stevensville United Methodist, and its congregation in supporting our first project at Arnoldine Mission—restoration of the church. Before 2014, the church had not been painted for at least 30 years and it was in poor shape. The congregation at SUMC learned about the situation



and they rallied to raise funds to restore the church. We provided funds for the material and the community at Arnoldine volunteered their time and labor to paint the church. It took the Arnoldine community two weeks to complete repairing the church. Today the church looks very beautiful and the community is ever thankful for the generosity.

Arnoldine Secondary School

Clean Water Project

Arnoldine Mission High School was started in 2013 with only 7 students and since then the student population has grown to 209 students. Their first graduating class was in December of 2016. The congregation of Stevensville United Methodist Church and many others throughout the Southwest Michigan community provided significant help towards the needs of Arnoldine High School.



The first need to be immediately addressed was a source of clean water for the students. Children were walking 3 miles round trip to collect water from a river, sharing the same water with the cows. The kids carried buckets of dirty water every morning before classroom sessions started.



SUMC and the community raised funds to get the supplies needed for the clean water project; the Arnoldine high school students and the



community then stepped in and volunteered their time and efforts to help get the clean water system implemented in place. They dug trenches needed



to bury the water pipes. All the preparation work was done by the students through the guidance of a local plumber.

On June 29th of 2015, the lives of these children changed forever. For the first time clean water was available and

days of walking 3 miles every morning came to a halt. As one of the students said to me over the phone, "Mr. Rukunda, thank you—we were tired".

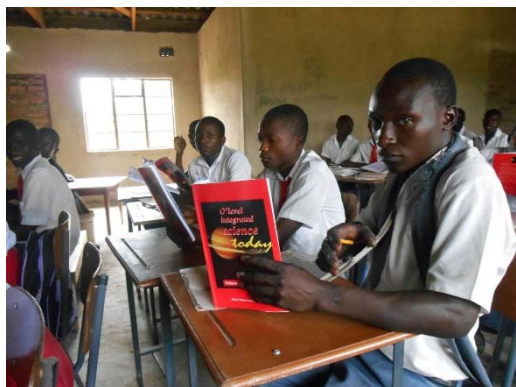
The Arnoldine community, the students, and the Stevensville community in the U.S.A worked together to make the water project a success. Money raised by the congregation impacted the lives of the children at Arnoldine high school in a way they will never forget.



Arnoldine Secondary School

Books and Desks Project

The challenges of getting clean water were resolved and it was quite a relief to know the high school students were now drinking clean safe water. However, their struggles were far from being over. They needed desks and text books for better learning. I could not imagine any child not having books for learning or benches and desks in the classroom.



Since then, the SUMC



Congregation, the local community, and private donors all over the United States have worked diligently to raise funds for desks and text books for the children.

There was even enough money left to purchase desks and chairs for the teachers as well. The school is still in need of additional textbooks as well as school supplies

Arnoldine Secondary School

Addition of classrooms

When the high school started 2013, they only had 7 students in the school. Arnoldine mission had 2 building structures they temporarily offered as classroom space for these 7 students and staff. Today the school is still using the same 2 buildings, but space is now shared between the staff and 209 students. Certainly more classrooms are needed and yes, this is a daunting project to even begin thinking about.





a capacity of 45 students.

In October of 2016 we began raising money to start adding one building at a time. By this time it was clear this was no longer a one congregation project. Local businesses, private donors around the country, and the Benton Harbor Sunrise Rotary Club joined the campaign. While we were raising money here, the community at Arnoldine were also working, rounding up bricks, quick sand, and cement to use in the building of each classroom block. A classroom block consists of two classrooms, each holding

Volunteers and parents in the community began



digging a foundation in preparation for the construction of the classroom block.



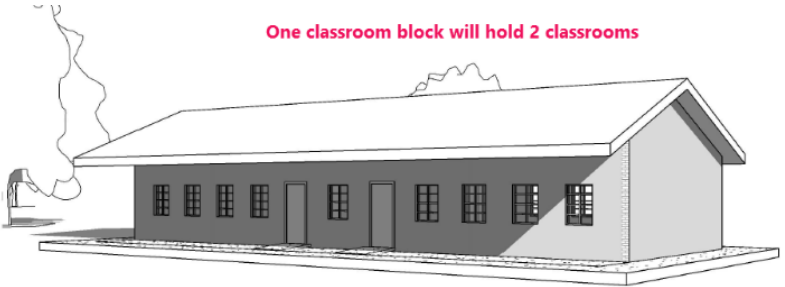
The building project is being led by a retired builder and longtime resident of Arnoldine



mission, Mr. Maforo.



As of June of 2017, the building has reached the roof level and very soon they will be adding the roof. Below is a 3D model of the completed classroom (special thanks to Andrew's University, Berrien Springs, Michigan for the 3D rendering).



One classroom block will hold 2 classrooms