



ACN 613 802 574

# ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency

Over 3,780 children have received treatment for clubfoot thanks to your generosity.

ZANE's food programme benefits over 1,400 destitute Zimbabweans.

Tom and Jane have walked over 2,500 miles across the UK to raise funds for ZANE.



Christmas 2019

# Newsletter

## Thank you

**The coup of November 2017 resulted in joyous scenes throughout Zimbabwe. The end of Mugabe's reign was greeted with celebration, jubilation and hope. Fast forward almost two years and the scenes that greeted news of Mugabe's death were in stark contrast. There was no sense of release or relief. His legacy lives on in the carbon-copy oppressive nature of his successor.**

Zimbabwe is not in mourning for its former leader but rather for the promise of what could have been.

Rampant inflation, relentless power cuts, water shortages, lack of access to basic healthcare and mass hunger dominate the lives of the people of Zimbabwe. Even the much-lauded education system is in a state of collapse.

Zimbabwe is a country gripped by fear; it is sinking under the weight of years of corruption, greed and mismanagement. The people once again watch helplessly as the new Zimbabwean dollar loses value daily, and savings and pensions evaporate.

My colleagues in Zimbabwe tell of pensioners cutting their tablets in half to save money; of some going to bed early to stave

off hunger pains. It's hard to see where it will all end.

Yet the situation would be so much harder for the thousands ZANE assists were it not for you. Your support keeps people alive. It enables ZANE to keep helping Zimbabwe's desperate people under our care despite the escalating costs. We all know how much harder life would be for them without this help. For that, we thank you.

In this newsletter you will read about how exactly your gifts are helping. On behalf of the ZANE team and all those we are able to help, thank you.

Tom Benyon OBE

## Twice bitten

Seventy-three year old Rosemary\* spent most of her life as a primary school teacher. Children had always been her passion and she had three of her own, all adults now. Two have chronic medical conditions and are supported by their brother.



After she stopped working, Rosemary moved to a small cottage in a retirement complex. She hoped she would be able to cope on her small private pension and savings but these had only been accruing for a decade because she had lost everything in Zimbabwe's economic collapse of 2005-08. Rosemary tutored students privately from home and did supply teaching in local schools to supplement her funds, but costs kept escalating as Zimbabwe headed into another economic crisis in 2018.

Now too frail to work, Rosemary is being supported by ZANE with a monthly grant. *"I would be sleeping on the street if it wasn't for ZANE," Rosemary said. "I don't know how I'll ever be able to thank you."*

**This year over 360 impoverished women and children received a nutritional food supplement.**

## Standing tall

**The ZANE-funded clubfoot correction programme continues to transform lives in Zimbabwe. Over 3,780 children have been successfully treated since its inception.**

However, the economic turmoil in Zimbabwe has had a great impact on the work this year. Clinic numbers have decreased across the country as families struggle with the rising costs of travel. Essential resources such as plaster of Paris are harder to source and prices have significantly increased. The materials needed for the manufacture of boots and bars have also become more scarce. It is just another challenge to overcome and the team remains committed to continuing this life-changing work.

Memory\*, pictured top right, was referred aged 12, making her clubfoot more difficult to treat. She followed the same treatment course as a baby would, but on a



slower timescale. She is now in the final rehabilitation phase of the programme for her right foot. Her left foot remains deformed but will be treated with the same procedure in due course. ZANE funds have supported her through the entire process. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, her second leg procedure will be fully funded too.

## Desert & snow



Starting in May and finishing in

September, Mike Passaportis hiked the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mexican border near Campo, California, to the Canadian border in Manning Park, Washington, a distance of 4,265 km. Passing through a desert and snowy mountains, this was an incredible feat of endurance.

Huge thanks to Mike who managed to raise over \$25,000 for ZANE.

*\*Names in this newsletter have been changed for security reasons*

# A brighter future

**ZANE's education programme continues to thrive. We have seven pop-up classrooms running in a high-density suburb, benefitting 84 children.**

The children attending the classes all live in the local community. They are from impoverished families and range in age from six to 12; none has previously attended school.

Earlier this year, ZANE received funding from the Barnabas Fund towards providing a hot meal each day. The lack of food and associated hunger affecting the children had been a real cause for concern. Twelve-year-olds were easily mistaken for seven- or eight-year-olds due to malnutrition; many children told us they had a meal only every two or three days. The teaching mentors alongside a volunteer parent/guardian prepare and cook the nutritious meals comprising mixed vegetables, kapenta (fish), peanut butter, soya meat and soya beans.

The children are benefitting greatly from these regular lunches and the most desperate also receive extra E'pap (a nutritional supplement) to boost

their diets. Concentration levels are much improved. Although it's early days, the children are already looking healthier and slowly gaining weight. For most, this is their only meal of the day so it is a joy and privilege to see them eating.



In the last six months, we have successfully streamed our classes into a beginner, intermediate and advanced group, and the children are adjusting well. It enables the teaching to be more focused and for the more able children to be better prepared for progression to mainstream school. The beginner classes are currently concentrating on sounds and letter formation, while the intermediate group are learning to read simple words and how to do simple addition and subtraction. The advanced class have progressed to reading simple books and writing, as well as multiplication and division.

Our aim is for the more able children to advance from the pop-up classes to mainstream schools. To date, over 20 children have been able to do this and ZANE recently received funding for a further eight to move on in the coming year. As the children progress, we are able to take on more from the local community to join the pop-up classes.



# Epic adventures

**The Old Legs group of cyclists, led by Eric "chicken legs" de Jong undertook another epic adventure in June.** This time a team of 10 rode 2,900 km (1,802 miles) with an elevation gain of 36,000 metres (22 miles) from Harare to Mount Kilimanjaro. Not content with this journey, they then climbed Africa's highest peak.



Those of you who follow Eric's blog at [www.oldlegstour.co.zw](http://www.oldlegstour.co.zw) will know that, despite the humour, this was the toughest challenge yet. We are hugely grateful to every member of the Old Legs team, including the brilliant support team for its ongoing dedication and commitment to raising funds for Zimbabwe's impoverished pensioners. This latest challenge raised over \$110,000 for ZANE.

The next Old Legs challenge is to break the world record for the most participants in a three-legged race!



# What a week!

By Sarah Marshall\*, ZANE field worker

The role of field worker for ZANE in Zimbabwe is hugely challenging but also very rewarding. Every day is different; one cannot predict what the week will bring. I might start Monday full of hope and end it in tears of frustration. Equally, I might have the worst start to the day with a traumatic assessment of a pensioner in dire need, and end it drinking tea and laughing with a veteran whose health has been transformed thanks to effective diabetic medicine.

## What follows is a snapshot of one week in September 2019 and all it entailed.

**MONDAY.** I awake at 6.30am to discover we have electricity. This is such a rare occurrence these days; for months it has only been on between midnight and 5am - on a good day. I quickly put on the washing machine, boil the kettle and prepare a hasty meal for the evening, hardly believing my luck! By the time I leave for the office 90 minutes later, normal service has resumed and the electricity is off.

We have a weekly team meeting each Monday morning where we plan for the week and discuss all the developments of the previous week. Sharing stories and receiving advice from our small team is invaluable. We frequently meet pensioners who are in absolute dire straits but, with limited funds available, we have to make tough decisions and constantly try to prioritise – not easy when everyone is a priority! I couldn't do this without the support of my colleagues.

After the meeting, I go to assess Patricia\*, a lady of 84 who might need ZANE's help. It's immediately apparent that she is struggling to cope on her own. She has some nasty bruises from when she fell trying to climb out of the bath. Her cupboards are empty and she is painfully thin. We chat for over an hour;

it's clear company is a rare thing for Patricia. I leave her with some E'pap – a nutritional food supplement – and make a note to put a plan in place for a carer to start visiting her the following week.



I manage to visit two ZANE beneficiaries in the afternoon. One of them, Fred, is looking so much better since he started medication following a stroke. He loves to chat and is soon reminiscing about his rugby-playing days and the associated social life that accompanied it!

I arrive home to no electricity but am very thankful for the meal I prepared earlier.

**TUESDAY** is a blur of visits and paperwork. One visit is particularly distressing. Janet\* greets me on the road outside her flat. Her adult schizophrenic son is having a bad day and it isn't safe for me to go inside. He is a recluse and frequently violent. Janet tells me he is now refusing to use the bathroom so one can only imagine the state of both him and the flat. ZANE provides Janet with a monthly grant to cover her rent and bills. She is entirely dependent on this aid. It's clear she is struggling with the pressure of looking after her son. She says, *"I just try to keep the peace and hope a friendly person will come along to care for him"*.

Sadly, there are no suitable care facilities in Zimbabwe appropriate for him; those that do cater for the mentally ill are over-subscribed and struggling under the burden caused by zero state funding.

I later visit the Salvation Army to assist our registered nurse with her weekly appointments with the ZANE recipients residing there. We check their blood pressure, administer medication and listen to their news and growing list of ailments. Two are struggling with deteriorating eyesight. I make a plan for them to visit our partner eye clinic, 50 miles outside Harare. We are so grateful for their support, which means our pensioners can receive a cataract operation for just \$140.

**WEDNESDAY.** The moment I have been dreading arrives. With the fuel light flashing on my car, I can put off a trip to the petrol station no longer! Thinking it's my lucky day, I pass one with a short queue and quickly join it. I patiently wait as fuel is unloaded from the tanker. Two hours later, I finally reach the forecourt. I jump out of the car with a spring in my step only to be told the swipe machine for paying is broken. In a virtually cash-free society, life revolves around paying by card. With tears brimming, I drive to the office and share my frustrations with the team. By the end of the day, one of the team members has miraculously sourced some fuel, which is delivered to the office in drums. We are all able to fill our cars. Crisis averted... for this week.

That afternoon, I receive a phone call from the distressed neighbour of an elderly couple, both in their eighties. The husband is very ill and his wife is doing her best to care for him, but the neighbour is very worried about both. I agree to visit tomorrow.

**\$140**  
will pay for a cataract  
operation for one pensioner.

**THURSDAY.** I visit Alice and Raymond\*. He is clearly seriously ill but, too proud to ask for help and without the funds to pay for treatment, Alice has been looking after him by herself. I spend several hours comforting Alice and reassuring her that we will get some help. I return to the office with a heavy heart. It's devastating that Raymond, who worked for the city council for years, should be facing his final days in poverty and pain. His pension and savings were decimated in the economic crash and the couple are entirely dependent on their adult son, who sends them what he can afford from South Africa. We immediately organise for a carer to go in and help care for Raymond. Alice is so grateful as she is no longer strong enough to lift her husband.

*Sadly, just three weeks later, I received an early morning call to say that Raymond had died. ZANE assisted with the funeral costs and I continue to give Alice moral support.*

**FRIDAY.** I run a monthly creative therapy session at one of the local care homes. We have an excellent turnout this morning – 12 men and women join in and we make beautiful greetings cards. It is a welcome opportunity for the residents to get together, socialise and take part in a shared activity. I'm delighted to see Erin,\* who I have been trying to persuade to take part for several weeks, not only join in but thoroughly enjoy herself. I'm sure the tea and cake on offer



was part of the appeal! After three and a half hours, I'm exhausted but return to the office with a full heart.

The afternoon is spent under a mountain of paperwork, only broken by a phone call from a farming friend who has an abundance of fresh peas. I arrange to collect these on Sunday afternoon for distribution to three local care homes. We are so grateful for donations like these.

I return home to a welcome glass of red wine and make a promise to myself to switch off for the weekend, not an easy task.

Next week, I will distribute dozens of monthly grants to ZANE recipients – without a doubt, the most rewarding part of my job. It is only possible thanks to the generosity of ZANE supporters. I know I will be called an "angel", a "hero" and a "miracle worker". I'm not. You are. Thank you for making it possible. I witness every single day the difference it makes to the lives of the pensioners who depend on us.



ZANE does fantastic work looking after vulnerable people in Zimbabwe and showing servicemen and women that they are not forgotten. They are professional, passionate and scrupulous about how the money is spent.

**HMA Melanie Robinson**

UK Ambassador to Zimbabwe,  
Former Executive Director  
of the World Bank

Thanks to your  
donations, ZANE  
supplied supermarket  
food vouchers to 383  
destitute pensioners  
in 2019.

## A lasting legacy

Leaving a gift in your will, no matter how small, is one of the best ways to help safeguard the future of ZANE. It's easy to remember us in your will, you just need to let your solicitor know your intentions. To request a copy of our free wills guide or for any questions you have about remembering ZANE in your will, please email [zaneaustrialimited@gmail.com](mailto:zaneaustrialimited@gmail.com)

\*Names in this newsletter have been changed for security reasons

# Food programme



**ZANE supplies fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs and meat weekly to 18 care homes in and around Harare for 630 residents. This ensures that these residents receive regular, balanced meals despite all the difficulties and the escalating costs of obtaining food in Zimbabwe.**

Each home receives their weekly supply of food from a central distribution point at one of the largest care homes in Harare. All this produce is locally produced in Zimbabwe so supports local farm enterprises.

In addition, ZANE distributed food coupons (to be redeemed at selected supermarkets) to 383 pensioners in Bulawayo in 2019. Currently, 84 children in high-density suburbs receive a hot daily meal during the ZANE-run pop-up classes and over 360 women and children from the same high-density suburb in Harare receive food aid.

This is all made possible thanks to your generous response to our food appeals. Thank you.

**Your support really is saving lives.**

**In the last year, ZANE distributed more than 150,000 eggs to destitute pensioners.**

**Your aid enabled ZANE to distribute over 5,000 cabbages to impoverished pensioners in the last year.**



I have seen a little bit of ZANE's work on the ground and from what I have seen it is very, very impressive . . . ZANE is one of those lovely organisations that make a little bit of money go a long, long way. ZANE is a good cause and the money is properly and well spent.

**John Simpson CBE**  
World Affairs Editor of the BBC



There are many people in Zimbabwe who today remain in desperate need of help, through no fault of their own. ZANE is a dedicated charity devoted to providing a lifeline to these people. The ZANE team is hard-working and focused, bringing impressive results for the poorest and least advantaged, and is most worthy of our support.

**Jonathan Sheppard**  
Former Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe  
Board member, ZANE Australia

**Our aim is to give aid across the communities to help the poorest of the poor.**

# Saving our soldiers

ZANE has been awarded funding to provide a small medical fund for 615 war veterans and their widows. Prior to this funding, conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes were left untreated, causing serious complications and, in many cases, death. The fund does not cover invasive surgery or expensive cancer treatment, but it is nonetheless transforming the lives of these men and women who fought for the Crown in often forgotten conflicts such as Malaya, Aden and Borneo.

The funding is helping people like Mr H, aged 74 who served in the army between 1967 and 1989 and was a captain by the time of his retirement. He suffers from hypertension and diabetes. Both conditions have been left untreated for many years as

Mr H simply didn't have the funds to see a doctor, let alone pay for medications. The funding means he is now taking medication and the difference is astonishing. Sadly, his eyes have been affected and he is currently receiving treatment to save his sight. Without this medical intervention, he would be blind.

Mr J, aged 72 and a former sergeant, was suffering with chronic toothache affecting his everyday life. Earlier this year, we were able to provide him with new dentures. *"To no longer be in pain is such a relief. Now, when I am with friends,*

*I can laugh and not worry about my bad teeth. Thank you."*



Please help the people of Zimbabwe continue to get vital aid and support

### 3 ways to give:

- **Donate online** – <http://zaneaustralia.org.au/donate/>
- **Call us:** +61 (0) 473 113 483
- **Or return this form to:**

ZANE Australia, Unit 4, 50-52 Cypress Crescent, Leopold, VIC 3224

Preferred use of gift: Trustees' Discretion , Pensioner Work , Impoverished Communities , Clubfoot

### I would like to donate:

- A single gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- A monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### My details:

Title                      Initials                      Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode                      Tel                      Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you first hear about ZANE Australia? \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to donate by:

- Cheque
- Credit card     Visa     Mastercard
- Card Expiry   /                        Cardholder's name \_\_\_\_\_
- Card number:                3-digit Verification number:
- Online Direct Deposit to:
- ZANE Australia Limited, BSB: 032023, Account: 305217    Payment Reference: your name \_\_\_\_\_

CHRISTMAS19



ACN 613 802 574



Thank you for your support.

## Reasons to support ZANE

**ZANE provided Harare care homes with 30 tonnes of potatoes thanks to your donations.**

### RESPECTING YOUR DATA

Like any charity, we could not do our important work without being able to communicate with valued supporters like you. ZANE will never sell your data to any third party.

1. **ZANE** provides aid, comfort and support to 1,800 impoverished pensioners with nowhere else to turn. Only those genuinely in need of assistance receive it.
2. Donors can choose which area of **ZANE**'s work they wish to support.
3. **ZANE** was the Telegraph Group Overseas Charity of the year.
4. **ZANE** is looking after over 615 aged and frail veterans and their widows. These people fought for the Crown in the Second World War, Malaya, Korea and Aden. Despite their loyal service to the UK, the overwhelming majority are living with insufficient food and limited healthcare.
5. **ZANE** runs education programmes in the high-density areas assisting women and children living in extreme poverty.
6. **ZANE** funded the first clubfoot correction programme in Zimbabwe. Eleven treatment centres have been established and over 3,780 children have received treatment to date.
7. **ZANE** funds the provision of prosthetic limbs for victims of landmine explosions and treatment for people with hearing loss.
8. **ZANE**'s funds are subject to rigorous audits and **ZANE** is proud that since its foundation it has never lost money to collapsed banks, middlemen or corruption.
9. An independent consultancy reviewed **ZANE** and the report stated:  
*"The charity thrives on its responsiveness, flexibility and lack of bureaucracy. Operationally, ZANE is frugal, focused and effective in delivering aid to the needy."*



## Zimbabwe A National Emergency

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Tel: +61 (0) 473 113 483 email: [zaneaustralialimited@gmail.com](mailto:zaneaustralialimited@gmail.com)  
[www.zaneaustralia.org.au](http://www.zaneaustralia.org.au)



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ZANE will not pass on your details to third parties.  
If a specified project is fully funded, donations will be used where most needed.