



## **Umhambi food distribution Program**

Leaving Victoria Falls town driving towards Bulawayo the second largest city in Zimbabwe,, well known , for the resting Place of Cécil John Rhodes,, the Coloniser Of Zimbabwe, the name Rhodesia, also known for the rhino park , where one can track the rhinos,, and also view the 900 yr old bush paintings , the city is 370 km way , driving 37km from Vic Falls turning left to a dusty road we make a stop at a village here we find Mr Dube, he has already gathered the beneficiaries to receive the food hampers.. They have come with their guardians, as their granaries are empty, rains have been bad and this covid 19 has made everything stop , worse, jobs no travelling with road blocks, travellers are only allowed to pass upon Production of a travel pass, herein as Umhambi are deemed essential service to the society

### **Names of beneficiaries**

1. Musawenkosi. Dube
2. Simelinkosi Muleya
3. Nomathamsanqa Ncube
4. Lwandle Tshuma
5. Beloved Makhuza
6. Courage Ncube



After the distribution ,, our journey continues,, 17 km further where we visit the village headman , who has one of our children but we don't find the child , she is out looking for fire wood, this is the general story in the village, either the kids have gone a boy or girl to fetch water on her head ,a chat with the headman and we continue to visit my brother who has been ill for some time ,, the lack of medical attention here drives people early to their graves, not much can be done even if taken to hospital nurses have been on strike quite a long time at the end they now only work 2 days a week, no medical attention or medication, it becomes better to buy the paracetamol from the pharmacy and take care of your sick one on your own , and this has been made worse with covid-1

#### Mongiwethu food visit

From Victoria Falls we drive past the airport 21 km ,another 12km take a left turn towards Botswana, we cross the railway line , here we find the resettled farmers, driving further we pass a depilated school with old buildings and a church being used as a class room, this is Sekebelo primary school , forced into existence by the moving in of peasant farmers from the other side of the road 30 km away to make new lands in a fertile land,, further down as we pass the villages , on rough stones clustered road, we come to Mongi villages, he is on a wheel chair, as the car turns to face his gate he realizes its UMhambi, and quickly walks with his hands to get on his old wheel chair that drives with hand power, the tires are gone, and wrapped with old strips, of bicycle tube. Mongi has a new chair but this one is electric. Donated and presented by friends from German , with the closing of schools and absence of electricity he is on his hands again, he gives us a big smile, with the sound of the diesel engine the grandfather comes bolting out of the thatched side leaning mud hut kitchen, with smoking coming out , he comes with a cough from the choking mopane tree wet wood, its dry season now,, trees are losing their leaves ,, even the mopane tree, with it's butterfly like leaves can not provide an shade, it sways with the wind as if apologising that it can not provide shade for a visitor.



We say our greetings with big smiles, and laughs, Mongi stretching his head peeping into the car ,, he hopes he will see his white friends visitors again, I smile at him, pitiful as i can also understand the missing he is going through, it would have been lovely, the last ones here were KARIN , Emma , AND Zitha, as i try to stretch out my elbow to give the Covid 19 greeting , Daniel the grandfather ignores and opens his hand to clasp , mine, they have heard about the Corona , but for them , they seem not to care, his shrivelled face and sun burned cheeks suggested he has seen worse than the corona, for him being born in Africa is hardship, he has learnt to expect anything , he has been

through wars and heard about the tribal wars, and his father told him about the Spanish influenza of 1918, they survived it and he will survive this one as well., this year the dry dusty earth did not yield anything despite his silent prayers, and begging, the scratchings he did to his field was just a loss of seeds

We are shown to porous shadow, where only the stump of the tree seems to give us a hiding from direct sun , the grandmother limps towards us holding her 4 year old grandson,, he is holding a toy car , truck, looks familiar , i take a closer look, yes it's the one given by the white visitors on their last visit here, After a few pleasantries , small talk of the weather and complains, we present our gifts, their eyes show joy as we take out the groceries from the car are clear , we have saved their lives, we explain where these are coming from, yes they remember, and show their appreciation, the grandmother sings, a song to Jesus ,to remember her.

We are touched ,, my photographer friend Bheki cannot contain himself but lets the tears roll down, and I also get this feeling in my stomach, and I know why we do this and my thoughts are taken back to German as i remember the kind hearts that are making this possible. We all say a small prayer but with big faith and our spirits are kindled and with hope



#### MONGIKAZI

On our way back, still on the rugged rocky road, we stopped by Cleopatras, place to hand over her potion, she is not here we find the grandmother and leave the stuff, she has been taken to Victoria Falls for medical check-up ,some might remember the girl, she has a condition , enlarged head, , the grandmother say her thanks and explains to us why she is not here (Cleopatra),



Cleopatra grandmother{TTETHI}

We are on our way again .,Just before we cross the railway line we turn left , we head north west, cross Masuwe river,, come across some giraffe feeding on the acacia trees, , and here some resettled farmers build their home against the Dunu mountain , we have come to find Peter , a quite boy who rarely speaks and has this talkative sister that always sees it fit to speak for him, again not around, he also has gone for his monthly visit to hospital, peter is sick ,being HIV positive is not an easy thing for a child ,, he cannot understand why he has to be different from other kids, why he has to take medication every day,, born positive , he has also some complications with his ear drums , there are swollen,, and has a continuous cough, been out and in of hospital , but nothing seem to have helped, as i write this report i got a call yesterday ,, he needs an x ray done as he is vomiting blood with his coughing , he is only 12 and half year old, I have never seen him playing like other kids , he is always quiet and reserved , as if he has thoughts running through his head, questions that he thinks no one can answer, his health has affected his school work, sometimes he can't attend school and the mother thinks its normal that he is like this , she doesn't look at the disease ad see how it affects him but thinks, this one is like that , he easily gets sick , with no understanding of the illness, one time she fell sick ,, I took a nurse to her cousin brother with me, and she was discharging purse from her privates, my cousin brother told her it's an infection we have to take her to hospital, but she believed she had been be witched and they went to a prophet for healing, and when I asked later how she was and she said she is ok now,

{±±±Peter is a false name his to protect the identity of a child because of the nature of disease he suffers from)



### SIDUDUZILE MPOFU AND GRANDMOTHER

Back to our 4|4{ wishful thinking here}, we drive another 3km , next to a school , Masowe Primary school we turn to a village of the local head man here we have come to visit Siduduzile Mpofu,, staying with a grandmother , very gifted in school , loves cycling , her grandfather fixed an old bike for her ,, and she rides it like crazy , I found in her to be a ,bicycle club member, because they are attached to the national park here, it is said she once rode through head of elephants, and only noticed when shad passed the last one,, the grandmother is the village health worker still young and strong she has received a basic training to recognise malaria symptoms, she has a bike as well that she rides given to her by the health department of the government, its voluntary work , she doesn't get paid, she goes every month to collect medication, mostly pain killer and malaria tablets , that's all she can give, but this seems to work wonders with the villagers, especially the painkiller, doesn't matter what they suffer from , but as soon as they get a tablet all seems to be healed, this is the power of faith and belief here in Africa.

Not far from here stays,, we get to her place and find grandmother and father she has gone to gather fire wood,, as we prepare to leave , she comes in , and we manage to get a photo of her before the gifts of food are packed away.

CHEWUMBA AND OTHER Its clear morning we back om the road again and here ,, we taking the tared road towards Bulawayo , going further than Ndlovu to a primary school called Chewumba,, we have about 8 beneficiaries here going to receive food hampers ,, we pass again the road block and they wave us through ,, they have come to know this car very well, a smile here , a smile there the ,great lion car roars on the road,, we pass by Mr Dube's place,drive further to Mngazho,, the border line between chiefs, here we have two chiefs,, one called Mvuthu ,, the name continues as the original Chief Mvuthu passed away , some years back , at the moment the chieftainship has been resolved, a woman has taken the reins,, and she had to go to court to get it, as some relatives still believed that it is taboo for a woman to be made a chief,, .The other chief is Shana, one of the main tribes found here is the Nambiyas,, and this is a chief more on the tribe while the chief Mvuthu is from the Nguni,, the Ndebele's, that came in 1834 with Mzilikazi , from South Africa running away from Tshaka the Zulu, the Zambezi river is about 20km away and on the other side is Zambia here is a school established in 19 57 , and looking the time,, roofs of asbestos have flown off, buildings have

cracked and doors are missing ,,it's a junior school , we have asked the local headman to be present in presentation, as the schools are closed , we can do no other way,, any gathering of people without the presence of a headman or knowledge of chiefs or police could be dimmed political, which might not be good for our health,, the headman is a she.,, kind and gentle grandmother , who appreciates our coming and the helping hand being given ,, a small speech by Umhambi Chairman is said , thanks here and there , encouragement of treating the orphans with respect and love, a song by the kids is done and singing by all they stand with their Chairman



Front wearing a uniform, standing with her mum ,, is Mandisa Sibanda extreme left is Sinobuhle Mayo , grade 4 ,next ,, boy in uniform , Armour Mlotshwa , grade 4., next is Anita Sibanda Uncle, we found she had visited an relative,, next is Sister of Sharis Salima grade 3,, next is blue t-shirt , is aunt for Karen Siamwele, grade6 standing next is KAREN herself,,

Last in uniform is No Nhlanhla Ndlovu, grade 5 with mum .

23 September ,,

The sun comes out a round ball of red,, with a promise of a hot day ahead,, today we going to Vulindlela,, one of the schools built here in Victoria falls district by Donor funding ,, ist been in existence since ,---

And comprises of three blocks making six classrooms,, ad a scatter of teachers cottages 200metres away,, fenced with dry wood gathered from the savanna forest , it's a secondary school to serve rural children ,,with a total of about 300 school children ,, serving from form 1 to 4 . already falling into pieces because of lack of proper maintenance,, next is a new clinic being built by the same donor,, looks grandy and new, it will serve a community of about 500 villages with an average of 7 people per home steady,, close also a borehole pump ,, using hand straight to bring out the water ,, the villagers here turned down the solar pump ,, systems,, reasons ,,being there are easily stolen and breakdown easily, which will leave them without water ,and have to travel to another 2 km walk for the next water station,, carrying 20 litres bucket on their heads,, this usual the women's and girls work ,, while man and boys have to repair the fences , look after the animals and do a bit of hunting, which there are not allowed anymore as they are being deemed to be poachers, and only Americans and other foreigners a allowed to bring their big guns to hunt down the animals now,,, yes hunting is still found in Africa,, once in a while an elephant becomes a problem elephant and is brought down ,, the villagers que and scramble for the meat ,, the meat is said to have different types f animal meat inside ,, when i was growing up my grandmother used to entice us to eat the elephant meat and she

would say there is chicken ,, beef and kudu meat part found in the elephant, and because the elephant is big we would believe that and she would ask us to choose which part we wanted and we would choose our favourite impala meat , and this we would get from the elephant meat,,

Its about an hour drive from Vic falls,, we get here around 10 ,, a new headmaster,,, he has seen umhambi , but has never contacted us,, he says he thought we have pulled out ,, hi Name is Mr Sibanda ,, Sibanda is a totem,, for the cat family,, we find our beneficiaries waiting for us,, all ready with their guardians,, of interest is Wayne,, he stays with a grandfather who is now blind and deaf and a grandmother who can't her properly, he is doing form 2,, , we also have the village chairperson for the school available,, bit so thank you and a speech from Umhambi o the importance to the guardians of their allowing 100 percent attendance in school, and how the kids should be given enough time to study,, and the girl child not to be used as a servant girl for others as she also does need to pass, the head IS ALSO UP ,, HE GIVE HIS THANKS AND DPROMISES MORE COPERTION, SOUNDS HE IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE SHORT NOTICE VISIT ,, HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO NOTIFY HIS BOSSES ABOUT UMHMBI COMING ND PREPARE FOR US ,, WE ASSURE HIM ..it's not a problem for us we love surprises as long we find our kids ,, he also points out how poorly there are remunerated, asks us to remember the teachers and the sacrifice they make with their poor salaries, it's no longer about money to them but dedication for the sake of the children , we also touched here as we notice that even his trousers is torn ,, we cannot do much but offer our prayers for a better time for the teachers,, he says that there are opening for form 4 writing their examination and most teachers are not turning up as they cannot find transport money and food to bring to eat at schools,, at the end his plight is so touching that at the end of our distribution we give him a bag of meal mill the extra we always carry around in case we faced with dire situation,, we also pass to the school chairman some sugar and cooking oil,, we know has some orphans staying at is home that we failed to draft into Umhambi as we cannot manage the big number



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT THE PUPILS ARE,,ASHLY SIBANDA FORM 3 NEXT IN UNIFORM WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER ISWAYNE CHAKU 3 ..NEXT IN BLUE TSHIRT IS ELTON NCUBE 3 THEN WE HAVE THE GIRL THERE WITH HER MUM, SIBONOKUHE MOYO ,, FROM 3 HER NAME MEANS WE HAVE SEEN BEAUTIFUL THINGS .



AB

ABOVE WE HAVE RAUL NCUBE IN FORM 3 AT HIS HOME STEADY WITH THE GRANDMOTHER

AS WE ENTER WAYNES S HOME STEADY , WERE WE FOUND THAT THE GRAND FATHER IS DEAF AND



DU

MP , BUT STILL TRIES TO CONTINUE DOING HIS

WORK ,, HIS EYESIGHT IS ALSO BAD ,, BUT CONTINUES TO CUT DOWN TREES FOR PREPARATION FOR FARMING

On our way back ,, we passed by Samhain and Caroline place , Caroline goes to Chidobe secondary school now doing form 3,, stays with grandmother and father ,, and Samhain still in primary level 6,, staying with grandmother , she sang a song of thanks to umhambi,, showing her appreciation ,



Shamain Nyoni with grandmother ,, got there after being stuck in the Kalahari sands ,, she sang a song of thanks





**BELOW PICTURE**

On the side is Caroline and her grandfather ,,  
the grand mother is said to have go for a funeral.  
He is a jovial man ,, easily laughs , keeps a smile on his face , he has arthritis,  
Th disease of bones, and there is a no cure, he has rickets as well this could have been the reason for  
his  
Painful bones, despite the constant pain he feels he can still laughs and cracks jokes, an easily likable  
man



This is Decent {below}, disabled , stays about 36km away from Victoria falls ,, he chair wheeled himself all the way to Vic falls to ask for help from umhambi,, we could not do much but the little that he got , he was thank full about it , close to him was also another beneficiary,, a small boy staying with his uncle ,, not going to school yet but circumstances could not let us pass without passing a hand , as the reports had been coming in of hunger in the village his pic below



Senzeni Ndlovu is another wheelchair bound person who has defied the stigma of disability,, she has done courses in computers and cosmetology,, she has initiated the program to teach young people about cosmetology,, and Umhambi has given her support and the floor to use our computer room as a classroom , in turn she will take our children through a course of computers so they can utilize lapdoo programs on the computer to maximum,, with these difficult times she also has come forward to ask for food,,



100 Kilometres from Victoria Falls on the Cape to Cairo road that passes through Bulawayo the second largest city in Zimbabwe, there is town called Hwange, named after the local Nambya Chief. Known of its disaster in1973 in which claimed 400 lives of workers in one of the biggest

underground mining disaster , with the collapse of the tunnels at which a number of families were affected most women left widows and orphans. This is the largest coal mining town in Southern African region which have a large sphere of influence in terms of coal supply within the region and international exports. Meanwhile, currently the mining town is invaded by Chinese business personnel which are in full control of the mining sector in the town. One of the descendants orphans staying in Village number One in a one room house with shared public toilet and bathroom is Carolyn Ndiweni aged 34 ,with 5 children of which 3 are boys and 2 are girls. The eldest is 12 years old followed by 10 years ,8 years ,4 years and 3 years old respectively. The eldest doing grade 7 ,abandoned by the father who decided to run away from parental responsibilities as he could not find any means to take care of them and not enough love to stick around. jobless and selling tomatoes Carolyn finds life unbearable, the coming in of Umhambi with School Fees and groceries



have brought a bit of relief in her life. her t

15 km towards the Zambezi , to the north , we drive on a corrugated road , where we find Ntombikayise Moyo,, picked from the streets , staying with her mother Ntombikayise, her name means daughter of her father,, left school , went foraging in south Africa after being called there by a relative who wanted to use her as cheap labour to look after her children .a abuse she came back home ,, finding herself back home and remembering how well she did at school , she thought of the money she couldn't get she had thought she would use it for school fees ,, her mother's approach to umhambi , and relating her struggles and that of her family with hope that the girl child could be

uplifted, she goes to Hwange secondary school ,, and started on form 3, and expecting to start



writing her exams next year.

Final we would like to say our gratitude to the generous and kind hearted people that made all this food distribution , thank you all , thank u very very much