

Update #16

Thursday May 25
The Long Goodbye

Today we leave VOH. There is a lot of weight and emotion in that statement, which words cannot begin to convey.

Yesterday we started to express some of that emotion by preparing lunch for all of the workers at VOH (yes, ice cream and maple syrup was involved!). We wanted to show these people how much we appreciate and admire them for their dedication to the children of this community. From teachers to house mothers, maintenance staff to pastors, all of them play a part in shaping the future for these children. We thank God that he has provided such a loving and supportive community to surround all of the people who enter the grounds of VOH.

Today we spent the morning saying goodbye to the children, the house mothers, and many of the other friends we have made here at VOH. This was not an easy task. The team has many mixed emotions as we leave here - happy to be going home to our own families, but sad to be leaving the new family that we have been a part of here.

Because for the past two weeks, we have been blessed to be members of this community. We have often received words of thanks for what our team has done by coming here, but we feel compelled to turn that around and give our thanks to VOH. Thank you for giving us a home away from home. Thank you for trusting us as we spend time with the children. Thank you for listening to our stories, and sharing your lives with us in return. Thank you for providing us with family time during evening meals in the homes. Thank you for inviting us to pray and worship with you. Thank you for showing God's love and goodness in all that you do. We are inspired and encouraged as a result of the time we have spent with you!

This partnership between Mission Zimbabwe and VOH is a great gift, and we pray that it will continue for many more years. Many lives have been affected and changed as a result of our walk together. We thank God for this opportunity, we give Him the Glory for all that has been accomplished so far, and we pray for his blessing on the path ahead.



