

# As We Go Missions

## Rushangarumwe Clinic: Hope is Growing By Donna (Burris) Stroop

There are moments when a long-held vision begins to feel real... not someday, not in theory, but now. This is one of those moments.

In the rural community of Rushangarumwe, Zimbabwe, the long-anticipated medical clinic is nearing completion. What once existed only as a burden on faithful hearts is now a tangible result of a promise made 20 years ago.



For many years, second generation missionary, John Mark Pemberton, carried a burden for Rushangarumwe and its people—especially for accessible medical care in rural communities where help is often far away. The clinic being completed stands as a living expression of that burden: a place where compassion, dignity, and healing will meet real needs in real time.

A remote community once described as a place where “the air was absolutely dead and silent... nothing could grow there” has been transformed. Local leaders believed the only way to confront darkness was to invite God in—and He has answered. What was once simply “a spot” in the bush is now home to a school, a church, teachers’ homes, and soon, a medical clinic ready to open its doors. Lives are changing. Hope is taking root. Healing is coming.

This was the very vision John Mark shared in the final presentation he gave before his untimely passing—shining a light on the needs of Rushangarumwe and inviting others to see what God could do there. As his wife, Leanna Pemberton Nesbitt, has said, “John Mark would be overjoyed to see what is happening today.”

Later this April, we will travel with a team to Rushangarumwe for the dedication of the clinic. It will be a sacred and humbling moment—to stand with the community, to honor John Mark’s legacy, and to witness firsthand what God has built through faithful partnership, prayer, and perseverance.

### Yet as we prepare for that celebration, one critical need remains: Water

The clinic cannot function without a reliable, clean water source. The current water supply in the area is running dry, and without a dedicated borehole, the clinic would be forced to rely on inconsistent water access—affecting sanitation, infection control, patient care, and daily operations.

Clean water is not optional in healthcare. It is foundational. Water is not just part of the infrastructure—it is part of the healing process.

### Looking Ahead with Hope

Plans are moving forward to provide a sustainable borehole water supply for the Rushangarumwe Clinic. Once completed, this will allow the clinic to open strong and serve its community with dignity, safety, and confidence for years to come.

This project represents more than construction. It represents life. Where once “nothing could grow,” living water will now flow. Water that heals. Water that sustains life.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has prayed, given, and shared this vision. Your support is helping bring the Rushangarumwe Clinic to completion and preparing it to become a place where healing and hope will flow freely—body and soul.

As we prepare to stand in Rushangarumwe at the end of April, we carry your partnership with us.

Thank you for being part of this story!

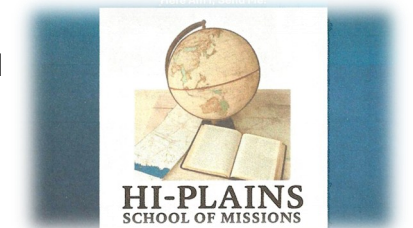


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## 2026 New Year’s Newsletter

### Into The Heartland By Bruce Thacker

October brought Bruce and Sherry a wonderful adventure. We were invited to share in the Hi-Plains School of Mission. We shared the message and mission of As We Go Missions, traveling through the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas, and with a church in Kansas. We were there for just under a month, visiting 14 churches in 20 days. We were one of six missions represented in the program.



Most weeks, we had two presentations in two different locations on Sundays, and one each night Monday through Thursday, with Friday and Saturday off. We had a couple of open days as well. In some places, members opened their homes to us, and what wonderful people. We enjoyed them so much. Other churches housed us in local motels or Airbnb. Those too were restful times to recharge our batteries and fine-tune our presentation. We had more potluck dinners than we have had in several years. And the churches knew how to do potlucks right. So much good food! The churches were:

Englewood Christian Church, Englewood KS  
Hi-Land Christian Church, Pampa, TX  
Iglesia de Amarillo, Amarillo, TX  
First Christian Church, Dalhart, TX  
Boise City Christian Church, Boise City, OK  
First Christian Church, Buffalo, OK  
First Christian Church, Seiling, OK  
First Christian Church, Driftwood OK  
Town & Country Christian Church, Alva, OK  
First Christian Church, Freedom, OK  
First Christian Church, Laverne, OK  
First Christian Church, Altus, OK  
Talga Christian Church, Talga, OK  
First Christian Church, Custer City, OK



We were treated warmly and graciously wherever we went. We met some wonderful people, we want to revisit some day. The churches and individuals were more than generous to the missions represented. We were and continue to be blessed by our time in the Hi-Plains.

All and all, it was a grand time with great people sharing the mission that we love so much. We pray regularly for the churches and people we met. They helped us finish the clinic in Rushangarumwe, and travel to Africa and the Ukraine this year. God is good!

# As We Go Missions

## What Have We Been Up To? By Bruce Thacker

Aside from the month in the Hi-Plains, As We Go Missions has been busy answering God's call and working on projects all over the globe. When we started this mission, we committed ourselves to going and doing whatever we could to help ministries around the world as well as here at home.

### Off to Mexico

One of those other places is Mexico. Since 1984, Sherry has lead teams, mostly, highschoolers, to build homes for under house families in Mexico. When we retired, one of the things we committed to doing was lead short-term teams to experience other cultures and communities. For our second year, we went back to build a home.



As We Go Missions teamed with Dayton Christian Church in Oregon. We went over the Veterans Day Weekend. We had a smaller team, but we built a home for a wonderful family. The family had a one room shed-like building they lived in. We built them a two-room house so that their extended family could have a place with enough room. It was a wonderful blessing to be sure, for them and for us.



### Back at Home

A second project we worked on was the lodge at Pleasant Valley Christian Camp. This camp offers us opportunity to share our mission with the churches of the Northwest. We have presented at adult camps, family camps, and Bruce's favorite, Junior Camp and Winter Retreat. Last summer, I was the missionary speaker (and am doing so again in February at the winter retreat). The kids raised almost \$700 to share with As We Go Missions. We reinvested those funds back into the camp by remodeling a wall in the lodge. It was the second wall we have done and have a couple of more to go.

Why this? It might seem an odd way to invest mission funds. We are reminded regularly that we are not getting any younger and future generations are going to have to share the message of Jesus. We have chosen camp, this camp as a place to challenge kids, to create dreams, to plant a seed of answering that



### As We Go Mission Contact and Giving Information:

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*We invite you to join us with your prayers and support. You may give by sending a check to the above address or go online to [www.aswegomissions.org](http://www.aswegomissions.org) and click donate for several electronic options. Thank you!*

# As We Go Missions

## What's Next, You Ask? By Bruce Thacker

2026 is setting up to be a very busy year. There are trips planned, lessons to teach, new adventures to be had. Here is a sampling of what we expect to happen, the Lord willing.

### First Off, Zimbabwe

Bruce and Sherry head to Zimbabwe on February 17<sup>th</sup>. We will cover quite a bit of ground in 70+ days of this trip. We start in the North with visits to friends and preaching in a new church. We are also looking into the opportunity to visit a new tribal area, the Tonga. Plans are being prepared. March and April will see us in the Chiredzi area, again with friends as well as checking on the clinics at Maranda and Rushangarumwe. We have been invited to preach at a few places, especially Chiredzi Christian Church.

April gets busy quickly. Early in the month, Easter weekend, there is a National Youth Convention. We will be joined by Donna Stroop, her niece Addy and a team from Highline Christian Church in Seattle. From there we will be headed to the dedication of the church in Mlelezi which Highline helped build. They will also be visiting the Maranda clinic and waiting mother's village. The Highline team leaves Zimbabwe on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

We will then be joined by several more teams on that same day, the 16<sup>th</sup>. One is from Capital Vision Christian Church in Olympia WA and Mountain View Missionary Alliance in Shelton WA which Sherry and I will be hosting. Donna Stroop will be hosting another team coming from the Crabtree Christian Church and the Stayton Christian Church in Oregon. Another group from Central Christian Church in Mt. Vernon, IL will be joining us just for the big clinic dedication day at Rushangarumwe. These teams have varied agendas, culminating in attending the dedication of the clinic at Rushangarumwe. It will be a big event! We all leave Harare for the States on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Next Stop: Ukraine

While Bruce and Sherry were travelling in Oklahoma, we met the Scott Weber from Tauride Christian Institute in the Ukraine. He shared the devastation of their campus and library. Through the generosity of Lincoln Christian University, which closed in 2025, TCI was able to get a container full of books to replace those that were destroyed. But these books need to be cataloged so that they can be accessed by students. Bruce and Sherry are joining others from the US to help that project. We have signed up for two weeks in early June. We cannot go directly to the Ukraine, but will access through Warsaw, Poland and take a train. This is a real prayer item.

### Back to Kenya

The last big trip comes in August. We will return to Kenya to spend a month with the Community Christian Church network. Last year while there, we told of our bush experiences in Haiti and Zimbabwe. They wondered if we would be willing to visit their bush churches. After we said yes, they added, "Great, bring a tent and sleeping bag." So there goes the resort stays we have been having. We will be travelling to four areas, teaching and preaching.



Online Donation Page

This year is a busy one. God has some big plans all over the globe and we have been invited to participate with him. Prayer is always appreciated and needed.

And if you would like to donate, you sure are welcome.

<https://aswegomissions.org/donate>.