

What a Year 2024 has Been: By Bruce Thacker

God has blessed and utilized As We Go Missions in wonderful and amazing ways. We became official on June 28, 2024. God's journey has taken us farther than we ever imagined. Then again, He does that regularly.

Even before we were official, we were working. We investigated supporting the medical clinic in Maranda, Zimbabwe, established in the 1970s by Dan and Esther Burris. It was rebuilt and dedicated in 2019 by their daughter, Donna. The previous ministry wanted to focus on education and we agreed this year to assume support. Funds are being raised and we are preparing to assume full responsibility January 1, 2025. We have partnered with Mashoko Christian Hospital to be in charge of the medical side and we the financial.



In preparation, we were joined by two teams in March and April to work on the clinic building, paint and repair some guest housing and the church building associated with the clinic. Important relationships were established with local pastors and clinic personnel. We are excited to be part of this ministry.



Bob Thatcher, a structural engineer, Roger Pedersen and Bruce Thacker assessing some foundation issues at the Maranda Clinic

This 2024 trip also included working with the Chiredzi Christian Church. This has been an ongoing partnership and has a unique place in the local church community. While most other churches in the area are Shona speaking, CCC is English speaking. It fills an important niche, and we are excited to be part of them. This is Our church and the minister, Simon Mupa, is Our preacher when we are in Zimbabwe.

While in Zimbabwe this year, Sherry and I were presented with the opportunity to visit Kenya with FAME in July. We went to Narok and Community Christian Church as part of a medical team. While the medical people were doing rural clinics,

Sherry and I shared with pastors, church leaders, and women of the church. I taught stewardship and some Biblical interpretation principles. Sherry taught the women using encounters Jesus had with women in the Gospels.

Throw in there a team trip to Mexico to partner with Amor Ministries to build housing for families in need.

Then in November, Sherry and I attended the International Conference on Missions in Lexington. We had a great time. I was inspired by great worship, learned a lot about fundraising and made some great contacts. Several ministry opportunities presented themselves which, when finalized, we will share.

It has been a great and exciting year. We look forward to 2025.



Bruce and Sherry and Donna (Burris) Stroop meeting with Chief Maranda (standing next to Donna). The current Chief was born at the Maranda Clinic when Donna and her parents lived there in 1974. The Chief's mother remembers Donna's mother, Esther Burris.

Reflections on Kenya Trip by Sherry Thacker

God called and we answered! I was so impressed as we watched God work! God moved and drew people to Himself on this trip! So grateful to be apart of it all!

Jesus, the reason we stand, the reason we serve, and the reason we Love. I'm so grateful for those who loved Jesus enough to share Him with me!



Sherry teaching the women in Kenya

Revival Fires by Steve and Lyla Moreland



Our Zimbabwe Team: Made up of members from Northwest Church of Christ, Cedars Church, Shelton Christian Church and Highline Christian Church

Of all the short term mission trips that we have been privileged to be a part of the trip to Zimbabwe with As We Go Missions was the most challenging. It was a rural setting as opposed to the urban short term trips that we had previously experienced. Alongside the experiences sleeping in a tent in the rural bush of Africa, our air mattress finding a goat head thorn and springing a leak and the more humorous event of having to chase inquisitive donkeys out of the kitchen, the positive events of the trip far outweighed any of the challenging ones.



We so very much enjoyed meeting the people of Zimbabwe and worshipping with them at the revival meeting. Steve went calling with one of the groups who went out in the community to let folks know of the upcoming revival. At each home they came to there was a time of singing and sharing the gospel before an invitation to attend the revival was given. The revival included music, singing, dancing and inspirational speakers. Whenever in Africa, Lyla enjoys dancing with the people as part of worship. The joyful spirit is contagious and the bond that develops by joining in with their culture is precious. During the day there were various activities for those attending to enjoy.

Lyla was able to help with music at the VBS portion of the revival teaching songs along with fellow team member Anne Fairbairn. And we had opportunity to “feast on the beast” and experience local food. The highlight of the revival culminated in 23 baptisms. It was truly a time of rejoicing!

During our time there we met staff from the Maranda clinic and were privileged to present them with a new Zimbabwe flag for the clinic compound. Lyla was able to pray with a new mother at the clinic as the mother had delivered her little girl the night before. These are beautiful and cherished memories. It was very gratifying to see the progress of the building of the Waiting Mother’s Village where Steve gave the dedication for the facility. This village will be a blessing to all the expectant mothers who enter its doors.

One of the best memories is when the team from Highline Christian Church met with Pastor Baston Govo and Elder Onias Shavira. We listened about the need for clean water and their desire to drill a well on the Mlezezi church property. Seeing the humble, grateful look on their faces as well as their tears when we handed them the money for drilling the well was truly a blessing.

A few days later we were honored to visit the church property and have a time of prayer with the leaders and members of the church, asking for God’s blessing on the church and that the well with clean water would be a tool for the surrounding community as the brother and sisters in Christ share about the Living Water.



Tim Knight, minister at Highline Christian Church, preaching at the Dine Revival



Prayer of dedication at the site for a borehole at the Mlezezi Church of Christ

Our 2024 Zimbabwe Trip was capped off with a game drive to Gonarezhou, “The Place of the Elephants” replete with getting charged by a young bull.



Making A Difference in Mexico

As We Go Missions is more than just Africa. This November we recruited a team of people to join us in building a home for an underhoused family in Mexico. We partnered with Dayton Christian Church in Oregon and went to an area East of Tiajuana to be part of a Veteran’s Day house build.

The build was sponsored by and organized by Amor Ministry of San Diego, CA. Our team consisted of fifteen people who worked three days building an 11’x22’ home. The home is stucco built on a concrete slab. It has two rooms, two windows, and a door. Though simple, it is a welcome gift for the family to receive it.

Our mission is always excited to partner with other missions and churches to help the kingdom of God grow. If you want to know more about AMOR, their website is AMOR.ORG.



Mexico House Building Team from Dayton Christian Church and Shelton Christian Church

Maranda Clinic— Waiting Mother’s Village by Donna (Burriss) Stroop



Donna with a newborn

When I was growing up at Maranda Mission in Zimbabwe, women used to come to the clinic about a month in advance of having their babies. They used to tell their husbands, “it is my time” which was quite ingenious because then they didn’t have to carry on the hard work of an agrarian lifestyle right before having a baby. My Dad built a simple ten room building to provide them with shelter at that time and they would cook outdoors over an open fire. We had daily devotions at the clinic and the women also got some much needed pre-natal care. I remember so many times when a group of 4 or 5 heavily pregnant women would waddle by our house on the path down to the river for baptisms with our mission preacher leading the way. Of course we would say, can we come? It became a delightful memory from my childhood growing up on a mission station at the fork of the Mwenezi and Dine Rivers.

In going back five years ago and rebuilding the clinic at the mission where I grew up, I noticed much to my delight, that the women were still doing the same thing, coming to the clinic about a month in advance of their due date and camping out waiting for the birth of their child. Thus planted a dream in my heart to build these precious women a waiting mother’s “village”. Yes, I want it to be like a village. Surroundings that will be very familiar and feel at home for these precious women!

Thank you to the partnership of Mashoko Christian Hospital and our supervising doctor, Dr. Zindoga Bungu, the Waiting Mother’s Village at Dine Clinic will be completed by the end of 2024. We are thrilled to share with you some progress photos. Dr. Bungu has told me that there is really a buzz around Maranda Mission about the facilities being built for the pregnant mothers. And not only that, he said that the district Medical Superintendent said that he had never seen such a nice facility for waiting mothers.



Waiting Mother’s Village under construction

Let’s face it, these women have very difficult lives! If we can give them comfort and let them know they are cared for while at the same time, taking the opportunity to share the gospel message—well, that is being Christ’s hands and feet in a remote area of Zimbabwe that is just a small part of that “God so loved the world” verse we love!

In future, I want to see a line of very pregnant women waddling down to the river to be buried with Christ and raised to walk a new life in Him in Christian baptism!



Maranda Clinic by Patti Pedersen and Sue Thatcher

What an amazing opportunity we had to visit Dine’ and the waiting mothers at Maranda Clinic. The waiting mothers are so precious. We learned their names, how many children they had and a bit about their family and culture. We had the opportunity to share with them about God and what Jesus did for them in dying on the cross. We did some color pages with verses on them, and made Wordless bracelets that told the story of sin, death, washing us white as snow and helping us grow and live eternally. They can then share this with their family.

We shared an ultrasound picture of a baby in the womb for them to see the miracle of the little life growing in them. Unfortunately, the only baby born while we were there was discharged to home before we even knew it was born. But we did get to see some precious little ones who came to the clinic to be checked out. We were able to pray with them, and pray for two of the moms who had to be transferred because of complications. We went to share about our dear Lord and Savior and we were so blessed by them, their smiles, their willingness to listen. We hope we can go again sometime.



Sue Thatcher teaching

As We Go Missions



Bruce and Sherry Thacker

Our Purpose

We believe that indigenous churches are in the best place to serve the Kingdom in their culture. Our purpose is to assist these churches and mission organizations around the world.

Our Scriptural Guide

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Our Mission

As We Go Missions comes alongside foreign missions and churches through encouragement, education and financial support. We help US churches to experience missions through short term trips, helping both grow the Kingdom of God.

Our Team:

We are blessed to have goers, senders and prayer partners on our team. Each role has a vital part to play in fulfilling the command of our dear Savior to “go into all the world”. Pictured are our primary goers from top to bottom, Bruce and Sherry Thacker, Steve and Donna Stroop, and Nathan and Becca Sartori.



Steve and Donna Stroop



Nathan and Becca Sartori

2025 Promises Even More Opportunities:

As great as last year was, we are anticipating God will accomplish even greater things ahead. As I mentioned before, we take over full responsibility for the Maranda (Dine) clinic. That means there will be staff compensation, building upkeep, supplying fuel for water wells, and finishing the Waiting Mother’s Village. We have commitments for most of the known expenses, but there are always unforeseen things. If you would like to become a partner in the clinic, we would love the help.



Maranda Clinic

One of the projects for this year’s trip is to again share on stewardship, particularly with the churches associated with the Maranda Mission. There have been changes in how pastors are supported, and the churches will need to provide some of their support. That has not been the pattern in the past, so we will encourage that part of the church ministry.

We also will have the opportunity to visit Mozambique this trip. Our Chiredzi minister used to preach there and we are headed there to encourage and support those churches. We are also headed back to Kenya to teach pastors and leaders from churches there. We are excited to get back!

Our Board of Directors:

Bruce Thacker,
Chairman
Donna Stroop,
Secretary
Victoria Black,
Treasurer
Nathan Sartori,
Director
Roger Pedersen,
Director

If you would like to hear more about the work we are doing or our future plans and projects with As We Go Missions, please contact us. Any one of us would love to come and share about something that is very dear to us. The fields are white hot and we need laborers and supporters.

Also, let us know if you are interested in a short-term mission trip. We hit the ground running, so be in good physical condition and have an open heart to share God’s love.

God bless you for your thoughtful gifts and prayers. They mean so much! God has truly opened up heaven’s blessings!

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