

# Starfish Zimbabwe

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*When the old man saw the young lad throwing starfish back into the sea he reminded him that he could not possibly make any difference because there was just too many of them. The lad threw another one back and said, "It will make a difference to that starfish."*

*Adapted from  
"The Star Thrower"*

*By Elsey*



The year 2010 was a year of change and improvement for the Starfish Operation. Chris Dos Santos along with his nephew Phillip have been a tremendous impact for good on the program. This has been a team effort aided greatly by their presence in Zimbabwe.

## FEEDING ORPHANS ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Chris DoSantos was visiting the Norton village when he heard about a little boy (about 9 or 10 years old) that was an orphan and was starving. (It was later learned that his siblings had all died of malnutrition). He was living with a woman who was kind enough to give him shelter. This little boy was so badly malnourished that he was unable to even stand or walk. Any food that he attempted to eat was not retained in his stomach. Chris decided to visit him and when he arrived at the house he found the little boy in bad circumstances. He was not sufficiently clothed, laying on the bare floor. The lady who was taking care of him gave him what she could. Out of compassion for the little boy Chris drove 40 kms to go to a pharmacy where he asked what he could give to a child that was severely undernourished. They suggested Ensure. Chris purchased several cans, and went to the Starfish storage and collected some clothing and bedding. He then returned to the shack where the little boy was (another 40 kms). The little boy was fed with some Ensure and his stomach seemed to accept this. Chris also gave the lady some clothing and blankets. The clothes the little boy received are the ones he is wearing in the picture. The little boy was so happy he gave Chris a huge smile. Chris then asked him what was something special that he would like. He answered "a soccer

ball". Chris said Ok I will bring you one. At that time Chris saw and knew that the little boy could not stand or walk or even barely move his arms. Chris returned the following day with the soccer ball and more food supplies for the home. When Chris arrived he noticed that the little boy's face was so much more alert, and when he received the soccer ball he was so excited. Chris felt like Jesus was present at that time – he felt such peace. Before Chris left the little boy asked Chris if he would come back and play soccer with him on Saturday (several days later).

Chris accepted and promised to return. Saturday came and Chris invited some of his friends to tag along. As he approached the house he saw many people gathered there and he was informed that the little boy has passed on during Friday night. Chris was overwhelmed because he wished he could have done more.

The lady of the house told Chris later that Chris had given him the farewell that he had wanted. She also told Chris that just before he died as she sat with him he told her, "That white man must have been an angel". At that time many people approached Chris and said than you \_\_\_\_\_page 2

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For taking the time to visit and care for this young boy.

This story is a representation of the goal of Starfish Ministry, making a difference to those who have been overlooked and neglected. Through this ministry a difference was made to this little boy. As Chris said, "I am only the servant it is Jesus who is doing this work."

## NEW PROJECTS

Starfish has been feeding a small number of orphans and widows since the year 2004. Satan has worked hard to destroy this work of love. Various individuals have misused the money or the food. In spite of these problems the feeding has gone on with God's divine help. Slowly we have worked out ways to circumvent Satan's intrusions and now feel that the program is working much better. The addition of Chris and Philip DosSantos has been a great help.

As the months grew into years it became obvious that this problem of starvation was not going to go away anytime soon. The feeling was that there had to be more to the help than just furnishing food. In an attempt to help the Zimbabweans become more self sufficient, the drip irrigation garden system was introduced to the feeding sites. All the necessary equipment for this program was furnished to save the lives (both spiritual and physical) of the orphans and widows. Our goal is to teach those who are able-bodied to do what they can to promote self preservation and help others. Also we need the children to see the example of their elders who were not just sitting and begging but doing what they can to sustain life. The reaction to this program has been mixed, but withholding food has been a great motivator for those who were dragging behind.

We have now added other facets to the program. First, a compost pile, for fertilizer. Second, a program to help them raise chickens and rabbits, using the manure from these in the compost pile. Third, a program to teach them to use the sewing machines that have been sent, so they can make their own clothes and school uniforms. A number of machines have been sent along with a large amount of material for clothing. Not only will the chickens and rabbits be a source of food and fertilizer they can also be a source of income. The ability to sew on the machines is another opportunity to bring in some income.

The town of Norton will become the focal point of these activities. Some land has been purchased for a large garden and space found for the sewing classes. The plan is to work with those that are now receiving food and then expand it to other areas as time and money permits.

Below are some pictures of the results of the gardens. Slowly but surely with God's help we can bring many to Christ and help them become providers and helpers for others



## SHIPPING CONTAINERS

A shipping container was sent from Abilene last March and opened in July. Another container shipped from Seattle will be opened in February. The supply of goods for the containers is almost unlimited, however the problem is the cost of shipment. The cost is in excess of \$14,000 for each shipment. We have a warehouse full of enough goods to fill a container, the only thing lacking is the funds.

These containers are loaded with clothes, blankets, bibles, teaching materials, sewing machines, bicycles, garden tools, some furniture, medications

and other miscellaneous objects. The container goes to Matare where it is unloaded. In the past Alvaro Dos Santos has gone to Zimbabwe to supervise the distribution of goods. The container that is arriving soon will be supervised by Chris DosSantos.. We have warehouse facilities in Seattle and in Abilene to house goods for future shipments.

If you have good usable items that you would like to donate, please contact us at the addresses on page 4 and we will help find some way to get them moved to one of our storage facilities.

We have enough goods for a container on hand, we just need shipping expenses



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please mark your checks to specify what part of the program you wish to help.: Feeding Program, Shipping container expense, Travel funds

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Operation Starfish is a program dedicated to the care of orphans and widows. In Zimbabwe there are over a million orphans as a result of the AIDS epidemic. These poor souls are the victims of some other person's sins. They need to be taught the word of God and to have warm food in their tummy. It is to these two problems we have addressed out outreach program. Our attitude is that we will feed one orphan or widow at a time and feed as many as we can find resources to do so. We strive diligently to use the money donated to feed their souls and bodies. At least once a year we send someone to monitor our efforts to insure that the money is being wisely spent. We solicit your prayers and your money for this growing effort. We welcome all questions and suggestions. We have a speaker that will come to your congregation and present the story.



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