

# September 2011 Newsletter

Zimbabwe  
Relief  
Foundation



*Greetings to you from Delene and the ZRF Board!*

## **HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Update from Delene
- News from the Board
- Financial Update
- Prayer Requests & Thanksgivings
- Questions & Answers about the ZRF Cruise
- Cruise Brochure



## **UPDATE from DELENE:**

Dear Friends, Stepping onto US soil on 11<sup>th</sup> August was such a welcome change to cold wintry Zimbabwe with the never ending power outages. Most of the time we average 4 to 5 hours of power per day, usually at the most inconvenient times. When we attend Bible Study or meetings at night, candles and/or flashlights are a prerequisite. It gives a whole new meaning to "let your light shine."

It has been nearly a year since I moved back to my own country where I truly do feel safe amongst family, many wonderful friends and the people I enjoy working with. The situation is much calmer now. We have a more stable currency (US dollar & SA rand) and plenty of food in our stores, but prices have gotten higher on most everything.



Ascension Church classroom building & playground

Regarding our school project, I have finished my certification process for the ACE program; we have received permission from the parish council to use the church's classrooms; and we are now in the process of raising funds for furniture, playground equipment and materials. Our prayer is that we can develop lasting relationships with local Zimbabwean business leaders who will want to help underwrite the school as an investment in the future of our children and society. This whole process has been coming together and I look forward to launching our preschool next year.

On another exciting note, I was overjoyed to hear about the ZRF fundraising cruise aboard the Oasis of the Seas and me

being part of the experience. It will be my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday next year and never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be able to celebrate on a cruise. I do hope many of you will be able to join me and the ZRF board 'on board!'

## **NEWS from the BOARD:**

We are so pleased to have Delene back among us for a few weeks. We are filling her calendar with visits to churches, small groups, and *Cooking Curry with Delene* gatherings. Plans for the cruise next year are coming together and we are excited that so many of Delene's overseas supporters are considering joining us. Some of us are still having to wrap our heads around the idea of a cruise being a fundraiser, but we are assured that if we fill those 16 staterooms (or more) we will be receiving generous donations from both *Royal Caribbean* and *Travel Plus Int'l* for each person who signs up with us. Those funds will be most welcome to help with the new school. We continue to work with Delene to establish the NGO foundation that will be our Zimbabwean counterpart to ZRF. This is a crucial step to bringing the ACE school and other ministries, including microcredit programs, into being.

## **CHICKENS!! We have chickens!**

Two days after Delene left Zimbabwe for the US, 100 baby chicks arrived and took up residence at her home. This is a prototype microcredit program being run by Lulu and her two sons. The bitter cold has already claimed 16 of them but the rest have been moved to Delene's garage where they are being kept warm and fed. The boys must check on them every two hours, 24/7, to insure they have all they need. These chicks are being raised as 'broilers' and will be sold at the end of September. Income from sales will be split between repaying the original loan, expenses, and buying a new batch of chicks for another round. If all is successful we will be branching out to 'layers' as well as 'broilers.' In a country with no jobs and few prospects, this enterprise is not only providing training for these young men, but also meaning, purpose and dignity. As part of the contract they will take what they have learned and teach others. We are hopeful we can begin other programs involving herbs and vegetables in the near future.



Lulu gives water to chicks (small stones in pan prevent drowning).

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Thanks again to all of you who have supported Delene and our ministries in Zimbabwe. We have seen a small uptick in donations. Please continue to pray for more supporters and help us by spreading the word (especially about the cruise) and sharing this newsletter. Thanks!

## **PRAYER REQUESTS and THANKSGIVINGS:**

**We depend on the Lord for guidance and grace and therefore ask you to pray with us for the following:**

- Delene's visit to the states and traveling mercies for her return trip.
- Establishing new contacts and refreshing old ones.
- Delene's brother, Neill, had good news that his prostate tumor has not invaded any bone and he is receiving monthly injections in South Africa to shrink the mass.
- Board member, Ken Berry, is continuing his treatments for his pancreatic tumor. At last report his 'numbers' had dropped by more than two-thirds. He has been battling nausea and fatigue, but is blessed by good care and all the prayers and messages of encouragement he has received.

## **FEEDBACK - QUESTIONS - CONCERNS -**

For questions or feedback to Delene or about items in the newsletter, contact Edi King - [kingidaho@gmail.com](mailto:kingidaho@gmail.com)

For questions about *Cruising with a Purpose*, contact Pat Cottrell at 720-875-9394, or 800-879-7587.

For questions or concerns of a financial nature, contact Greg Hanna at the address below.

**Please note new address for ZRF below!**

### **ZRF BOARD MEMBERS**

**Greg Hanna, President**

**Ken Berry**

**Pat Cottrell**

**Edi King**

**Zimbabwe Relief Foundation** is a 501c3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible and much appreciated!

Please make a contribution, and send your check to:

**Zimbabwe Relief Foundation**

7931 S Broadway Suite 339

Littleton, CO 80122 USA

# CRUISE FOR A PURPOSE



Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL



*Oasis of the Seas*<sup>®</sup>

SEPTEMBER 1-8, 2012



## JOIN DELENE THOMAS ON A FUNDRAISING CRUISE FOR ZIMBABWE

Share  
Children  
Empower  
Families  
Practical  
Nurture  
Servers  
Connect  
Educate

### 7 NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Starting from \$640.00\* per person

**SHIP NAME:** Oasis of the Seas

**DEPARTURE PORT:** Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**CRUISE ITINERARY:** Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; Cruising; Labadee, Haiti; Falmouth, Jamaica; Cruising; Cozumel, Mexico; Cruising; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**SAIL DATE:** September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

For every cabin sold, Travel Plus Int'l and Royal Caribbean Cruises will make a generous donation to Zimbabwe Relief Foundation (ZRF).



Interior Stateroom - \$640.00\*

Central Park View Window - \$760.00\*

Ocean View Balcony - \$840.00\*

Cabins limited. Reserve a stateroom with \$500 deposit.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact:

**PAT COTTRELL**  
Certified Cruise Counsellor

**DIRECT: 720.875.9394**

Office: 303.790.8600  
Toll Free: 800.879.PLUS  
Fax: 303.790.8745



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## FUNDS RAISED WILL:

- Launch a Christian school in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
- Sponsor a child's primary education
- Feed orphans
- Support self-sustaining gardening programs
- Develop microcredit business opportunities

\*Prices are per person, based on double occupancy, for cruise only on select sailings and stateroom categories. Government taxes/fees are additional. Subject to availability. For new reservations only. Certain restrictions apply. All itineraries and prices are subject to change without notice. © 2010 Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Ships registry: The Bahamas. Cancellation terms and conditions may be found on [cruisingpower.com](http://cruisingpower.com) (trip details > quick reference). Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to impose a fuel supplement of up to \$10 USD per guest per day on all guests if the price of West Texas Intermediate fuel exceeds \$65 USD per barrel.

\* Double occupancy only. Prices do not include port fees & government taxes (cruise only). Subject to availability.

## Questions & Answers about the ZRF Cruise:

### What's the first thing I need to do?

Select your type of stateroom and put your deposit down to hold a cabin. Call Pat Cottrell (one of ZRF's board members and our travel agent) with your credit card information after Sept. 6, 2011. The deposit is \$500.00 per cabin. We are currently holding only 16 cabins at these prices so don't delay. Deposits are refundable up to June 1, 2012. For Zimbabwe Relief Foundation (ZRF) to receive donations from the cruise line and the travel agency, you must book through Pat at *Travel Plus Int'l* - 720-875-9394, or 800-879-7587.

### Travel - What's important to know?

Flying into Ft. Lauderdale is the most direct option for US travelers. Miami International is the most convenient for international travelers. The Miami airport is about a 30 minute shuttle drive to the port/ship. Be aware that check-in for the ship is 1:00 pm. Given flight schedules from the midwest, it may necessitate an overnight stay in Florida the day before to prevent lots of frustration.

### What are taxes and port fees?

The prices listed for the cabins are the base price (per person, double occupancy), just like any other product for sale. **Taxes and fees** are add-on expenses charged to the cruise line by the US government and the governments of the countries where we have ports-of-call. These taxes/fees are based on the size of the ship, number of passengers and the number of ports the ship visits. For this cruise, taxes/fees are about \$300 and are included when you make your final payment.

### What other costs do I need to consider?

**Tipping** is now automatically added to your bill at the end of the cruise but is still at your discretion. It averages about \$12.00 per person per day. Crew members salaries are quite low and they depend on tips. If you are happy with your service you might consider adding to this amount. If you are unhappy, please tell the cruise line. They depend on your feedback to provide good service.

**Other expenses** - Many activities on board are included in your package. Those that require someone serving/helping you are not. Massages, spa services, served drinks, etc. all incur additional costs. Your cabin key doubles as your account card and all extra expenses are tracked electronically, no need for cash on board the ship.

**Shore excursions** - These vary from port to port and are additional expenses to consider.

### What documents do I need for this cruise?

All US citizens need a valid passport with an expiration date of **March 15, 2013**, or beyond. (The US government requires that all passports be valid 6 months beyond your travel dates.) The rule of thumb for foreign travelers is a valid passport and visas for the countries we will visit (Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico). All non-US citizens must check with their consulate for travel document requirements.

The presentation of correct documentation is solely the responsibility of each traveler, and *Travel Plus Int'l* will not be held liable should travel be declined due to the lack of proper documentation.

### What about bad weather?

Modern cruise ships have state-of-the-art navigation and stabilization systems which allow the captain to maneuver the ship to safe waters and reduce excess motion. Safety of the ship and its passengers are top priority, so captains may change ports of call, if necessary. They will do the best they can to give you a wonderful cruise experience.

### Do I have to be affiliated with ZRF to book this cruise?

No, not at all. But anyone who books through Pat for this particular cruise will be helping us raise funds for our programs. In fact, **we would love you to invite all of your friends or acquaintances to consider "Cruising with a Purpose" and sign up.** Not only will they get a great rate and unique on-board amenities, they will also be helping a great cause! Participation in ZRF events is strictly optional (but lots of fun).