



Everyone wants a better life

A Little Holiday Video Distraction*



Looking for Turkey in Zimbabwe: 2:50 min. video

FROM ZIMBABWE TO SANTA FE

A Documentary Film

Nov 23, 2011

Production Update

crisrina mccandless
director/producer



St. Benedict's Catholic Mission (the video's location) is in eastern Zimbabwe near Mutare and the Mozambique border. The Mission serves over 20 villages, supports a communal farm, runs a primary school for local children and an secondary school that attracts students from all over Zimbabwe. I had the honor of spending a few days there after FROM ZIM's shooting concluded in February.

Everyone lives, studies and works without electricity much of the time because the Mission can't always afford to pay its electricity bill. Parishoners' offerings are usually food stuffs because no one has cash. Yet the Mission somehow manages to support a priest, staff, school administration, teachers and a few farm workers.

The Mission has the land to grow and sell about three times more crops like maize and ground nuts than it is currently producing, but there are no funds for "inputs" like seeds, fertilizer and tractor fuel. Some parents work on the farm to help pay school fees. The Secondary School is tied to the farm through its agricultural programming. Fr. Martin estimates \$5,000 would make

FROM ZIM
website

**Looking for unusual gifts
this holiday season?**

Give a piece of the film
to a loved one, AND



For a limited time,
With a \$50 donation, you'll receive a
3-card gift set of hand-pressed
greeting cards printed especially for
FROM ZIM contributors.
With a \$100 donation, you'll receive
a basket from Matron's
basketmakers.

email or call me for details
mccandless@cybermesa.com
505-670-6000

For tax deductible contributions:
send checks to
From the Heart Productions
1455 Mandalay Beach Rd.
Oxnard, CA 93035-2845

the farm self-sustainable thereby providing an income stream for reinvestment and food for the community.

In order to maintain the Secondary School's operations, the campus infrastructure has only the bare necessities, food is minimal, living facilities are spartan and the daily schedule is unforgiving. The School graduates students headed for major universities throughout the world.

When I asked the students about their their school life and what concerned them, they told me how bad they felt for those students who had to drop out of school when they could no longer pay tuition -- Sixteen and seventeen year olds passionate about the injustice of educational inequities? These students exemplified that commitment to "community" one experiences throughout Zimbabwe. They give me hope for the world's future. If only my pampered sixteen year old nephew had been with me to absorb the experience.

FROM ZIM's Heroines

Summer is just blowing into Zimbabwe right now. Everyone is praying for rain to insure healthy crops and a decent supply of food to store for next winter. Soon, Gogo and Sindiso will spend most of their daylight hours in the fields tending to their seedling maize, millet and ground nuts. No word yet about whether Masendu applied to the 2012 Santa Fe Folk Art Market. Matron's Siansundu basketmakers did apply to next year's Market. Matron is currently "writing" her school exams and hopes to transfer soon from Siansundu's secondary school to a girls' boarding school in Bulawayo to finish her secondary education.

ZIM's Progress

Thanks to your generous support, FROM ZIM's fundraising campaign was a wild success allowing us continue perfecting the film with Katie Cook, our editor, and Federico Chavez-Blanco, our composer/sound designer. We're on the verge of "locking" the video and sending it to the colorist.

FROM ZIM's September version has undergone a mega-metamorphosis -- Major surgery, as Katie refers it. The first 15 minutes radically changed, the ending constricted and all the points in-between were repositioned and fine-tuned. You may ask *"At what point do you stop editing?"* A common response, *"The day before the film premieres or whenever the money runs out, which ever comes first."*

By the end of November, FROM ZIM will have been submitted to six 2012 film festivals. Remember our first

goal is a festival premiere, then, a deal with a distributor who'll secure TV broadcasts around the world. Hey Santa, are you listening?

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Cristina

** This tiny video started as a multi-purpose self challenge: First, offer FROM ZIM's fans a taste of ZIM-life outside Gogo's and Matron's villages and second, produce a piece in less than 24 hours using existing footage and local music. Some thoughts from the editing bay: Want more than a slide show of the views; need a story; look - a turkey among St B's footage - Ah yes, a thanksgiving story; steal the map graphics from FROM ZIM's (the documentary's) opening; YUK, my camera skills stink; promise myself to always use a tripod; focus is my Achilles heel; did I even think about white balance; the best clips are never long enough; the music is irreparably overwhelmed by ambient echo; what should the guinea hen say; why doesn't that transition work; is the music too loud; don't forget the credits; render; color correct; the clips still aren't synced to the beat; TIMES UP; compress it; upload it; and link it to the UPDATE.*

For more videos, pictures and general chat about FROM ZIMBABWE TO SANTA FE, go to 

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to mccandless@cybermesa.com by mccandless@cybermesa.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

ZIM2sf LLC | po box 440 | Medanales | NM | 87548