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### THE BRIT MILA PROGRAM

4 HLS Members are taking part in our brit recapture program by training as Traditional Lemba Mohels and then doing halachic training, to be certified Jewish Mohels.

They had hands on training with traditional Lemba Mohel, Elder Zvinowanda Tadzembwa, at a camp that was held in Mberengewa August to September 2017. However, the Mohels in charge suggested that 8 weeks was too short a time to fully train the new mohels. For this reason we plan another training camp in May 2018. Plans are underway to get permits for a traditional Lemba brit camp in Buhera and Gutu where the new mohel training will be finalized. After the second phase of the brit program the new Mohels will be placed under a senior traditional mohel as seconds in command during circumcision camp programs and after 5 years they will be qualified mohels and then they can establish their own traditional Lemba circumcision camps.

In August 2018 Ari Greenspan ~~will~~ is planning to come and start the Jewish segment of Mohel training that is going to train Lemba Mohels to do the Brit at 8 days ~~brit~~.

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### WRITING OF A LEMBA HAGGADAH

Modreck and seasoned author Chaya Simcha Butchart, and with the help of Noam Zion, are in the process of writing a Haggadah for the Lemba. The Haggadah will have a traditional Jewish Haggadah style but will also include Lemba stories and content. By Pesach the first draft of the Haggadah will be finished and we will use it for our traditional Seders. The Haggadah will make Seders for the Lemba livelier with content and stories they identify with. By end of 2018 the Lemba Haggadah project will be finished.

### THE HLS FARM IN BUHERA

With funding from Kulanu, directly and through the San Francisco Community Federation Teen Project, the HLS implemented a major agricultural project in Buhera, Zimbabwe, an area which has suffered a famine from drought and political turmoil.

The HLS set up the irrigation project in Buhera in fall of 2016 and we had our first harvest and it was a good one. We managed to harvest 10 tons of corn, the biggest harvest ever made by anyone in the neighboring communities. The result is this year unlike the previous 3 years the community has enough food. Out of the 10 tons that we got, we sold 5 tons to the grain marketing board and we got \$2000 dollars in Zimbabwe "bonds".

The challenge was to get the money out of the bank since we have chronic cash shortages in Zimbabwe and with withdrawals limited to \$30 dollars a day it was going to take forever to get the money out. The second problem was high inflation: every day we left the money in the bank it was going to lose value, and if we left it there for a month it was going to be eaten away by hyperinflation. We had to think and act fast and in the end we decided to build a chicken house. We bought all the material we needed to build the chicken house and in the process we managed to get the money out of the bank and

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buy material while they were still cheap and in the end we built chicken houses that accommodate 1000 chickens.

### HLS CHICKEN PROJECT Harare

We also started building chicken houses at the HLS grounds but the project has currently stalled for lack of funds. We kept some of the corn to fund our current planting expenses as well as provide food for people who are working on the dam and soil rehabilitation program. The chicken projects that we want to start will provide the HLS with income and that income will help wean us of dependency on Kulanu funding for synagogue operations. Some of the chickens will go to the HLS Shabbat lunch program and the rest will be sold for profit. Our aim is to reduce Kulanu funding for synagogue operations to \$800 by 2021 and by 2025 the synagogue should fund its own operations.

### THE HLS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

One of the objectives for setting up the HLS was to use it as a center of Lemba Jewish education from where religious education outreach programs to rural Lemba communities will be launched. This year we had Pesach Seder in Mberengwa and we also had Rosh Hashanah celebrations in the same community. Starting next year we will launch congregations in 6 rural Lemba communities and people from the HLS will be leading services there. We can start by having one service per month and add from there. For Pesach we would like to add 2 more communities, that way we will be engaging more and more Lemba to be part of our reconnection programs.

### CHILDREN SHABBAT SCHOOL

Nomsa Hwingwiri is doing a wonderful Job teaching liturgy, Hebrew, Torah and the Jewish life cycle to children. We have 22 children and on Shabbat when we get to Torah reading section Nomsa takes the kids out, where they read a

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simplified version of the parsha of the week and they discuss the parsha of the week together. Because of her efforts, the kids can sing as well as the adults.

Nomsa and her kids need more children's books to learn with, and will also need some sefrot HaChinuch and Tallitot to give as gifts to our Bar Mitzvahs. We have 4 boys and a girl who will Bar/Bat Mitzvah in January and February

#### CONGREGATION NEEDS

Our congregation has grown considerably in the past year and a half. The siddurim that we have are no longer enough. We need 25 more copies of siddurim and 20 copies of chumashim , 30 more plastic chairs , 20 tallitots , kippot and children's books. Thanks to Barbara Vinick we still have enough machzorim

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Harare Lemba Synagogue

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