



The headmaster of Cheshangu Primary revises the lesson I taught during school assembly.

OUR TRIP TO ZIMBABWE started on May 28th with us going straight to Dolo shopping center in **Mberengwe Province** where we met Newart Ndlovu. We stopped by his house to pick up his wife Noma, who interpreted for Linda, and followed them in their bakkie to Zwerenge Primary School. It was down a terrible road (we both got punctures), but in a beautiful setting. About four congregations had come together and there were about 30 men and 90 women. Because we had not been there before, I started by teaching them about Bible authority, repentance, and overcoming sin. After 2 days we went to Cheshangu Primary School, where the same thing took place with somewhat fewer people, but there were 2 baptisms. One of my interpreters there was a man by the name of Alan Dewa – a good preacher with a good mind who really loves the truth. The preacher at Cheshangu walks 20 kms one way each Sunday. The brethren asked for bicycles for both of these men, and I am happy to use money from what we have been given for the work to supply these bicycles.

PASSING OF SOLDIERS: On Saturday we went to Bulawayo and saw the Kendall-Balls briefly before they left for the USA. Sandi had a trip planned already, but Paddy changed his plans to be able to speak at Foy Short's funeral. We were with many who knew and worked with Foy when news came of his death. Although the news was expected, all were still very grieved to hear of Foy's passing and some wept. We sang Foy's favourite Ndebele song together (Umlusi Onamandla - Mighty Shepherd) and had special prayers for the family. Having known Foy for the past 40 years, I have always respected him as a humble, yet powerful teacher of the word. The past few years the Zimbabwe brethren have sort of expected me to try to live up to what Foy did in teaching and in the drought relief – which caused me to realize how very much he really accomplished! In the words of Mountbatten Brewer, "The churches on the west side of Zimbabwe would not be what they are today without Foy."

When we were at Florida College, Linda and I both worshipped at the congregation in Riverview, FL. Jim, supported by his loving wife Barbara, was a real pillar in this congregation and quietly did a lot of good to a lot of people. This

couple and others at Riverview have always had a special place in our hearts, supporting us in our work, helping the needy in Zimbabwe, and even doing the catering at our daughters' weddings. Jim quietly bore intense suffering due to cancer and we rejoice that he can now receive the fruits of his labor, even though we know he will be sorely missed.

While in Zimbabwe, we also received word of the unexpected heart-attack and death of sister Mahlangu, mother of our brother Abel and sister Margaret. In her last years, she was not always able to attend worship, but just before we left for Zimbabwe, we worshipped with her in her home. The brethren had decided to do this in order to try to reach some of those who live near her with the gospel. We pray that God will comfort all these families.

MATABELELAND NORTH: For the past six years, I felt that

we needed to concentrate on getting to know the congregations where I am a messenger for drought relief.

However, we have really missed working with Mountbatten Brewer, and so this time, at our request, he arranged for us to spend 3 days together at Somlotho, near Tsholotsho. However, at the last minute his wife Lynnette became ill with a kidney infection, so his son-in-law Solomon Chicombo and wife Charity accompanied us. (Solomon delayed a



Sister Mahlangu with 4 of her daughters.



Solomon interpreting.

4-week preaching trip to northern Zimbabwe and southern Zambia in order to be with us.) We really enjoyed working with them and getting to know them better. They are a fine, young, growing-in-the faith couple that bodes well for the Lord's work in future years. Solomon is very keen to learn and study with other older preachers, and we are hoping to study together later in the year, perhaps in the Christmas holidays. The brethren at Somlotho and 2 other congregations who also attended, seemed to really appreciate our visit: Brewer has neither the time nor the finances to spend as much time as he would like with the several scattered and relatively new congregations in Matabeleland North province.

PLUMTREE: Brother Gumpo and Stanley Sithole, an unemployed Christian in his 40s who has a heart to serve the Lord as much as possible, accompanied us to the Matinge congregation several kilometres northeast of Plumtree. It is

100 kms from any other congregation and made up mainly of widows. The only person who can lead the service is a teen boy who does not know much. The congregation was started by a Christian from this village who works in Bulawayo and is seldom able to go home. Although weak in knowledge, the Christians show signs of spiritual strength in other ways. For example, an elderly, stooped widow (pictured on the right) walked 14 miles a day, two days in a row, to attend the lessons. She is destitute – all five of her sons have died -- and so the congregation gave some food left over after the meeting to her. We arrived home late in the afternoon, Saturday June 9th.



OUR TRIP TO THE USA is beginning to seem “real” to us. Several have contacted us about being with them and we thank them for their invitations. Below is a revised schedule. If anyone wishes to contact us while we are in the USA, our US cell phone number is 813 484 9937 and our email remains the same.

- Wed-Thurs, June 20-21 – Attending lectures at Southside, Pasadena, TX.
- Sunday, June 24 – N. Beach Street, Ft. Worth, TX.
- June 25-July 8 – St. Louis, MO.
- July 1 – Ellisville, MO.
- July 9-10 – Mountain Home, AR.
- July 13-24 – Birmingham, AL.
- July 15 – Wilsonville, AL.
- July 25 – Hwy 29 Church of Christ, Williamston, SC.
- July 26 – Church of Christ, Tryon, NC.
- July 27-August 2 -- Knoxville, TN
- August 3-14 -- Tampa, FL
- August 5 or 12, Clearwater, FL
- August 15-28 – Houston TX & vacation with Joseph

Brethren, we thank God for all you do to help us in our work in this part of the world. We look forward to spending a number of weeks in your part of the world, seeing our family and some of you. Your fellow-worker in the kingdom, Les Maydell

DROUGHT REPORT – JUNE 2012 -- \$14,000 needed by the end of the month.
Please make checks out to me (Les Maydell) and send to: Mrs Melody Harbig, 9876 Morris Glen Way, Temple Terrace FL 33637. WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF YOU, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO REGULARLY CONTRIBUTE.

All of the drought relief receipts from last time we were in Zimbabwe were mailed to you before we left on this trip. We have about 150 more receipts that we received on this trip which we will try to send out before we leave for the USA. We have also received 75% of the replies back from the brethren where I asked them if they could cut back on drought relief. The majority

came back with reduced numbers, but there are still several congregations who say that they *all* need. From things I have seen when visiting some of these congregations, I personally feel they really can reduce their numbers, but I am not comfortable judging when I do not know all the facts. On the other hand I am also not comfortable to just accept that no one in these congregations can stand on their own feet when I know others have made considerable sacrifices to give up their 10 kgs of maize meal. Therefore, I have decided to write to the congregations again, asking them to reconsider their lists.

Money reported last times as being available: \$10,671. However, should be \$10,231 due to mistake in reporting February's cost plus reporting money received for personal support as drought relief by mistake.

Money received since last time: \$8409.

\$200 – W family, AL; \$200 – S family, SC; \$125 – Kemper Heights church of Christ, TN; \$250 – H family, TN; \$500 – P family, AL; \$25 – Anon. GA; \$50 – Church of Christ, Osprey, FL; \$50 – Anon. AL; \$2000 – Vale Church of Christ, Valparaiso, IN; \$50 – G family, AL; \$20 + \$20 – H, TX; \$10 + \$10 – C family, MO; \$500 – D.A., FL; \$1500 – D family, FL; \$125 – Church of Christ, Riverview, FL; \$455.5 – Anon, Taiwan; \$50 – C family, MO; \$1000 – Church of Christ, Wilsonville, AL; \$40 + 100 + 100 + 80 + 200 + 120 + 100 + 100 + 50 + 50 + 50 + 25 + 20 – Members at Wilsonville, \$203 – A family, FL.

Money spent in May: *There was only enough fo.r ½ the normal amount.* The brethren have told us to convey to you that they will be happy with whatever they receive.

7.1MT@ \$454 + 12.43MT@ \$472 maize meal = \$9091 + \$225 bank fees + \$1950 petrol + \$271 maintenance + \$60 postage = \$11,597.

Money received so far to be used for June: \$4043.

It is hard to estimate how much will be needed by the end of June, since we haven't received all the letters, but it seems it will be somewhere in the region of \$18,000.

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