

As mentioned in my last newsletter, we were planning a trip to Zimbabwe, with a possibility of going to Malawi. However, when Darlington looked up the brethren he knew, he found them to be steeped in institutionalism and other false doctrines. They had been given so many material things from organizations such as World Bible School (eg. buildings, schools and clinics), they were not much interested in hearing about the unscripturalness of such organizations. It did not seem to Darlington that we would do much good by going there, so we changed our plans.



We left for Zimbabwe on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. We picked up Elias and spent the first few days at Mujhiva, a congregation established last year. Each time we visit a village, the brethren must inform the headman (who informs the chief), the government councillor, and the police. This time the councillor was unhappy – he wanted a meeting with me to determine if I was a “colonialist.” After the meeting, he invited us to hold a series of lessons at his home next time we visit. The brethren are zealous and the congregation has grown, but a lot of fundamentals still need to be addressed. There were three baptisms at Mujhiva, including this crippled man. They took place in the cattle trough of one of the members. He is a very insightful

man who dug his own 21-metre well which he uses to water a small garden. Notice how many logs this man used to build the fence that keeps the cattle and goats out of his garden. This denuding of trees, done mainly in ignorance, has, in my opinion, a lot to do with the fact that the country is experiencing more drought than in past years.

I was surprised when Elias informed me that the congregation at Turf was willing for us to come back. This is the congregation where I discovered polygamy on my last visit. I taught on several things, including polygamy. This is going to be a difficult on-going battle, even at the neighbouring congregations which we also revisited. These 4 congregations are mainly made up of the Shangaan tribe, where polygamy is very much part of their culture.

After a week in that area, we went to work with Bigboy and Newart at Bobokile in Mberengwe for 2 days. I had about 30 men and Linda had about 100 women from about 6 neighbouring congregations. We had not been there for several years. Many of them are mature Christians and it was really refreshing to work with them. Bigboy did not stay the whole time at the meeting because his mother was bedridden, following a stroke, and he needed to take her back to the doctor. Sadly she passed away about a week later. Her husband was not a Christian, and it is greatly due to her influence that Bigboy is the fine Christian he is today. We pray for God’s comforting hand on Bigboy and his family as she will be sorely missed.



After a day in Bulawayo to stock up on supplies and see the Kendall-Balls, we headed for a village near Tsholotsho where Darlington's family lives. We met Darlington in Tsholotsho town centre and he took us to introduce us to various family members and to the congregation where his niece's husband preaches. We taught on Saturday evening and all day Sunday. They do not have many visiting preachers there and pleaded with us to return again for a longer time. If God wills, we will do this after the rainy season, as it would be impossible to get through to the village if it rains.



Since Tsholotsho is in the northern part of Zimbabwe, and since we had planned to be away for a long time if need be, we decided to exit Zimbabwe through Victoria Falls and drive across the Caprivi Strip to Rundu, where a congregation had been established two years ago. Darlington had visited them a few times, but we had never been there. The congregation at Victoria Falls graciously moved their mid-week Bible study day to accommodate our passing visit, and they also expressed a desire for us to return and spend more time with them.



We were impressed by the enthusiasm of the 15-20 people who are meeting in Rundu, and also by the knowledge that they have gained in such a short time. Leon van Neel, formerly of the Donkerhoek congregation in Windhoek, started that work which is mainly made up of young people under the age of 30, most of whom are still students. I taught seven men sermon preparation for the entire day on Friday while Linda taught 3 women. On Saturday the brethren were busy studying for final exams (which started on Monday) and fetching water from the river (which made some brethren ill). On Thursday night a windstorm had blown over several pylons and the entire town and surrounding areas were without power and city water for a week! Fortunately we are used to carrying our own

water and being without power in our camper. On Sunday, after being rescued from soft sand by a push from several brethren, I preached on holiness to a very receptive "full shack" of people. Afterwards a young brother did an excellent job of focusing our minds on the sacrifice of Christ as we partook of the Lord's supper.

After a two-day rest, we headed for Windhoek, and after that for South Africa. We are still on the road and plan to visit a few more congregations in South Africa before heading for home, so, Lord willing, I will tell about Windhoek and the rest of our travels in my November report.

We particularly wanted to visit all these places before the rainy season started because, for one thing, we were afraid we would get stuck, and for another thing, we were afraid of malaria in the northern parts of Zimbabwe and Namibia. We are happy to say that we did manage to go everywhere we needed to go before the rains came, and that good rains have fallen in many parts of South Africa and Zimbabwe since we left. Please pray that these good rains will continue.

Thank you for the way you continually pray for us. We also pray for you, particularly for those who may be affected by the present storm. We also pray for a good outcome to your elections. Your fellow-servant in Christ, Les Maydell

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**DROUGHT REPORT – OCTOBER 2012**

**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.**

*I want to especially mention that the drought relief for four of the congregations has been taken over by the congregation that meets in Hillside, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. This is a wonderful effort on the part of these brethren and shows that Zimbabwean brethren are willing to help other needy brethren when they are able.* It also shows the resourcefulness of Zimbabweans under difficult times (having already cut back the amount they are requesting by 25%). We certainly don't want to stifle this wonderful attribute, but encourage it. The Zimbabwean brethren know the difficulties you are experiencing in helping them, and they all expressed appreciation for what they receive, be it the full amount or not. (Last month I was able to send 6/10 of what they requested, and this month I am only able to send half the amount they have requested.) I must say that Zimbabwe is the driest I have ever seen it, and the brethren say that this year has been the most difficult year for many years.



Money short from August: \$3193.

Money received since last report: (used for September's drought relief)

**NB. In September the brethren received approximately 6kg of maize meal instead of 10 kg, due to lack of funds.**

\$100 – S family, AL; \$100 – T family, AL; \$250 – V family, TX; \$2000 – Westview Church of Christ, Murfreesboro, TN; \$120 + \$10 – A family, TN; \$506 – D family, TX; \$5000 – A family, IN; \$10 + \$10 – C family, MO; \$50 – B, NM; \$100 – Mrs R, MO; \$50 – individuals at Wilsonville congregation, AL; \$50 – Osprey Church of Christ, FL; \$100 – S family, OH; \$750 – P family, AL; \$200 – Mrs P, AL; \$200 – J family, AL; \$20 – Mrs H, TX; \$200 – P family, TN; \$200 – O family, TN; \$5000 – Cahaba Heights Church of Christ, Bhm, AL; \$50 – Mrs N, FL; \$200 – H family, CO; \$50 – G family, AL; \$50 – Anon. AL; \$100 – Mrs H, FL;  
TOTAL: \$15,476 – shortfall from August (\$3193) = \$12,283

Money spent in September:

7.40 MT@\$500 + 12.57MT@\$512 maize meal = \$10,136 + \$225 bank fees + \$1965 petrol + \$140 maintenance = \$12,466  
Shortfall: \$183.

Money received since last report: (to be used for October's drought relief)

\$100 – D family, FL; \$25 – Anon. GA; \$100 – Mrs H, FL; \$20 – Mrs H, TX; \$50 – C family, MO; \$150 – B family, NY; \$300 – H family, TN; \$300 – J family, TN; \$50 – Anon, AL; \$500 – Mrs H, AR; \$400 – V family, IN; \$50 – G family, AL; \$300 – P family, TN; \$50 – B, NM; \$100 – Anon. MO; \$300 – K family, AL; \$50 – Osprey Church of Christ, FL; \$100 – F family, MO; \$600 – Riverview Church of Christ, FL; \$200 – M family, FL; \$200 – Mrs P, AL; \$200 – J family, AL; \$500 – P family, AL; \$100 – S family, AR; \$200 – M family, AL; \$200 – W family, KY; \$203 – A family (Sept), FL; \$100 – K family, FL; \$100 – C family, FL; \$20 – C family, MO; \$125 – Kemper Heights Church of Christ, TN; \$3247 – Christians from Tomlinson Run Church of Christ, PA; \$150 – H family, TN; \$25 – Anon. GA; \$3600 – Church of Christ at West Point, NY.  
TOTAL: \$12,715 – Shortfall, August (\$183) = \$12,532.

Money to be spent in October:

**MM: 9.55MT@\$512 + 5.47MT@\$500 = \$7625 + \$225 bank fees + \$1783 petrol + \$2114 maintenance = \$11,747**

Money left to be used for November's drought relief: \$785.

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