



BLESSED RESURRECTION to all

*Dedicated to the orphans of Zimbabwe, with love:
"Let the children to come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16, NIV)*

We recently became aware of a 10 year old girl here whose hands were horrendously burned. Apparently the girl's mother had recently passed away and her father had taken another wife. He went away for a month, leaving the child in her step-mum's care. The child was apparently hungry and had taken and eaten some cooked rice and potatoes, without the permission of her step-mum. The step-mum set a pot of oil on the fire and dipped the little girl's hands (palms down) into the boiling oil. As if this was not enough, the step-mum locked the little girl up for two weeks during which time, the child received no medical attention.

We have seen a photograph of this child's hands and it is as horrible as it is shocking. The fingers on the left hand are completely gone and those on the right are badly burned. The palms are cooked.

My heart was so overwhelmed that I simply wept. I couldn't even begin to imagine the physical and emotional pain and distress this little girl has endured and still continues to experience. Only God knows what the future holds for her.

When I first shared this with a Doctor friend in the US, she immediately spoke of re-constructive surgery. While I have no doubt that there are capable medical personnel here in Zimbabwe or next door in South Africa, the current fiscal strain on this nation's health sector will not allow it.

Still burdened by this little girl's plight, I contacted a foster parent here who told me: "It's a very sad case. This is one of the many painful stories I come across a lot as a foster parent. Yes, and much worse."

"Hosanna to the Son of David" the little children shouted 2,000 years ago (Matt 21:14-17). So as we celebrate our Resurrection Life in Christ Jesus, and the hope of His soon return, please let us remember the 2 million, or more, orphans here in Zimbabwe and those who are working towards providing them with safe and loving homes. Pray, that God would use their pain to draw them unto Himself and also, that God in His mercy would draw their abusers to Himself.

Dhan and I do not have a ministry to orphans but a number of the churches that we work with do. If you would like more information on how you can be a part of a ministry to orphans here in Zimbabwe, please let us know.

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TEN YEARS IN ZIMBABWE

On June 25, 2008, assured that it was the Lord moving us to our new assignment, we flew out of Miami bound for Zimbabwe in southern Africa. Our mandate was clear - we were to help believers grow in their relationship with the Lord so they too could participate in the great mission of discipling the nations.

At that time, the Country was caught in record inflation with all the attendant problems. The local currency which, thirty years prior, was trading at two dollars to the British pound, was fast becoming worthless. The following year, it was officially abandoned when several billion Zim dollars were required to buy one US dollar. Trillion dollar notes were already in circulation. Severe shortages of food and other necessities were also the order of the day and, in fact, most shops were closed. In those days, you moved around with huge boxes containing whatever money you had. Everyone was, at least, a trillionaire and your status improved with each passing moment. Power cuts were also rampant, sometimes lasting for three or so days.

A few months before our arrival, national elections had reportedly failed to produce an outright winner and we landed here the day before the run-off election. Sadly, this was marked by much violence but, eventually, a negotiated national unity government received the blessings of the UN. The economy improved considerably and goods and services became readily available since; except for a dire shortage of cash during the past couple years. Fast forward to today, long lines of customers outside banks are again a familiar sight. But the people of this country are very resilient and we all learn to cope with these and other challenges. Another election is due here on July 30 and, following the change of President last November - the first in 37 years - most people are very upbeat about it.

Since our arrival in 2008, our base has been in Harare, the capital. For the first several months, we connected with pastors/church leaders in the City who introduced us to some indigenous pastors. We saw that Christianity and church meetings were very popular; and we were also quite surprised to discover how easy it was to start a 'church'. But, sadly, the Gospel was hardly ever preached and Discipleship was largely an unknown concept. For the next nine years, we worked with individuals, small groups, churches and Pastors Fraternal, sometimes travelling 300 plus miles away. Many times, a group would seem very excited by our meetings, but along the way we would sense a growing casualness as participants looked for preaching material rather than personal growth. Desperate, we cried out to the Lord to send us those whose hearts He had been preparing and in whom He had been planting a desire for Himself and His purposes. By this time, we had ended all our groups except Goromonzi (which we have since terminated) and Gweru.

Almost immediately, He sent us to more individuals. Now, we meet weekly with individuals, pairs and larger groups in Harare and in Gweru. Our venues include our and their homes, and conveniently located church facilities. We also meet via skype and phone (What's App). Of course, these appointments are more time-consuming and intense but, also, more fulfilling. Additionally, in September, (soon after the elections) we hope to begin with the Pastors Fraternal in Mvuri, a local assembly in Glendale and another in Mazoe, all in the same general area. Yet another group from, Domboshawa, is asking for our help and we have scheduled them for later this month. So, the vision is catching. We are blessed to be here at this time so we can be available to the Lord.

But, by far, the highlight of our time here is what the Lord has been doing in our lives. Paul, in Gal. 1:16, describes it as the Lord revealing His Son in him. We realize that we cannot be of any help to others unless we are receiving from the Lord Himself as He conforms us to the image of His Son. Today, He is dearer to us than ever before, and our hearts are full of praise to Him. Oh, how His grace abounds toward us! So we look forward to the days, weeks, months, years ahead - whatever the Lord wills - for He who called us is faithful.

It is now winter and this year's is quite cold. Homes are not heated so we use electric heaters which prove worthless when it is very cold or the power is off! We were at freezing a few nights ago. But our heavenly Father gives grace for this too and enables us to endure; and we see His purposes in this as well. Some have asked if we plan to spend the rest of our lives here. We answer that we are here as long as the Lord wants us to. We are truly thankful to Him for this privilege and are ever so grateful to you for your faithful and loving partnership by your prayers and financial support.



Chegutu Group



*Class at a home in
Gushure Village, Rusape*



*Ministering at
Vineyard Church, Chinoyi*



Rusape Town



*In Harare we do
one on one discipleship*



*Seminar at
Eternal Paths, Harare*



*Teaching at
Renewal Church, Harare*



*Working with Tonga Pastors
in Zambezi Valley*



March 2018

Dear Partnering Friends,

Well, we have entered 2018 and it seems to be rushing along with supersonic speed. We pray that it has begun well for you and yours, and you are daily finding a greater sense of meaning and fulfillment in your relationship with our heavenly Father. A few weeks ago, we were impacted afresh by Romans 8:29 - His purpose for "those who love Him" i.e. His children – that we be "conformed to the image of His Son." To this end, He is sovereignly working out all our experiences, whatever their nature, for our good. And, of course, for His eternal glory too! This has been of great comfort and encouragement to us and we trust it will be to you as well.

The situation with our daughter and her family in Dominica remains largely the same since our last letter – still no electricity in most of the Island. Repairs to our second granddaughter's College building needs to be completed and some teaching staff recruited, so we have no idea of when she might be able to write her final exams. Our special-needs grandson's school continues to be used as a hurricane shelter. Hurricane Maria was on September 18th and the new season begins on June 1st. Please pray for the restoration of this Island.

In our last couple letters, we mentioned that Dolly had some health issues. Since January, she has been seeing an Immunologist/Allergist who has conducted several tests and has had her on medication. He has been regularly monitoring her response to the medication and we praise God that there has been some improvement although she is still subject to frequent drops in her energy level. It seems to us that the Lord has chosen to heal her gradually and we are content to abide by His will. We both have had to get used to her slower pace but, praise the Lord, we have nevertheless been able to carry on with the work He has assigned us.

Our twice monthly trip to Goromonzi has continued. However, with the current seasonal rains, the access road to this rural community has been severely damaged rendering it unsafe for us to travel. We now await the group's evaluation of the road conditions. In the meantime, our meetings there have been temporarily suspended. We always look forward to our monthly meetings with the Gweru group with much anticipation. The last two months have been no exception. We continue to be encouraged by the level of our discussions which have become even livelier as members share their deep questions and views. Praise God for participants' openness.

Towards the end of 2017, we felt the Lord leading us to become bolder in inviting individuals and couples to discipleship Bible Studies, and this has really taken off. We now have four such weekly

meetings – two with young men, one with a young lady and her mother, and the fourth, via Skype, is with another young man in Zambia. We also have other less scheduled meetings, some of them locally and others abroad. Although these tend to involve more time overall, we are really excited for these new opportunities to share Christ with others in a meaningful way and using the internet.

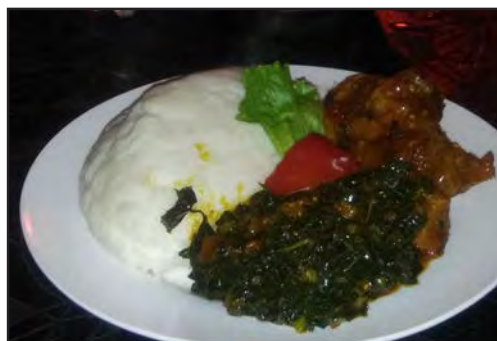
Thank you so much for your faithfulness in financial and prayer support for us and this ministry. Please join us in bringing these requests to our heavenly Father:

1. For whole-heartedness, steadfastness and perseverance among believers here and, in particular, for those we are working with;
2. For our and our children's health and for continued improvement in Dolly's;
3. For improvement of conditions in Dominica after hurricane Maria in September last
4. For a reduction in power cuts here
5. For improved road conditions to Goromonzi

*Blessings,
Dhan & Dolly*



The road to Goromonzi



*Typical Zimbabwean meal of Sadza
(Maize) Muriwo & chicken*



*Army worm
infested Maize*



Discipleship class at our cottage



“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Jesus - Luke 9:23).

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” (Jesus - Matthew 9:16).

In our more recent updates, we mentioned that we are currently meeting with two church groups in our Discipleship ministry – one two Sundays monthly; and the other one weekend monthly. Additionally, we also meet once weekly with a number of individuals as well as small groups. Each group is different and so it is often quite a challenge to prepare for their particular needs. We have learned that what works for one does not necessarily work for the others. Our continuing challenge is to keep ourselves focused on Christ, who is both the Subject and Object of our discussions – “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...” (Heb. 12:2). And we are learning that it is only as we remain submitted to Him, He is able to minister in and through us.

One church group is in the small town of Mvurwi which is rural and where most of the folks are very limited in English. They are a very welcoming group and we have spent the last several weeks getting to know them and how we can best serve them. Some walk several kilometers to Church while others come in by bus from neighboring farms when the \$4 bus fare is available.

We have discovered that most have had very little exposure to even the rudiments of following Christ. Many do not own a Bible so, whatever their faith, it is grounded, not on the Scriptures but on what they were told or the clichés they have otherwise ‘overheard’. Really, it is like sewing a piece of new cloth onto an old garment; or like pouring new wine into old wineskins. As we share both the new wine and the new wineskins, we find that the tendency is for them to hold on to both the old and the new! We know that only the Lord can sort this out. So, we must trust Him to reveal Himself to them. At a recent meeting with the Pastor, we agreed to focus on helping the leadership who would afterwards work with the others in the Church.

We praise our Father for you and for your labor of love towards us. You continue to be an absolutely indispensable part of this ministry. The Lord has used you greatly in providing for our material and ministry needs without which we would not have been able to remain on the field these past ten years; nor could we even look forward to renewing our residence permit when it becomes due early next year! Many of you have also spent much time praying for us and for those whom the Lord has sent us. Additionally, you have sent us occasional notes or emails, just to keep in touch. We deeply appreciate all your efforts. But, may we ask one more thing? Please step up on the prayers!

The need for Discipleship here, even at the most basic level, is critical and urgent. The destiny of many rests upon our joining together in prayer for this specific need. We are assured that as you do, our heavenly Father will hear our prayers and grant them according to His riches in glory. Surely, we will begin to see vital changes. Thank you so very much!



April 2018

Dear Partnering Friends,

A contemporary composer has put the words of the prophet in Is. 49:16 into these words:

"My name is graven on his hand, my name is written on His heart;

I know that while in heaven He stands – No tongue can bid me thence depart."

As I listened to these words today, my soul was stirred afresh into confident trust in the wisdom of our all-wise God and Father; causing my heart to burst into praise to Him for making us His own.

In our most recent letters, we shared how our heavenly Father seemed to be leading us away from the group setting of the past eight years where we met with groups of pastors/leaders as we sought to help them to grow in their relationship with the Lord. This was the route He had laid on our hearts when we first arrived here in 2008. We observed that, in place of these groups, He was giving us greater opportunities to help others on a one-on-one basis and in pairs. So, while maintaining the original goal of discipleship, we readily accepted this apparent change and began meeting in our home and other convenient places, on the phone and skype – whatever was expedient. Although this method is far more time-consuming, we have found it very exciting and encouraging.

Three weeks ago, we received an urgent call from a Pastor Isaac who had been a part of our Chegutu group. He told us that he was speaking at a Church conference at a place called Mvurwi about two hours drive from Harare, where he was sharing some of what the Lord had taught him in our group meetings. The lead pastor had asked him to arrange for him to meet us which we did last week. He is a humble, middle-aged, hard-working, very experienced and intelligent pastor. He expressed a great desire that we help disciple the leaders of the four churches he pastors. But he wanted to share this with other pastors from that town. So we met with the six leaders of the local fraternal yesterday.

Mvurwi is a small, beautiful town nestled among the hills north of Harare. The surrounding area is simply beautiful - inundated with farms, gold mines, rivers, a variety of game, a huge dam used in irrigation and pleasure sports like fishing, boating, etc. We met on the simple but well-ordered grounds of a church and, in this peaceful setting, we had the privilege of sharing our testimonies to this group of attentive pastors - our salvation, our call to ministry, our involvement in Missions, and our being sent to Zimbabwe ten years ago.

We have never been as well received and accepted by a group of pastors as we were yesterday. Before leaving, we received another invitation from one of the pastors to go to another town, Glendale thirty or so miles away. Today, we met with yet another pastor from another neighboring town, Mazowe, asking for help for his fraternal. He had been trying for the past five or so years to get our help but had not been able to before this.



Mvurwi Pastors



*Nemo beans and peanuts.
3lbs for \$1 at a roadside vendor*



Grain Silos

As we share our excitement over all of this with you, we ask that you join us in praise and prayer:

1. Praise for these pastors whom we have been meeting with, and for their invitations to help them.

2. Prayer for:

- The Lord's direction and wisdom for us and the leadership in each case regarding the details of the logistics;
- Suitable overnight accommodation for us should we consider it unwise to travel back and forth each day;
- The Lord's blessings upon our bodies and health;
- Abundant grace for us, throughout.

Thank you, dear Partner, for your faithfulness in this and your other support to us and for this ministry.

Blessings, Dhan & Dolly

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A Year of 'Great Things'

One year ago, it seemed to us that the Lord was reducing our monthly inland travelling and getting us more involved in weekly discipleship meetings with individuals and families here in Harare. While the latter have surely materialized, He has also added on a new group – Mvurwi, two hours away. Although we have been meeting with individuals and small groups almost since our arrival here, it has never been on this present scale. For this, we truly praise God.

Discipleship is, generally, not very appealing because it requires a lifelong commitment and discipline. So unlike many in the Early Church who took seriously the Great Commission, today there seems to be a growing desire for “quick fixes”. But, we thank God for those Pastors and Leaders here who are now looking beyond the large numbers, extremely great singing and dancing and popular preaching, and see the need for building the Lord’s Church through discipleship. Praise God for the courage of these men who are going against the flow. It is an uphill task, as they work with their flock whose faith often includes aspects of their ancestral beliefs.

The highlight of this year’s ministry was the mini Retreat which was held December 3rd to 6th under the theme, “Instead, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ” (Eph. 4:15). Praise God, everything went according to plan – accommodation, participants’ arrival, every session, every meal. Now that it is over, we are even more certain that the Lord led us in this - selection of invitees, every detail of the program and every topic that occupied our time together. The interaction and responses were amazing, the conviction and brokenness telling. We believe that we have not yet seen all that the Lord intended from it.

This is the first time we have attempted anything like this. So, for the future, should we consider a similar annual event when we bring together key persons with whom we have worked over the years? In so doing, they would not only be encouraged and strengthened but we would also compensate for being unable to regularly communicate with some of them because of the remoteness of the areas where they now live and minister. But until the Lord gives the green light, we cannot plan to move in this direction.

So, in this snapshot of our 2018, we trust you have a sense of what the Lord has been doing in us and through us, for, “it is God who works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

But over and above all is how privileged we are to belong to the Lord and to know Him as our Father. His grace continues to abound towards us in every aspect of our lives. This Country is again going through a very difficult time, politically and economically. There are very few who are not being seriously challenged by the inflated prices of goods and services (could be as many as five times the normal) and the resulting scarcity of necessities like food, fuel and even medicines. But we believe the Lord has His purposes in all of this and He is working out His sovereign plan for His eternal glory. What opportunities for the Gospel!

Thank you so much for the vital part you play both in our lives and in the lives of those with whom we work. Each time we meet with a group or individual, or are able to hand a participant a Bible, we are reminded that we are part of a team which includes you. Indeed, we are so very blessed by your continued partnership, friendship and faithfulness in prayer and giving. Special thanks to all those who prayed us through the preparation for and the Retreat itself.

As we celebrate Christmas, we thank God for placing His Son in us that we might become His children. In this unique relationship we can all, with grateful hearts, rejoice in what He is doing in us and through us, as a team, to achieve His purposes in this Nation.

Throughout 2019, may each of us be filled with a fresh revelation of this “Christ in you the hope of glory” who lives in our hearts.





August 2018

Dear Partnering Friends,

These past two months have marked significant milestones in our lives. In our last update, we mentioned that June 26th would be the tenth anniversary of our arrival here. No fanfares or fireworks marked the occasion – just thanksgiving to God for His and your faithfulness, and for where He has brought us. It was also a time for sober reflection and reminding ourselves of who we are in Christ. Earlier this month, we also celebrated our 45th Wedding Anniversary. We especially recounted our early years together and marveled at the wisdom and boundless grace of our Lord towards us. We have very, very much to thank God for; so do rejoice with us. We appreciate all of your prayers for us personally over the years.

Our national elections at which a President, Parliamentarians and Local Government Councilors were chosen by the people, have come and gone. From all reports, the campaigning and voting were without the violence which marked previous years. Unfortunately, an incident in the capital Harare two days afterwards left a few fatalities. Thanks, all of you who joined us in praying for peace and for the expression of God's will in the electoral process.

In the recent past, we also mentioned to you that, in September, we would commence meeting with a group of Pastors/leaders in a new (to us) area, Mvurwi, two hours away. However, having prayed about it, we decided that, in the meantime, we would begin meeting with the church pastured by Pastor Matthew who had introduced us to the Fraternal there. This we did in July and were so impressed with the receptiveness of the people that we decided to continue with them independently of the Fraternal. We have now met with them three times and plan to continue with them twice monthly. So, from September, we expect to travel monthly to Mvurwi on two Saturdays for the Fraternal and two Sundays for Pastor Matthew's group. Thank God, the roads are in pretty good shape. In addition to these, we continue to drive to Gweru, (four hours away) once monthly, meeting Friday through Sunday, and to meet with two families and two individuals in Harare once weekly.

A few days ago, a supporter wrote us asking whether our recent election process and the results were likely to enhance rather than diminish our ministry. Obviously, some are now rejoicing while others are discouraged. So we expect to find opportunities to minister to both. That we will trust the Lord to do through us, not with the empty, nice-sounding words that so often now occupy "what's app" space, but by helping them into a meaningful, growing, personal relationship with the Lord. We must remember that our Lord is sovereign – He reigns and rules over all for all time! Therefore, as the Lord

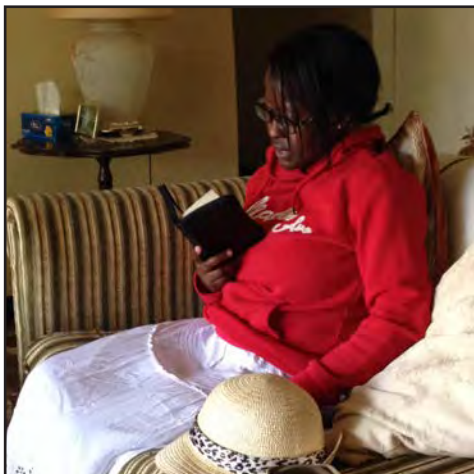
provides these opportunities and as He leads us, we want to be faithful and obedient to Him. But we certainly do not expect any diminishing of this ministry. In fact, we need help!!

As you pray about these matters, kindly also pray for a mild Atlantic hurricane season that would not pose a threat to persons or property. A few weeks ago in Grenada, it rained non-stop for more than twenty-four hours and the flooding was some of the worst in recent history. Damage to buildings and infra-structure was also recorded and one life was lost. And this was not even a storm – only a wave! Added to this there have been earthquakes and tremors affecting Venezuela and the Caribbean Islands as far north as Dominica!

Thanks for your role in what the Lord is doing in this Country. We truly praise the Lord for your faithfulness.

In Christ alone,

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



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November 2018

Dear Faithful Friends,

Greetings from Zimbabwe where we await the rains that normally signal the start of the planting season. Most of the lands – both commercial and peasant holdings - have already been prepared but many are predicting an unsatisfactory harvest due to the lack of inputs. As you may be aware from the news, this Country has been experiencing a severe cash crisis resulting in a lack of foreign exchange with which to import fertilizer. This has also affected the availability of food and other items. Where the goods are available, they are being offered either at much-increased prices or for cash in US dollars. This has rendered many basic items and medicines inaccessible by the public and resulted in some uncertainty regarding the immediate future. We mention this to ask for your urgent and fervent prayer for this Nation, her people and the Church.

A few months ago, Dhan felt the Lord laying on his heart a desire to have a time of intense teaching, interaction and prayer with a few selected persons from among the many we had met with over the years. We asked the Lord for confirmation and it came the following day when one of the pastors who now lives in a very remote area and whom we had not seen or heard from in three years called. After Dhan spoke with him, we were convinced that this Retreat was the Lord's initiative.

So, here are the plans thus far. The Retreat will be held from Monday 3rd thru Thursday 6th December at the Mission Base, a low-cost camp in the Harare suburbs. We expect six or seven resident participants and two or three day visitors, in addition to the two of us. All participants would be responsible for their bus fares; we provide food and accommodation.

Mvurwi: Two months ago, we mentioned to the Church their need for training in Children's ministry. Then a few days later, we received an email from the Pastor's wife of a partnering Church in New York who desires to visit us next year. She is gifted in the area of Children's ministry and welcomed the opportunity to do the much needed training at Mvurwi. She and her husband are scheduled to visit during the first two weeks of April 2019. We already have two groups confirmed for this training with a possible third. Each group would include delegates from multiple churches.

We hope you are as excited about these two ministry opportunities as we are! As you can imagine, preparations are ongoing; but we desperately need your help. We want to be certain that everything that takes place in each case is of the Lord, so we need your help in consistently bringing these events before the Lord in prayer.

Thanks, dear Friend, for faithfully standing with us in prayer. Your support in ministry over the years continues to be a tremendous encouragement to us.

For the sake of our Loving Savior

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee