



## THE AGONY OF WAITING ON THE LORD

A few years ago, we wrote of a young, single, white Zimbabwean lady, a trained nurse who, in 2000, left her friends and family in Harare and went to the Tonga people in obedience to the Lord's call. There in Siabuwa, she began a nursing/medical/etc ministry from her tiny caravan.

This is a small tribe in the Zambesi Valley whom the development in the Country seemed to have missed completely. The land is very dry and sandy. There's no irrigation so folks depend on rain to produce food for themselves and grass for their few animals. When there is no rain, they scratch the riverbed for water.

Electricity and telephone were things they only heard of when Vicky first went to serve her Lord in that region. There was no one of her ethnicity around; she did not speak their language nor was she familiar with their culture. Hers was the only medical 'facility' around. But the local Chief welcomed her and allowed her to park her caravan from which she attended to 200 to 400 patients daily. It also doubled up as her accommodation.

Over the years, Vicky has tried to train a few of the people so they could assist her. She also had a Sunday School for the children. All who come to her for help understand that it is Jesus Christ who, in her, is reaching out to them. In due course, she was able to arrange for Pastor Rikki from Harare to visit monthly to teach the pastors. Although churches abound, their spirituality is mixed with tribal practices and beliefs. Now over seventy-five, Rikki and his wife continue to make this eight hour trip despite the terrible roads. Dhan had the privilege of accompanying him on a few occasions. Four years ago, the pastors asked for Vicky's help in having a Missions Conference to which they invited many pastors from other villages – a first for Zim, we are told. This has been an annual feature since then.

At the beginning of the year, we visited Vicky's home Church in Harare who have always had a very significant role in this work. In a stirring report punctuated by graphic testimonies, Vicky emphasized that after fifteen years, she was only now beginning to see real change among the Tonga people..... Fifteen years!

This, in a nutshell, is Vicky's story. So why are we sharing it? Because it is the story of so many of us who serve the Lord in missions. Time and again, we labor and wonder if there are any results; whether our efforts count. We ask ourselves, "are these people benefitting from what we are doing? Are we really making disciples?"

We have been reading over the Psalms these days and looked at Ps. 126 recently where the Lord promises (vs. 5,6): "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him." That same day, we received a call from two pastors who, until recently, were part of our Chegutu group. They said, "Dhan and Dolly, we just want to say thanks for the investment you made in our lives; there is hardly a day that we do not recall and apply some of what.....". We could only say "thanks" and encouraged them from 2 Tim. 2:2 – "The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

The Lord spoke to us, we responded in faith and that is why we are here. Though we stuttered at times, we have never really doubted His call upon our lives nor the validity of what He called us to do. We know only too well that "the race is not for the swift". Our task is not to judge the work by the appearance of visible, tangible results. On our part, faithfulness is really the only true test of success. So before His face, we must strive daily to be faithful.

We are very grateful that, whilst many of you readers have been faithful in praying and giving sacrificially, you have not demanded of us that we produce "hard" evidence of the success of our mission. We know it's tough not to do so. But even more tough is trying to put God in a box and to demand of us what we cannot of Him. Instead, you join us in waiting for the appearance of fruit in due season, and we deeply appreciate that.

But most of all, though, we give praise to our Lord whose work this is, for calling us and being able to serve Him in this way. Indeed, we are so very blessed. Thanks be to God for His abundant blessings!!

In April we gave God thanks as we marked 30 years as full-time missionaries and this month we give God thanks for seeing us through 8 years of ministry here in Zimbabwe. We thank God for all of you who have partnered with us over the years, some of you all of the 30 years! May God richly bless you for your faithfulness to His call.



***“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” Gal 6:9***

Earlier this year, we quietly celebrated thirty years of ministry with praise and thanksgiving to our Lord for the privilege of serving Him these past years, for leading and keeping us, and for all He has taught and continues to teach us in our journey with Him.

We spent time reflecting on God’s goodness and faithfulness as He graciously and patiently worked and continues to work in us through these many years. We could see how He used our backgrounds and life experiences to prepare us for today.

For the first seventeen years of ministry, we were based in Grenada and worked in most of the English- speaking islands in the Caribbean in the areas of Evangelism and Discipleship, Hurricane Relief (when occasion arose), and various other forms of ministry. In retrospect, the Caribbean was our comfort zone. At times, we clearly did not understand what God was doing, like when He sent us to the US for five years. That was part of our preparation for coming to Zimbabwe although we did not see it initially. But we thank Him for extending our borders and bringing us into this phase of our ministry experience. Undoubtedly, despite the many challenges, this has been the highlight of our lives as we grow in our relationship with our loving, Heavenly Father.

We are as convinced now as we were in 2008 this is where God wants us to be right now. As we grow older, there is an added sense of urgency to share Christ, to make Him known, and to help prepare believers in this land for this mission. So we continue to work with the leadership of different assemblies, as well as individuals and other groups, in spiritual growth (discipleship) - knowing the Lord and taking the Gospel out.

We are ever deeply grateful to our Lord and to all of you who have been a part of this process. Some of you have been partnering with us throughout these thirty years and we celebrate you and your faithfulness. Others of you later came on board and have been no less faithful. You all have been a very special blessing from our Lord to us. You have been more than supporters – you have become our dear friends. We thank God for your friendship, prayers, encouragement and financial support without which we certainly could not remain on the field. We pray that our journey with the Lord has been a growing experience for you as well.

There is a great and continuing need for Discipleship in Zimbabwe; indeed, in Africa. Please pray that the Church would see Discipleship as essential to its obedience and growth, and to the nurturing and preparation of those who will take the Gospel from Zimbabwe to the nations. To this end, we labor.

***“But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest” John 4:35 (NLT)***

## **PRIASE REPORT**

In our early days of ministry, the lady in yellow could hardly walk or sit up for long; there was hardly any flesh on her bones! She was sick with a wasting disease. Her Mom used to fix this mattress on the floor and when she could no longer sit, the Mom would help her lie down.

The Lord healed her. She not only walks on her own but has put on weight and today, she is one our best students.





## ***CELEBRATING THE LITTLE, INSIGNIFICANT THINGS IN LIFE***

Christmas greetings to all!

We thank our Heavenly Father for this time of year when we celebrate His gift to us – Jesus Christ His Son. The celebration is global, joyous and meaningful. What a wonderful God we serve!

These past few months, we have experienced many changes in our lives and personal circumstances which could easily have robbed us of our joy but for God's amazing grace. However, amidst these challenges, there are always reasons to celebrate.

We are so thankful to Him that the rains have at last come, bringing an end to one of the harshest droughts most parts of this Country have ever experienced. As water sources dried up, once-green lawns became parched and the winter winds blew dust into our homes and surroundings as never before, people in many areas suffered food shortages, the worst being those in the rural parts. The nation longed for the rains to come but, even as we prayed for the rains, we also asked the Father to send sustained but moderate showers lest we moved from drought to flooding. And the Lord is answering our prayers.



On November 11th, the showers came in our part of town. A “gogo” (grandmother) shouted with joy to any and everyone who cared to listen, “This is my birthday present from God so I am sharing it with you.”

The property where we live never had reason to store water before, so all the beautiful rain showers were watering the lawns while we continued to buy water for home usage. Dhan, with some assistance, tried to attach hoses to the downpipes so we could harness some of the rain water.

Last week, I called out to the Lord. I was tired of bucket baths. I just wanted a nice long shower for my Christmas present. Two days later, there was sufficient water in the borehole so water could be pumped to the house. Never has a shower felt so good!

I thank God for the gift of His Son through and in whom we are so blessed. It is such a joy to know that we can take our requests to Him, no matter how seemingly trivial and insignificant, and He will hear and answer. I thank Him too for teaching Dhan and me to appreciate the gifts which He lavishes on us each day. Gifts that may appear little but are so very important to our overall well-being.



***May He find pleasure in you, as you celebrate His Son – His eternal Gift to the world.***



Dearest Partnering Friends,

May 2016

The Holy Spirit recently brought us again to John 8:58, where our Lord tersely responded to the religious zealots by saying, “.....before Abraham was, I am”. With this simple response, His detractors were both moved to violence and silenced. Just two small and simple words, “I AM”, say everything, for they are the Words of Life.

So whatever circumstances, events, changes or challenges we may be experiencing, may they bring us great assurance, courage and hope. Isaiah puts it this way: “If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.” (Is 7:9b NIV). We pray you would continue to find great encouragement in Him who changes not. For these very circumstances which we face remind us that the Lord is working out His sovereign purposes.

Globally and nationally, this year has already seen its fair share of big challenges. Here in Zim food shortages caused by hiccups in our farming plus severe drought have been added to our list of woes. The rains, when they came, were welcome as they helped with the water table but they were much too late to be of significant help to the stressed crops in many areas. In some parts of the nation, the drought is so severe that cattle are dying and people are already showing signs of malnutrition.

We thank God for His grace in enabling us to keep our eyes on Him and to trust Him to meet the physical needs of those around us for one can easily be overcome by a sense of hopelessness. Yet, a deep abiding faith in the one true God is what is absolutely necessary to see God’s people and this nation through. So, by His grace, we continue to focus on what He has called us to do.

Earlier this year, we began meeting with a new group at Goromonzi, about one hour twenty minutes from home. We meet with them on two Saturdays each month, then the following week we proceed on to Chegutu and Gweru. In between trips, we meet with individuals and couples and have home Bible studies, and preaching engagements.

We are now into our eighth year of ministry here. During this time, we have met with hundreds of national pastors at different locations. However, we are still greatly troubled by the lack of depth in many areas of the Church and what appears to be luke-warmness towards the Lord Himself.

Zim is a nation of churchgoers. The streets are filled on Sundays with people going to and from Church services. Their singing is melodious, their tunes catchy and their dancing spectacular. The airwaves are filled with all kinds of preaching. Prophets, apostles and other “titled” persons abound! This, coupled

with the stranglehold of the prosperity Gospel, highlights the need for people to know Christ. It is the only way they can discern truth from error and not run to the n'angas (witch-doctors) as soon as they face a challenge.

For this reason, we give God thanks for those whom we have been working with and particularly for the four young ladies in Gweru and Harare in whose hearts God has placed a deep love for Him and a desire to know and serve Him.

***Please pray that God would:***

- Place a desire in the hearts of believers here to know Him and to love Him for who He is
- Cause them to invest time in reading His Word
- Impress upon the hearts of pastors and leaders the need for discipling their flock
- Give us continued wisdom as we disciple the individuals He has been sending into our lives

***Please also pray for us:***

- Safety in travel
- Continued good management of our health and
- Wisdom and sensitivity as we minister cross-culturally

***Praise God for:***

- Dolly's recovery from sinus infections and bronchitis
- Those individuals whom He has brought into our lives desiring to know Him
- Continued grace to maintain our focus
- The privilege of serving Him these past 30 years (April 16th was our anniversary as missionaries)
- The daily comfort and encouragement of His Word

***Because to us the Son is given,  
Dhan & Dolly***



September 2016

Dear Friends,

Thank God, our relatively long and harsh winter is over! Even the countenance of the people reflects this change of season. Spring, with its whole new range of flowering shrubs, brings with it a fresh flurry of activity as young couples get married and others prepare what land they have access to, in readiness for the rains. So this is a time of welcome change.

The rapid changes affecting our world and our every sphere of life are not as welcome as our spring weather. What we thought was absolutely impossible not so long ago, is now stark reality in many places. As conditions around us continue to spiral downwards, may God grant His Church grace to remain steadfast and faithful. May He also grant us all grace to trust Him ruthlessly and not give in to fear, discouragement, despair or hopelessness.

After our August break, we resumed our twice monthly group meetings at Goromonzi. In between these engagements, we continued to meet with Pastors and other Church leaders in Harare, Chegutu and Gweru, to encourage and help them in the discipling process. Additionally, we have monthly meetings with individuals, including some young missionaries preparing to serve overseas.

As we mentioned earlier, Zimbabweans are preparing the land, looking for rains which will bring them a rich harvest. They are working with expectation, even if the nation is experiencing its worst drought in years - a poignant reminder to us that "we must not become weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not".

Thank you so much for faithfully partnering with us as the Lord uses us to help train the workers for the harvest (Matt 9: 37-38).

For the sake of Christ our Life,

*Dhan & Dolly*

## Please pray that:

- Many in our groups would be committed to making disciples in this nation and beyond.
- God would encourage all of our hearts and give us a renewed faith and sense of urgency in taking the Gospel out.
- He would prepare our hearts and those of the Pastors' Fraternal in Domboshawa for their one-day conference on Oct 12th.
- Please also pray for our safety as we travel away from home for our various engagements.

## We thank and praise God for:

- the many on the Asian continent who are turning their hearts to our Lord
- the freedom of worship the Church enjoys here in Zimbabwe
- the many doors of ministry He continues to open for us here
- the grace He gives us to cope with water shortages, power cuts and other such challenges
- the friendships we have formed here and the moral support from many of the local pastors



A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

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Dear Faithful Friends,

November 2016

Happy Thanksgiving! We trust this year will be an extra special family time of celebrating God's goodness to you, your families, and your nation.

As a nation, you in the US have had to face many challenges, both with the elections and in its aftermath. These challenges are not unique to the US. The whole world is experiencing tremendous changes of unprecedented proportions; and man's inability to find workable solutions is painfully evident.

Nevertheless, in this we can rejoice and have great hope – "Our God reigns", and He can be trusted.

October 25th was Grenada's Thanksgiving Day. We remembered, with hearts of praise and thanksgiving to God, how He used the US and Caribbean peace-keeping forces to free us in Grenada from a series of bloody events which culminated in the nation being put under house arrest and a 24-hour 'shoot-on-sight curfew'.

We thanked God for bringing us into this relationship with Himself, for the privilege of serving Him and for His faithfulness in keeping us on the field these past 30 years, 8 ½ of which have been here in Zim.

We thanked Him for you. In the words of the Apostle Paul (Phil 1:3-6): "(We) thank (our) God every time (we) remember you. In all (our) prayers for all of you, (we) always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

We thanked Him for our family and for faithfully watching over them in our absence.

Yes, the challenges are many but God's Word reminds us that our hope must be centered in Christ alone – today and every day. We are learning to "abide" in Him for He alone can be trusted. He is our safe haven, our security, our rest and our hope. Throughout all of this testing, our confidence is that He is in sovereign and absolute control and allows what is happening in our lives, ministry and nation for His purposes. Daily, He continues to encourage and amaze us through His Word. Being able to share it with others through ministry is an added bonus.

We've just returned from our final visit for the year to Gweru. All three of our scheduled one-on-one sessions were no-show events but we were extremely blessed with the ministry at One in Christ. How it blesses us to witness the Lord working in the hearts of His children and to experience the growth that is taking place.

Yes, there are challenges and issues and situations that arise, but this is of the nature of things. We are learning to keep our eyes on the goal – Christ! And that we must continue to do so whatever the situation.

As you celebrate your Thanksgiving Day, please remember that your own contribution to this work - through prayer, financial support and encouragement - is not in vain. In giving thanks for this work, your partnership and ministry to us, we join you in trusting God to use it to bring an eternal harvest. Thank you dear Friend.

Dhan is recovering very nicely from cataract surgery but we were still able to continue our group meetings, praise God. Dolly continues to contend with some allergies for which we hope to see an allergist soon.

Through Him who makes this worthwhile

Dhan & Dolly

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Dear Faithful Friends,

December 2016

In a few more days this year will be history. If the Lord tarries, 2017 may even run by faster than its predecessor.

In January, the Lord had prepared us to expect a year marked by irreversible change at every level of life. As we experienced each of the many, we have had to remind ourselves that, regardless of how far-reaching they are, these very changes testify that the Lord is working out His sovereign, eternal purposes which cannot be thwarted or undone. So, by His grace, we are not dismayed but are sustained by the reality – forever, He reigns!

Now, more than ever, we are convinced of the urgency of “world missions” with which the Lord has tasked His Church. In Matthew’s Gospel, He prefaces His command with the declaration that all authority is vested in Him. He ends with the assurance that He is with us until this age ends. This task involves, firstly, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who do not know Him so they could have an opportunity to come to faith in Him (“evangelizing”); and helping such ones to maturity in Christ (“discipling”). When the Lord commissioned us in 2008, it was clear that we were to be ‘equipping the Church in Zimbabwe for intentional participation in World Missions’. We understood that to mean that we were to work with the Church in a discipling ministry.

Before long, we discovered that, even among the leadership of some of the churches, we needed to present the Gospel. From then, we made no assumptions as we met with groups drawn from various churches. Over the years, we have had inter-denominational groups in several cities and rural areas, spending two to three days monthly with each. This required much travelling over a sizable portion of the Country. In the process, we have sat with a few thousand people.

But, along the way, we also discovered that some participants had different agendas. Many of them lacked a real desire for the Lord; others were merely interested in getting preaching material. We learned that the title “Pastor” carried great respect and preferential treatment in the community, and it seemed to us that many opted for this ‘vocation’ but lacked any sense of call.

In frustration one day last year, we cried out to the Lord asking Him if there were not any who longed for Him and greatly desired to know Him. Almost immediately, He sent us four ladies – one in Harare and three in Gweru. (We have not found any sustained interest among the younger men). The Harare lady is preparing to go to an Islamic country in Asia with an international Missions organization. What a delight to work with her; it is so refreshing to find a young person who has a pure, passionate desire for the Lord Himself. When in Gweru, on our bi-monthly visits, we spend two hours with each of the three, although scheduling is becoming a problem. We still have two main groups – one at Goromonzi on the outskirts of Harare and the other in Gweru – both of which are quite encouraging. Additionally, the Lord continues to send us families and individuals in Harare with whom we regularly meet.

So this is where we are at the end of 2016. As you can see, it is a mixture of joy and sorrow, excitement and heartbreak. But God is faithful. So, we leave our meager but faithful efforts in His hands that He may yet see fruit from lives that honor Him.

None of this would have been possible had you not stood with us, faithfully supplying our needs for prayer and financial support. Thank you, dear ones, for your friendship with us and your love for our Lord. To Him alone belongs all the praise and glory!

*Dhan & Dolly*

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