

Dear Brethren

I trust all is well with you , we are doing fine the family and I are all well , Keagan has recovered from his knee operation , Ivy is doing well again and her father has made a good recovery so thank you for the prayers and messages .Here we are already full swing into the new year , I must apologise for the delayed report our internet service has been off line for a number of weeks now , due to lighting strikes of two towers ,as we do not have cable internet out here in the bush, but radio transmitted internet , we came on line briefly and then seemed to go off again so let's hope we all back to normal now , thank you for your patience .

Zimbabwe :

My trips into Zimbabwe have been going well and the maize has continued to be delivered to our brethren in need .My last trip in however was quite stressful as I am sure you have seen on the news that the country was basically shut down with protests ,this was due to the fact that the gas price was raised by more than 100% overnight , gas now costs over \$15 dollars per gallon .This makes Zimbabwe the highest gas price in the world according to reports .The main reason for this is corruption and gang like operators who are friends of the ruling party that run the gas business in Zimbabwe .Even at this high price it is very difficult to find gas in Zimbabwe and I have to make arrangements ahead of time to facilitate my trips .The new gas laws do not allow you to carry gas in a container so I am not allowed to carry extra gas with me when I cross the border , this has made things very challenging to travel around Zimbabwe .The high cost of gas has a knock on effect on all foods and goods in Zimbabwe and the current inflation is sitting at 50% per month which they say will worsen as the new delivery prices filter through .The protests were nationwide but mainly in the cities , this lead the government to use excessive force shooting and killing at least 12 people and injuring over 800.

The military did not stop there but then proceeded to go from house to house and drag men , woman and children and beat them , even raping woman that they suspected were opposition to the ruling party.This is so typical of a dictatorship run country , our brethren really need our prayers brethren .During the protests the government shut down the internet and all communications, so I was not able to contact Ivy , which really stressed her out , I really have a good wife that supports me in the work, but I had no real issues since I am working in the bush not in cities. I also have a good network of community leaders who got word to me quick once again to get out of Zimbabwe .The only real problems I had was on the road home with military road blocks giving the typical shake down and intimidation, but I have learnt over the years how to stay calm and just work through the motions .

Things have since calmed down with the protests , so I am planning my next trip in within the next week depending on the safety report I receive from the brethren .As I said amongst all the nonsense I did manage to meet with the congregations and deliver the food , so the Lord always looks after his children ,Praise His name .

Botswana:

The work and trips into Botswana have been fine , Ivy still comes with me and it is always good to have company on the trips .We travelled to all three congregations and I taught the adults whilst Ivy taught the children . The brethren are all doing well , I baptized a lady at Sehuno village which was exciting as she has been visiting for at least 8 months and finally decided to follow Jesus .It's always a challenge to baptise in Botswana as it is a desert with very limited water resources .As normal we first have to obtain permission from the Village chief to use the water in our portable baptistery , we than take a number of containers on my truck to the local tap (they normally only have one or two taps with water available for the entire village)we fill them up and transport them back to the baptistery and then only can we proceed .

We also delivered all the bags of maize to the brethren in need , and as always they are very thank full and great full for the food relief .All in all the work is consistent in Botswana , the growth is slow but it is growing .

The rain in Botswana has been better then in Zimbabwe , it has come late our brethren have planted and we need to continue to pray for follow up rains .

South Africa:

The Mabalabala congregation is doing well , all the members are back from their trips and are back at work , so the attendance is back up to 100% .Brother Essaya's wife was involved

in a car wreck and is in hospital , she is getting better and will be released soon. We have had rain , it has also been late and we still pray the follow up rains will continue to fall as we are still in our summer rain cycle .The men are maturing and doing a good job of leading in the worship which is encouraging .We have had no new conversions this period but have received 2 new visitors who are regally coming , so we pray they will be saved soon .

Drought update :

The rains have come to our brethren in Botswana as I mentioned above , also Zimbabwe brethren although not as much have received rains .Our brethren have planted their crops and crops are knee high in some areas , we thank you for your prayers on this .Our brethren are not all out the woods yet and we need the follow up rains to fall so these crops can reach the harvest size , please continue to pray .

I am also very happy to report that I have received the funds needed to help our brethren to feed them as originally requested until April .Brethren thank you so very much to all who have helped our brethren in need .I cannot even begin to explain how the brethren feel and respond when I carry your gift of food to them .It is very humbling for me as your messenger and rewarding to see the Love of God function and bless his children .I am so honoured to be your messenger and now pass on so many messages of thanks and appreciation from all the brethren you have helped .Thank you for hearing my call and responding in love .

I do have one challenge, as mentioned in Zimbabwe as the gas price has increased so much , there will defiantly be a knock on effect on the maize being delivered to the suppliers and thus to me.This means the need for help will change from my original request .I dislike intensely to change ,as I always want to be totally transparent and consistent with all you good brethren. Unfortunately this is beyond my control and even that of the supplier .I trust you understand the economics of how this gas price is going to have this ripple effect .

Brethren thank you all for your continued love and support on the Lords work here in Africa , also the love and fellowship you have with me .I am blessed and content to be in the Lords service with you all .

Thank you so very much

In Christ