

Zimbabwe Newsletter

Robert and Joy Garrett

December, 2017

We do not know what the recent political changes in Zimbabwe will bring, but we hope and pray they will be for the good. We urge much prayer for the government, that those who rule may do so with wisdom for the good of all.

BUDIRO: The city of Harare has a population of over 1.5 million. We have ten congregations within the city limits. Nine of these congregations are blessed with their own buildings. The one that does not have a church house is in the large high-density suburb named Budiro. (Plus we have two more congregations in adjacent areas which unofficially, but not legally, are part of Harare, so that totals 12 congregations). The Budiro congregation has been meeting for many years under an unofficial shelter - a sheet metal roof up on poles in an unofficial open area. This was just a few yards away from a communal water well, An NGO drilled this well and fitted a hand pump because the municipal water system only delivers water to their residents a few days each month.

Every day of the week, and even worse on Sundays, hundreds of people bring buckets to this pump to collect water for their households. Sunday worship services are almost drowned out by the noise and din made by these water collectors.

I will try to attach a video of a Sunday worship service at Budiro under the old temporary shelter. You can see activity at the water pump in the background. Also a photo of work on the foundations.

After several years of applications and negotiations, we were finally granted a church site in a different area away from that water well. Before we could start any building work it was absolutely necessary to erect a 7 ft high

concrete fence around the perimeter at a cost of \$5,000.

BUILDING WORK: In our August newsletter we reported on the initial commencement of the work.

The concrete foundation footings have been poured, the brick work brought up to floor level and the concrete bases for the columns completed. The next step is to pour the concrete floor slab. Next will come the erection of the steel columns and the roof framework.

Fabrication of those steel trusses for the roof has been completed and painted ready for erection which is to be done after the floor slabs have been poured. We have most of the brick needed to complete the building and have now exhausted available funds.

Yet needed will be the sheet metal to cover the roof, the window frames, door frames, doors and glazing and restore plumbing. We will need at least another \$20,000 + to complete all this.

We thank our Lord for all of you who have contributed to this work and who continue to pray for us and the Lord's work in Zimbabwe

BUNSIWA, BINGA: 500 miles northwest of Harare. Building work there progressed very well. Brickwork on the classroom/toilet wing has been completed. (see attached photo). More bricks are needed for the sanctuary. The church members there are making the 30,000 extra bricks needed.

MUCH PRAYER is continually needed for spiritual growth.

THE LORD RICHLY BLESS EACH OF YOU !

Robert & Joy Garrett

My e-mail address is sekurugarrett@hotmail.com
(Sekuru is the Shona word for grandfather).