

# GOIN' FISHING MINISTRIES

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

## GFM April 2023 Trip to Zimbabwe

*"If you have men who will only come if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."* — Missionary and Explorer David Livingstone

While Zimbabwe does have roads, good is not an adjective that would describe them. Zimbabwe is a land of ten million potholes. Whether you are traveling through the capitol city of Harare or making the 11 hours across country drive to Binga, navigating the craters in the pavement, the Harare traffic, or the many animals and people walking the rural roads of Binga is a challenge. However, Bro. Duane Jolibois and I managed to make it through our 21-day trip to Zimbabwe.



## RUWA

We began the trip in Ruwa at Rockwood camp. Two hundred and two school leavers attended the four-day camp over Easter weekend. School leavers are those young people just out of high school. Many are in college or just finished college. Most of them are looking



for a job or career path in a country where the unemployment rate is well over 50%. We had a number of these young people respond for prayer asking that the Lord help guide them as they look to marry, start college, or begin a job. Some came to ask God to help them help support their parents or grandparents. Many may find that they will have to seek opportunities outside of Zimbabwe; there are other kinds of potholes for those young people trying to navigate the beginning of their adult lives.



The camp addressed many of these challenges. There were Bible classes on premarital issues, proper dress, and etiquette for the workplace, and conveying Christian behavior and attitudes taught by our African brothers and sisters. I was asked to speak on sexual purity, staying committed to your Christian walk, dealing with conflict among Christians, and understanding spiritual conflict. Bro. Duane spoke on the hope of the resurrection. One young lady accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior.

The "spirit" of these Christian young people was very positive, and the reception they gave us was encouraging. These young Christians love to sing hymns, and we loved to hear them sing. While they do face several challenges, their joy for the Lord and each other was not diminished. Pray that the Lord will use these young Christians to better their churches and their country.

## BINGA

After the camp at Ruwa the next two days were used to prepare and travel to Binga. Bro. Daniel Kubvaruno, Bro. Godfrey Justice, and Bro. Ruchiva Chibura were able to come with us to help with the two camps at Binga. We brought with us bags of corn meal, sugar, and other supplies to help feed those attending the camps. Binga is very rural and doesn't have stores where one can buy things in bulk. GFM even helped buy a cow which fed the 175 attendees for two days of the second camp.





At the first camp on Thursday and Friday, 30 plus men attended the lessons on Christian Integrity. Topics included showing integrity at home and at work, with leadership, power, women, money, and truth and while facing suffering and injustice. Bro. Duane and I taught five one-hour long lessons each day and finished with a question-and-answer session. Two lessons were taught each evening by Bro. Justice and Bro. Ruchiva. Pray that the Lord will continue to develop Christian character in these men as they influence their homes, churches, and communities.



The second camp was held on Saturday and Sunday when women, children and more men joined us. More would have attended, but many had to stay home to watch over their corn which was about to be harvested. We were told that the mature corn is targeted by the elephants if someone is not there to chase them away.

While we did not doubt them, we saw no elephants but did wonder how one chases away a hungry and determined elephant. Over the two days, Bro. Duane and I taught nine lessons from the Book of James while our Zimbabwe brothers taught more lessons in the evenings. Three young ladies came to the Lord and were baptized.



On our final days in Zimbabwe, Bro. Duane and I, along with our three brothers from Harare, went to Victoria Falls. After seeing one of God's seven wonders, Bro. Duane and I headed home from there.

### **BINGA BIBLES & BIKES**

We are actively working to help the congregations at Binga to purchase 150 Tonga (their language) Bibles. Once they get the Bibles, church leaders will oversee the resale of the Bibles to individuals at a fraction of the actual cost. Based on Bro. Robert Garrett's advice, charging them something for a Bible helps them to appreciate and use it. GFM and our supporters help put a Bible in the hands of many who could not afford the full price but want one enough to invest in a Bible of their own.

The church leaders will then use the money from the resale to help in other areas of the Lord's work in Binga.

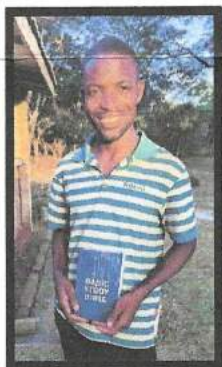
GFM is helping reprint 200 hymnal booklets that Bro. Garrett printed several years ago. Most of those are now worn out. As I am writing this newsletter, two of the leaders from Binga are going by bus to pay and pick them up from the printer. They should have them to use by this Sunday. (Update – They were able to pick up the hymnals. See picture below)

GFM is also looking to buy six bicycles to be used by church leaders and evangelists. Few people have vehicles. Bro. Douglas is an assistant principal at a school, a new position that he got this year. His school is 30+ miles away (if I did my kilometers to miles conversion right). I asked him how he gets to work since he does not have a car. He told me that he hikes to school. That also means he stays at his school during the week and comes home on certain weekends. While the church bikes would not help Douglas, his situation illustrates how they would help church leaders and preachers to visit their

members and prospects and attend church meetings. The brethren at Binga are helping GFM to locate and price bikes from shops some distance away from Binga. The bikes would be purchased and delivered by bus to the churches. The total cost as of now is around \$150 per bike.

GFM has already received financial gifts to cover the cost of the Bibles, the hymnals and a couple of bikes. We were able to buy 15 NIV Study Bibles and take them with us on this trip.

They have been given out to brethren and churches in Harare. Pray that arrangements for locating and paying for the Tonga Bibles and the bikes can be made. I will have updates as the Lord leads us in helping our brethren there in Binga. Bro. Mike Abbott



### **Other Quotes from David Livingstone**

"I will go anywhere, provided it be forward."

"God had an only Son and He made Him a missionary."

"The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet."

Goin' Fishing Ministries' goal is to take short term mission trips to provide spiritual encouragement and to highlight indigenous Christian efforts in other parts of the world. If you would like to financially support GFM, our mailing address is P.O. Box 2063, Denham Springs, LA 70726