

Zimbabwe Newsletter

Robert and Joy Garrett

JULY 2023

OUR LAST NEWSLETTER WAS IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. We told of my planned trip to Zimbabwe for the two months of May and June. The Lord enabled and blessed.

My flight there and return via QATAR AIRWAYS was uneventful but extremely long and very tiring. Total layover for connecting flights was more than 16 hours each way. It is unfortunate that SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS, which I relied on in past years, suffered financial difficulties and no longer operates connecting USA with Africa.

Those two months were all too short. Only 8 Sundays. But we have congregations three times that number that need visiting. However, we were able to hold a joint meeting at Mbare on two Saturdays for the Harare area churches. This consisted of a long all morning teaching session.

BANKET A small town 53 miles from Harare: which makes it about 70 miles from our base in Ruwa. A small congregation has existed there for many years, meeting in the home of one of the leading members. After many years of application, we were finally allocated a church site. This is not free. We will have to pay some Thousands of \$ for the land. I do not have the details, but the full amount depends on how soon we meet the building requirements, Each local authority sets its own rules. Some local authorities are friendly and accommodating to churches and others not.

While I was there I was able to finalize things with the architect and the engineer for the design and drawing of the necessary plans. Yes, it is required for even the simplest of buildings that we hire an architect and an engineer to do that work, These plans have now been submitted to the local authority for approval. We ask your PRAYER for this.

PRELIMINARY WORK : There are certain essential things that have to be done before we can begin building.

SECURITY FENCING, The site must be enclosed with a 7 ft high fence made from precast concrete panels.

It is also absolutely necessary that someone, preferably a small family unit, husband and wife, resides, lives, on the property 24/7. So we must erect a temporary structure of at least two rooms

OTHERWISE thieves will walk off with your tools and, building materials.

Must also dig and build a pit latrine to serve until the church is completed with rest-rooms and septic tank.

There is no electrical supply nearby, nor a water connection. We might have to dig a well or have one bored.

All the above must be done before we can even begin to mark out and dig the foundations.

Pray with us for the Lord's enabling, and that the congregation there may truly display the glory and gospel of our Lord Jesus,.

Over the past years the Lord has provided for, and enabled us to build some 14 different substantial houses of worship, our extensive facilities at Rockwood Bible Camp, and other necessary works in Zimbabwe. All this debt free. To God Be The Glory !

RUCHIVA CHIBURA : I need to give you an update.

Ruchiva is a faithful and able evangelist who has served the Lord for many years. You will remember that he was diagnosed with myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow, several years ago. With our mission funds I have been paying for his medical treatment. This has been expensive but not nearly as much as the same treatment would cost here in the USA. His doctor reports some improvement in his condition - for which we give thanks to God - resulting in slightly less expensive treatment. However, expense for the last 12 months came to \$4,607. The Lord provided. Sing glory to His Name!

I hope to write more next month or so.

THE LORD RICHLY BLESS EACH OF YOU !

Robert & Joy Garrett