

# Zimbabwe Newsletter

Robert and Joy Garrett

OCTOBER 2023

**To all of our of our faithful supporters:** Those who have lifted us up to our Lord in prayer, those who have also supported our work financially; Joy and I are thankful to our Lord for you. May the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified !

Perhaps this is a good time to give you something of our family history : The good things the Lord has given us, not what we deserved, but by His immeasurable Grace.

**70 YEARS :** Two months ago, August 22, we celebrated our Seventieth Wedding Anniversary. In those 70 years the Lord blessed us with 6 children, (three of whom were triplets, born within the same hour!), 25 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren - with hopefully a few more yet to come!

**PIONEER MISSIONARIES:** My parents, DEWITT AND DOLLIE GARRETT (with their two little boys) went as missionaries to Southern Rhodesia in 1930. I, their third child, was born there in 1931. God blessed them after this with three girls, so I was a middle child with two older brothers and three younger sisters.

JOY BRAXTON, my wonderful wife, grew up in the Ormsby Ave. Church of Christ in Louisville, KY, where her parents were active members. She became a Registered Nurse and was working as a Supervisor in a children's hospital when we got married. She gave all that up to be a wife, mother, and missionary for Christ.

With our three small children, Brenda, Bobby and JoAnn, it was in December of 1959 we sailed from New Orleans for Africa to arrive in Rhodesia in January of 1960 to join my parents in the work there. The Triplets, David, Shirley and Sharon were born there in Rhodesia in October of 1961.

- a. Our work there has been preaching the glorious Gospel of Christ — 1Cor.15.
- b. Teaching the Lord's people the Word that they might *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*
- c. Assisting in the construction of church buildings in those areas where it was beyond the ability of the local congregation.
- d. Bible Camp work.

e. Printing and distribution of tracts in four different native languages as well as English. Printing of a Shona Hymnal.

**I need to emphasize** that none of the achievements in these areas would have been possible without the foundations laid by previous missionaries (1Cor.3:5-9). **To God be the glory!**

**Establishment of new congregations** generally followed this pattern: A good brother with his family would move to live in a new area where there was no church. He would start worshipping in his house and invite neighbors in. He would call me to come at different times to hold evangelistic meetings and Bible studies. As this new congregation grew it might move unto a nearby school classroom where possible, or erect a temporary ramshackle shelter for Sunday services.

At the right time I would draw and submit the necessary building plans. However, in recent times, as municipal and local authorities began to impose more stringent requirements, that required us to employ architects and engineers for some of these works.

In the majority of cases the average income of these church members would not enable them to build a substantial meeting-house on their own. The shortfall was made up by the generous contributions of the Lord's people here in the USA.

The Lord enabled us to erect 12 church buildings throughout the land, plus the extensive Bible Camp facilities at Ruwa. We praise our God who provided all this debt free!

None of these congregations have a local full-time minister. Preaching and teaching is done by able men in the congregation. We do have three full-time minister-evangelists that work among all our congregations. The churches contribute collectively to their support.

It has been our aim that these congregations be self-sufficient in the Lord, not relying on us or the USA for their operating expenses.

**THE LORD RICHLY BLESS EACH OF YOU !**

*Robert & Joy Garrett*