

SPECIAL REPORT

September 17, 2009

SPECIAL REPORT – SEEDS and DROUGHT RELIEF

Dear Brethren,

We are very happy to let you know that we have the money needed for the seed! We know that you live in a difficult economic situation, and so we doubly appreciate your response. We are humbled by our Zimbabwean brethren's willingness to suffer without food assistance in order to get the seed but we would really like to be able to also send at least some food – if not the full 10kg, hopefully, at least, half that amount. We are confident that some of you are working on it, but if you could let us know by Sunday night what you plan to do, then we can organize all the payments at once so that it saves on bank charges. If the maize meal can be delivered at the same time as the seed, it will also save on petrol and maintenance.

A list of all money received is given below. Good news is that I was able to find the seed more cheaply in Harare. Estimated total for 3013 brethren to get 5kg seed each: \$28,560 (full details below). Last year was not a good season, but even so, 2/3 of the brethren were able to eat for 3 months off their crops, making the purchase of the seed really worth-while. This year we hope to do better: we are supplying only an open-pollinated variety of seed which, unlike a hybrid, can be saved and planted the next year. It is a bit tricky, because your neighbour may plant a hybrid that cross-pollinates with your crop and ruins your seeds, but we are going to give the brethren some suggestions we found in a Zimbabwe farming magazine article on the internet as to how to keep their seeds pure. We are also supplying an open-pollinated variety of sorghum to the very dry areas of Gwanda South, since sorghum does better in drought conditions. The few brethren who had saved sorghum seed from previous years and planted last year complained that their crops were destroyed by birds. This is a special type of sorghum that birds do not like as much. One preacher complained to us that attendance was low on Sundays because some Christians were spending every day in their fields, trying to keep the birds from eating their sorghum. He had never thought of worshipping in the evening – and was so happy when we came up with that suggestion!

We have received a total of \$29,129, so that means there is \$569 so far for food. In order to send each of the 2862 needy Christians at least 5 kg maize meal, we need at least \$7867 (-\$569) = \$7298. To send the usual 10kg we need an estimated total of \$15,543. (To send money to me, you can make out a check to me – Les Maydell, and post it to our daughter who will deposit it for us: Mrs Melody Harbig, 9876 Morris Glen Way, Temple Terrace, FL 33637.)

This past week we have also been able to finalize all the receipts and spreadsheets. Each person is listed below who contributed towards drought relief since March. All should soon be getting their spreadsheet with a full accounting of how their money was spent, along with a receipt/note of thanks from the receiving congregation/s. We are just recovering from a major postal strike here in South Africa, so it may take up to a month for the letters to reach you. Considering how difficult it is for these brethren to keep track of and return the receipts (there is no postal service in rural Zimbabwe), we think the brethren have done very well. However, the system is not perfect, so if your name is underlined, that means I have not yet received your receipts. Bigboy and I discussed what to do, and he is going to contact these congregations and make sure they write a note of some kind if they have lost their receipts.

Also this past week, Linda went through the thank-you notes written in Ndebele from the brethren in Gwanda South to whom you continued to send aid after their crops failed. Some of them are quite expressive and touching, and so I will add a few below.

Brethren, you have been wonderfully good about helping, and your compassion has been so wonderful. May God bless you and bless our Zimbabwe brethren with good rains and a good harvest.

Your fellow-servants, Les and Linda Maydell

LETTERS FROM BRETHERN:

Thank you for your love, brethren. We were not thinking that you could think about us at this time, but with your love, you remembered us. We had no idea that your love was so great, brethren. You resuscitated some homes that had nothing. In the name of our Lord we thank you. (Ngoma)

Thank you very much for your assistance because we didn't get anything this year. It is still a bad time for hunger. We are praying that you will keep on serving God so that you will keep on assisting us. We are thankful because if you were not Christians, the rest of us would have died and our children. Thank you very much and stay well. From Matshutshuta church.

Thank you for the gifts we received. We are all begging for maize meal because this year we didn't get enough. May God bless you for your deeds. All of you – don't get tired (of helping). In the name of the Lord they are blessed who walk in a suitable way by the grace of the Lord. Thank you forever and ever Amen. (Whunga – a congregation of 28 women).

SEED REPORT

Amount needed: (I was able to get the seed cheaper in Harare, even considering delivery costs.)

1356 x 10kg bags maize seed @ \$16 = \$21,696.

167 x 10kg sorghum seed @ \$17 = \$3006.

Delivery from Harare to Bulawayo and Gwanda = \$2300.

Wire fees: \$135.

Petrol and maintenance to deliver to the rural areas: \$1423.

TOTAL: \$28,560.

Money received towards food/seed not used yet, reported in August:

Unk. (100); New Hope (100); Hfam,TN(1072); Kemper Heights (446); Jfam,TX(200); NewHope(480); Tfam,AL(100); Kemper Heights(126+200); Beaver Dam,KY(1000); NLittleRock(400);

Total: \$4224

Money received since my August report:

Unk deposit,June(50); unk deposit,July(500); unk.deposit,Aug(200+50); August checks: A.A.(80); Anon.TN,(50); N.LittleRock(Jul31)(400); L.G.(50);

Mrs.H,AR(2500) Tfam,AL(100); Hfam,TX(150); Bfam,TN(300); New Hope(400); Kemper Heights(176+200); Afam,IN(3000). September checks: N.LittleRock (400); Anon.AL(50); Dfam,FL(680); Dfam,TX(800); Tfam,NC(1400); Vfam,TX(500); Hfam,MS(100); Anon.KY(100); Riverview,FL(1500+500); Hfam.TN (100); Vfam.IN(200); Pfam,TN(300); Antioch,FL(9000); members at N.MadisonIN,(1069).

Total money received:\$24,905 + \$4224(from last report) = \$29,129. (\$569 can be used for food)

DROUGHT REPORT : March - September 2009

March - Christians fed: 2787 (Please understand that each congregation receives 10kg for each member. However, not every member is needy; and of those who are needy, some are needier than others. Those who have food do not take their 10kg so that those who have a greater need, perhaps a widow with many dependents, can have enough. Each congregation decides how to distribute the maize meal they receive.)

Gwanda South: Maize, 5.39MT@5.32= \$2867. Petrol - \$345, W. Union & maintenance - \$120. Total: \$3332

A family, FL (\$204); Mrs.T. FL (\$50); Cahaba Heights, Bham AL (\$2360); Riverview, FL (\$717)

The other 57 congregations: Maize,\$12,025; Petrol - \$1965, Maint. \$649, W.Union - \$186.

Total: \$15,290

Hfamily,FL (100); Afamily,Toney (200); Anon,WV(100); Bfam,FL(1560); Bfam,AL(500);
A.A.,TN(100); Pfam,TN(150); B.C.TX(50); Rfam,NY(100); J.L,FL(50); Afamily,Athens (125);
L.G,PA(50); Jfam,FL(100), Jfam,TN(300); Tfam,AL(100); Mrs.T&Afam.(762)
Gooch Lane,Madison,AL (1237); S.Cullman,AL (\$9723);

April - Christians fed: 2843

Gwanda South: Maize (5.39MT) \$2854, Petrol - \$361, W.Union&maint.\$406. Total: \$3621.

Afam,FL(202); MrsT,FL(\$50); Cahaba Heights, Bhm,AL (2591); Riverview,FL (780)

The other 57 congregations: Maize (23.41MT) = \$13,700; Petrol\$2401; Maint.\$894; Wires\$250.

Total: \$17,244.

Unknown,MO(50); M.M.(100); Dfam,FL(621); Anon,AL(100); L.G.(50); lady at High Springs,FL (40); Anon,AL(50); Hfam.trust(\$15); Rfam,NY(100);
Eastside,Lincoln,NE(100); Unk.(40); Dfam,TN(100); Hfam,MS(100); W.65th St., LittleRock,AR(1000); Bangor,ME(3494); NEChurch,HighSprings,FL(500);
Jfam,TN(300); Ffam,IN(100); Afam.Toney,AL(200); Tfam,AL(100); Adam's Place,TN(1000); NewHope,Athens,AL(400+300); L.G.(50);
Hwy29,Williamston,SC(6000); Lady at Westvue,Athens(100); Pfam,AL(300); Mfam,MN(100); Tfam,AL(100); Kemper Heights,TN(570); members at High
Springs(60);

Hfam,FL(65), Kabega Park, Port Elizabeth, South Africa(1027)

May - Christians fed: 2856

All 78 congregations: 29MT maize \$14040; Petrol \$2698; Maint. \$1330; Wires, \$135; Total: \$18,203

Cahaba Heights, Bhm,AL (5174) Riverview,FL (1134), Mfam,FL(300); Jfam,TX(200); Afam,IN(5000); Afam,AL(200); L.G.(150); Dfam,TX(500); Cfam,PA
(75); Dublin,Ireland(2070); Westside,Casey,IL(3000); NewHope,Athens,AL(400)

July - Christians fed: 828

25 congregations, 19 of which are in Gwanda South: Maize-\$4087; Petrol -\$738; Wires-\$145, Maint.300;

Total: \$5270.

Cahaba Heights, Bhm,AL(215); Unk.(100); T.fam,AL(100+100+100); L.G.(50+50); Unk.deposits (50+50); Afam,FL(122); Sfam,AR(375); S.S.(164.52);
Anon,AL(50); NewHope(400+400); Hackmann Rd,MO (1000); Jfam,TN(300); Kemper Heights (200); A.A.(160); Helena church,Bhm(883of1000); Vfam,TX
(500) (There has not really been time for all these receipts to come in yet.)

August - (Estimate) Christians fed: 999 (None of these receipts are back yet.)

28 congregations: Maize -\$4636; Petrol -\$755, Maintenance -\$963; bank-\$165. Total: \$6519.

S.H.,TX(50); Adam's Place, Murfreesboro,TN (780); Helena Church, Bhm,AL (117); Kemper Heights (2208); Anon,AL(50+50+50); FCstudents(254); Smokey
Mtn.church,TN (1000); H.fam.TN(928/2000); L.G. (50); M.W,NJ(7); New Hope (400); Ojai,CA (574)

September - (Estimate) Christians to be fed: 2862 (The 78 congregations have now grown to 3013 members, but not all yet need.) Total for each Christian to receive 10kg - \$15,543. Total to receive 5kg - \$7867.