

TRIP NUMBER 7

February 20, 2008

Dear Brethren

Just a quick note to let you all know: I have safely returned from my seventh trip to Zimbabwe. It was a good trip, though we were limited in our travel due to concerns of the upcoming Zimbabwe elections. Some of the areas we desired to visit were under the control of the Zim Army and it was not safe for us or the brethren, for us to travel there. Let me review with you our schedule.

I left Iowa on Sunday afternoon (Feb. 17), to drive to Texas. I stayed with Al and Genevieve Payne. I was very happy to see Mrs. Payne doing so well after her recent heart issues. Al and I discussed the schedule and made plans for my trip. As you know, Al requested I step in for him and keep his schedule, due to Genevieve's health. On Tuesday, Al sat down (in my presence) and discussed with Genevieve whether he should stay with her, or go to Africa with me. They determined that he would join me for the first two weeks, which was half the time. She felt it would cause her more stress to have him stay home with her, then to go do our work in Zimbabwe. I mention this to show the absolute sacrifice this godly couple are willing to make for our brethren in Zimbabwe. I was glad to be able to step in and assure Al that the schedule would be kept, whether he went or stayed in the states. Our plane left Dallas on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008. We flew to Dullas, in Washington DC, making connections to Johannesburg, South Africa, then on to Harare, Zimbabwe. All together we were in the air about 20 hours, arriving late Thursday. We held preacher's classes at the Russell Hotel court yard. On Saturday we traveled by car to Bulawayo. I preached on Sunday, Feb. 24 at the Mganwini church in Bulawayo. On Monday and Tuesday, we held preacher's classes at the Hillside church. We prepared for our bush trip on Wednesday and left for Tsholotsho. On Thursday afternoon and evening I preached at the Mpanedziba, a new church in this area. On Friday we preached at Gombalume, with 192 present, which represented Three churches including Somlotha and Tshibizina. There were 4 who obeyed the Lord and were baptized. We returned to Bulawayo on Saturday and prepared for Sunday March 2, where I preached for the Hillside church. Our schedule was affected by the military activity in Tsholotsho and we were unable to travel Monday and Tuesday. I was allowed to preach on Wednesday at a gathering in Bulawayo. We distributed funds to the needy on Thursday and Friday in the Tsholotsho area, avoiding the military. There were 13 churches visited and 751 Christians were assisted with financial help. Many of you sent funds for travel, which we had beyond our needs, so the excess was used for benevolence. On March 9, I preached at Mganwini in Bulawayo and two young women accepted Christ and desired to be baptized. I knew both of these young women from past visits. One young woman, Miss Zulu (18 years old), was diagnosed with cancer and under went surgery to remove a tumor from her upper right shoulder just a few days before. I assisted her with funds for the surgery with some of the benevolence some of you individuals sent with me. We pray the Lord will keep her and help her mend physically as she matures spiritual. I remained in Bulawayo, unable to meet our schedule to preach in the Dolo mountains, due to a break down with Brewer's truck. Brewer spent most of the next two days fixing and preparing the truck to get me to Harare to catch my plane back to the US on Thursday March 13. We left Bulawayo at 3 AM and drove to Harare for my flight, which left Thursday afternoon. I flew to Johannesburg, caught my plane to Dullas, with a stop in Dakar, an 18 ½ hour flight. Then I flew from Dullas to Dallas, arriving Friday afternoon. I left Dallas on Saturday and drove to Indianapolis, IN to spend a few days with our son, 15 hour drive. I preached Sunday Evening at Anderson church of Christ, in Anderson, IN. Nollen flew from Iowa to Indy on Monday. We stayed with our son until Friday. Our grandson, Samuel had surgery on Thursday, so we wanted to stay until we knew he was ok. We drove back to Iowa on Friday, March 22. It seems like I have been on a dead run for over a month and am still running, though it is good to be home.

Let me express to you a very urgent need. Mountbatten has mentioned in his report, and you have noticed in this report the problems with his truck. He has used this truck on a daily basis to haul food, preach and do the work of the Lord. The truck is finished and in continual need of repair. It has been a good investment, but needs to be replaced. We are asking all who are interested to assist us in raising \$17,000 to buy a new truck for the work Brewer does in Zimbabwe. There were 751 Christians who were assisted with benevolence, but we were unable to haul any food to them. They would have to use the funds to buy food where ever they could find it. Maybe neighbors, or maybe they would have to walk for miles to buy on the black market in a village or town. I can not under emphasis the urgent need for a truck to assist Brewer in assisting his brethren and their needs. Please consider this need, and inform all that you may know about it.

Thanks for your assistance in this trip. May God bless you in your work for Him there.

In Christ's service

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