

November 28, 2021

Dear Brethren

Greetings to you! I am thankful to the Lord that I am able to share some information with you. It is our prayer that you are doing well and your families. I hope too that the brethren under your watch are doing well. In Zimbabwe, we are thankful the Lord is blessing us with good health. We have two sisters at Chitowa that had surgeries these past few days. One is a young girl who was rushed to Harare to have her appendix removed. This happened nearly two weeks ago. The other is an old woman whose uterus had to be removed because it was developing some ulcers which the doctors believed would be cancerous if not attended to. The surgery was done on Wednesday 24 November. We will continue to monitor their recovery. Other than the two, the rest of the brethren I work with are having no major issues health wise.

This month of November I had no preaching or teaching trip to the rural areas. I have been working at Hillside. Usually starting from around November to early April, the rural brethren will be busy working in the fields depending on the amount of rain that would have been received. I do not usually have studies that are in a series during these months. Such studies are done between April and November. At Hillside, on 14 November, we reintroduced the study that is done before the service. This study had been off since March last year due to lockdowns and other Covid 19 protocols. I started a study from the book of John to fill this slot. The first two Sundays of the month (7 & 14), I also preached. The two sermons are uploaded on You tube. The first is titled "**Being renewed**" and the second is titled "**Unless you repent, you will perish**". Searching for my full name Professor Mashoko gives access to these and many other sermons uploaded. I also preached today the 28<sup>th</sup> from Luke 16 and this sermon will be on You Tube titled "**The prodigal son**".

### Foreign mission

I mentioned in my last report that there was a man in the Philippines whose name is RodMarites Baagin. This man has been following my You Tube channel and he has invited me to this country to teach. My conclusion when I received this invitation was that LORD WILLING, I will go for it. The programme that he has proposed is that I will be in La Union province for one week. La Union is about 300 kilometres to the north of Manila the capital city. There are three congregations that I will visit in La Union including PINMILAPIL where his membership is placed. We will then relocate for another week to Occidental Mindoro to the south of Manila where I will visit four congregations. The return air ticket if purchased in advance is around **\$1500**. RodMarites said there is a brother who would avail his car for use during this trip and that might cost **\$1500** or more in servicing, fuel, lodging etc. I have put the total cost for this trip at about **\$3000**.

**NB:** I have resolved that I will not burden **KSR** with this request for the obvious reason that you are already laden with my support for the work in Zimbabwe and the drought relief for the brethren here which comes through me. I have talked to Paddy and Sandi Kendall Ball about the trip. I drafted a letter which I sent to them and they said they may share it with different friends. **(I will attach the letter here just for your sight not for actioning)**. Being my main supporters in this work, you deserve to have all the information of what is happening for transparency's sake. The Philippines trip is good for me because that may open many doors for the Gospel and also it comes with much needed experience of different environments which I believe a preacher may need to improve in the field of preaching. However, the trip is not indispensable. I will thank God if I make it and will thank him still even if I can't make it.

## **2022 plans**

The past two years have taught us that nothing can be planned with accuracy. Covid 19 has made us to write, delete, rewrite and delete our diaries. Lockdowns and many regulations barring Churches to assemble were the order of the day throughout 2020 and 2021. The same may be true next year. Only God knows with certainty. Already there is a new variant that has thrown the world into turmoil which was discovered in South Africa. Many countries including USA have swiftly banned travelling to and from Southern African countries that include Zimbabwe. We hear other countries like Israel have shut their borders to would be foreign visitors except returning citizens. With this new variant, we do not know where the world is headed to next.

However, we don't stop dreaming. I hope to continue with my Bible Periods classes with men in April and September 2022. Situation permitting, I hope to host two such classes because of the backlog I now have. I hope also to continue teaching various Bible books to men and to various congregations. The congregations I now have close working relationship with are Hillside, Masunda, Chitowa, Bera, Ruware, Zvamahande and Mberengwa Office. That will mean a great deal of travelling. I am ready for it. In my last report I explained about Zvamahande which was formerly known as Shashe Block.

Mberengwa Office is brand new. One lady that is a member at Masunda invited us to accompany her and teach her maiden family in her area of origin which is called Mberengwa. It is about 80 kilometres west of our village. I have visited only once, Reason Bwaticona with Ishmael his son visited twice so far. I failed to be with them in those two visits because of my commitment to finish the book of John at Hillside. The visits saw 17 people in total being baptised on different occasions. I have planned to visit and worship with these new brethren for at least two Sundays in December.

***In that regard, I will appreciate the financial support that KSR gave me in 2021 to continue in 2022. Through KSR elders, I am grateful for the support.***

**Drought Relief**

If KSR is in a position to help, another round of relief assistance is needed anytime this December. Early to mid-December will be the best time so as to beat congestion and confusion usually associated with the festive season. Traditionally, many companies close shop until mid-January and that usually cause prices of basic commodities to skyrocket. The rains that have started coming will allow people to plant now. If there are any harvests that will come out of the season, it will be anytime from late March to April 2022. It is our prayer that the season may be good with normal rainfall patterns unlike the previous season which had too much rains and crops were drowned. We hope and look forward to have a year where brethren may be self-sufficient and there is no drought relief request being made.

Allow me to end by saying thank you very much for the zoom opportunity you made available for me to update KSR brethren on some of the things I am doing in Zimbabwe. It was a treasured moment indeed. I do hope to have another opportunity in the future.

Thank you

Professor

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The following is the letter I promised to attach:

Dear Brethren

I thank God who has allowed me this opportunity to write this letter to you. How are you, your families and all brethren you get an opportunity to share the Word with. I hope and trust that you are doing well. In Zimbabwe we are thankful the Lord is blessing us with good health and life. I will begin by giving a background before I make my request. I assume you may want to use this letter to show some brethren who do not know me hence the background.

**BACKGROUND**

**Work in Zimbabwe.**

In Zimbabwe, I am a member at Hillside Church of Christ in Bulawayo the second largest city of Zimbabwe. I work a lot with six rural congregations in Masvingo and Midlands Provinces 300 kilometres east of Bulawayo. The congregations are namely Masunda, Chitowa, Bera, Ruware, Zvamahande and newly started Mberengwa office. I also teach men from around Zimbabwe Bible Periods (Bible history and geography) every year since

2017. The majority of these classes are done in Shona which is the main indigenous language of Zimbabwe.

But at Hillside, I teach and preach in English. All my sermons are video recorded and uploaded on You Tube. There are more than fifty sermons that are on You Tube. Searching for my full name **Professor Mashoko** gives access to these sermons.

### **Foreign work.**

A man from Philippines (whom I did not know) somehow tumbled upon the sermons on You Tube. He then liked and shared a few on Facebook. I then tracked him down on Facebook. His name is RodMarites Baagin and we have been talking for sometime now. He is a preacher who works with three congregations in La Union Province north of Philippines about 300 kilometres from the capital city Manila. He liked some of the material in the sermons and he has extended his invitation to me to come and teach. He has also invited me to then go to Occidental Mindoro another Province where I will get an opportunity to teach and preach in four congregations. In total I will visit seven congregations in two weeks. Lord willing, we have provisionally slated the trip for early May 2022. I cherish the opportunity which I have likened to Apostle Paul's "Macedonian Call" in Acts 16vs6-10.

### **Request**

I am glad to make the following request to your congregation and to any individuals that might be able to assist. The return air ticket costs roughly United States \$1500. There is need for another amount of \$1500 for the general upkeep during the two weeks while in that foreign land. I will gladly treasure and appreciate any amount that you may be able to help me with. I realise the figure may be too big to be raised by one congregation. If the funds could be raised, I intended to have purchased the air ticket by latest end of December 2021 to lock the price.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Your brother

Professor Mashoko

Hillside Church of Christ

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe