

Dear Brethren

Warm greetings from Zimbabwe. It is my sincere hope that this report finds you, your families and the brethren you have contact with doing well. It is our prayers always that the God of heaven may keep his saints safe wherever they are around the globe. We hear on the news several natural disasters taking place in different continents be it typhoons, heatwaves, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, mudslides, hurricanes, droughts etc. We know that many times even saints are also affected by these disasters. We also know of man-made crises like unnecessary wars that are started by power hungry and selfish world leaders that are causing many deaths and injuries to innocent people. Africa in particular is now famous with military coups and we do not know where we are heading to.

Our very own country held elections on 23 August to choose municipal councillors, members of parliament and the President. The elections were condemned by international observers as lacking credibility. There were so many glaring irregularities that inevitably affected the outcome of the poll. The incumbent President was declared the winner but the official opposition has rejected the result and the country is at a standstill. We do not know for sure what will happen in the days and weeks to come. Amid all this mayhem, we are so thankful to know that God is in charge. We are particularly happy to know that his will always prevail. The following information is a brief of what I was able to do in the month of August 2023.

My wife and I left Bulawayo on 4 August heading to the rural areas. I had put together a two-week teaching programme for brethren from five congregations namely Chinhuwa, Chitowa, Bera, Ruware and Chenhare. Schools had closed on August 3 and opening on September 4. It was easy for us to be away for that long without Nothando worrying about preparing the boys for school as they were on holiday. I had a lesson on PowerPoint teaching on Family. If individual families are not living according to the word of God, congregations where these families are members can not in turn live according to the word. I was also going to teach the book of Exodus having recently finished Genesis. I also intended to have classes with preachers from these congregation and share notes on sermon preparation and presentation. We have done this before but it is important to do it regularly. Finally, I was also going to teach a series of practical lessons I came up with from Jesus' sermon on the mount. Many of these classes were disrupted by political rallies especially at Chinhuwa and Chitowa. Some men in these congregations felt it was unsafe to have the classes during the same time when there were campaign rallies. Their judgement was not very accurate as it proved peaceful during that period. We could have gone ahead with the classes without any adverse effects.

Friday 4 August

We left home at 0530 in the morning and arrived at Ruware church building after 9am. This was the venue of our class with the two preachers from Ruware, one from Bera and three from Chenhare. However, all other men from these congregations who wanted to attend this session were free to do so. We had a very encouraging interaction. Each of the men had an opportunity to present a lesson of his choice and then comments or questions would be raised in connection with the lesson. We ran the session up to 4pm. it was very productive.

Men who were present at Ruware building for the class.



At 4pm women and children from these three congregations joined us because I was going to present the PowerPoint lesson on Family living according to the word of God. Questions and answers and general comments were part of this session. It was an open study and the study was well received. we finished after 7pm.

Brethren paying attention to the PowerPoint lesson on Family



Saturday 5 August

I was supposed to meet with preachers from Chinhuwa and Chitowa at Chitowa building and later have the Family lesson with brethren from Chitowa. As explained above, the classes were cancelled.

Sunday 6 August

We went and worshipped with Ruware first, Bera second and Chenhare last. They all had asked me to teach in their Bible classes before sermons. They adjusted their starting times for us to be able to meet with all of them. At the three places, I introduced the series on Jesus' sermon on the mount. At each place I only managed to teach from **Mathew 5:1-16**. Lord willing, I hope to continue this series in the future.

Brethren present at Ruware service



Chenhare brethren



Thursday 10 August

When men at Chinhuwa who had also cancelled the classes at their congregation anticipating political problems discovered that it was after all calm, they asked me if I could come and present the Family lesson on PowerPoint. I agreed and on Wednesday 9 August they hurriedly advised the members to gather the following day. I went to the building on Thursday afternoon but there were just a few people present. Many brethren failed to make it because of the short notice. The lesson on Family is intended to reach as many families in the church to help the congregations to grow. Having just a handful of brethren would not help. I parked the lesson and ended up doing general discussions with those present. If time permits, I will do the lesson in the future.

Those few who gathered at Chinhuwa



Friday 11 August

I was back at Ruware building meeting with brethren from Ruware, Bera and Chenhare. I was beginning a study from the book of Exodus. I recently studied Genesis with these rural brethren. My ambitious intentions are to study the entire Bible with the rural brethren. This is ambitious because time may not allow me to do so. Another reason will be resources to travel and camp in the rural in quick succession. We had a wonderful study of Exodus from the first chapter to the twentieth chapter.

Those present on the first day



Saturday 12 August

I resumed the study from the twenty first chapter to the fortieth.

Brethren present on the second day



Sunday 13 August

We met with Chinhuwa brethren. I was asked to teach in the Bible class on Autonomy. After service, we came back home to Bulawayo having been out for ten days.

Present on Sunday



Sunday 20 & 27 August

I was at Hillside where I am continuing with the overview of the Bible in the morning class before service. We began in Genesis and now we are in the book of Joshua.

Thank you, brethren, for your financial support. You have been such a reliable pillar in the work we are doing here in Zimbabwe. We continue to pray to our Father to allow us to do more as he wills in his kingdom.

Your Brother

Professor