

Greetings brethren. It is my sincere hope that you are all doing well with your families and the brethren that you are overseeing. In Zimbabwe we are doing well. We fervently pray to the Father in heaven thanking him for keeping us safe through 2023 and we continue to pray that he may usher us into 2024. Most importantly we pray that He may give us good health and the zeal to continue working in His kingdom without getting tired. We encountered many pitfalls this year and we will encounter many more in years to come but we are confident that He will carry us through. We pray for His will and His will alone. Allow me to present the following report which summarises my activities in December 2023.

### **December 3, 10 & 17**

I worshipped with Hillside brethren and on all the three Sundays I led the morning Bible classes from the book of Judges. You now know that I have mentioned in every report that I am teaching the overview of the Bible during this slot. I began in Genesis and I have just concluded Judges. When the new year begins, I will move into Ruth and continue with that order. On the 17<sup>th</sup> I also preached during the regular/main service. The lesson is uploaded on You Tube and is titled "Was Jesus born on 25 December?". The lesson was a relevant reminder as the world was preparing for the Christmas holiday. We know the constant lies peddled by religious people during this period.

### **Wednesday 13 & Thursday 14 December**

On Wednesday 13 Nothando and I left Bulawayo at 5am. We were supposed to be at Ruware building at 9am. Brethren from three congregations namely Ruware, Bera and Chenhare would gather as I was teaching from Matthew 5,6 & 7. These chapters are commonly referred to as the "Sermon on the Mount." I recently concluded a study with these brethren from the book of Exodus. Just like at Hillside, I am also having a similar overview of the Bible with brethren from the abovementioned congregations plus brethren from Chinhuwa. At Hillside I have about 45 minutes every Sunday when I am available while with the rural brethren, I usually have from 9am to 3pm. The studies at these places are not a duplicate of each other but they are tailor-made to fit and be relevant to each audience. The overview I am doing takes very long time to conclude but in between I fit other shorter and needed studies hence the fitting in of "The sermon on the Mount."

The study was well received by the brethren who were present due to its practicality and its relevance to our day-to-day life struggles. We live in a world with vices like murder, adultery, divorce, hatred, struggles to amass wealth, anxiety etc. I reminded the brethren that this world is not always friendly. Often it teaches us to glorify things that are ungodly. Politicians get away with lying to the electorate yet they are called clever people, gays and lesbians mutilate the sanctity of marriage as created by God yet the Governments all over the world make laws that give these people unfettered rights to practise their abominations. Murder cases and unscriptural divorce cases are spiralling out of control each minute and usually these are sanitised by the endemic corruption in the judiciary systems of countries of this world, yet a Christian is expected to be the **Salt** and the **Light** of that wicked world.

The following day on Thursday at 9am I led a study from Exodus at Chinhuwa building with Chinhuwa brethren in attendance. This is a study that was supposed to be done in August but was disturbed by the political rallies in the run up to August elections. We covered the first twenty chapters. After the study we distributed food relief which KSR had sent and a full report about the relief was submitted to the elders.

Brethren inside Ruware building



Brethren inside Chinhuwa building after study before relief sharing



**Thursday 21 December**

I travelled back to Chinhuwa. They had organised a meeting and they had invited me to teach on giving. We started at 9am and finished at 3pm with an hour lunch break. I taught Exodus first from chapters 21 to 40 which I had not finished the previous week. I then taught the topic of Giving as per their request.

Those present for the giving study



### **Sunday 24 December**

Nothando and I left Bulawayo at 5am. We were meeting with Ruware, Bera and Chenhare brethren at their meeting places. At 9am we were at Ruware and we attended their Bible class. They asked me to teach and I taught a lesson on Christmas and the unnecessary dangers people find themselves in, such as overspending, misbehaving (both adults and youngsters), forsaking assemblies etc under the guise of celebrating the birth of Christ, a belief we know is not scriptural. We left after the study as they were preparing for the service to Bera. Brethren at Bera had just finished their Bible class when we arrived. I repeated the lesson on Christmas and we immediately left to Chenhare as they were preparing for the Lord's supper. We arrived at Chenhare as they were concluding their study. I was given the opportunity to preach and I repeated the same lesson as at the other two places. It was relevant as the Christmas day itself was just the following day. We got the opportunity to break bread at Chenhare. After everything, we came to our rural home where we would be based for the next full week.

Bera brethren present on the day



Chenhare brethren



Below are young boys and girls at Chenhare. They are taught Bible stories by two ladies during Sunday school. The class is done from 8am to 9am so that the ladies will not miss the congregational study starting at 9am before the regular service. On this day the children were each asked after service to recite stories and verses they had learnt. We were impressed by the way it was done. There is evidence of some good work the two ladies are doing with these children who are the future of the church if they remain faithful.



#### **Thursday 28 December**

At 9am I began a study at Chinhuwa on “Sermon on the mount”. I had put it on PowerPoint. Fewer people managed to come because it was raining and it made it difficult for brethren to walk up to the building especially some who had to walk four or more kilometres. When I taught the last twenty chapters of Exodus and the lesson on giving the previous week at Chinhuwa three young men and two ladies from Chitowa were in attendance. They had promised to come back with a few more that were interested for the study on the “Sermon on the mount.” They did not come perhaps because of the rains. Only two men from Chitowa managed to come. Chitowa is one of the congregations I helped establish in 2019 together with Chinhuwa in 2018, Bera in 2018, Ruware in 2019 and Chenhare in 2019 so far. Until August, I had excellent working relationships with the congregations as you may have realised from my previous reports. When I studied Genesis and all the other studies before with the rural brethren, Chitowa brethren also were part of the studies. Benjamin Muvondoni from Chitowa just started behaving differently and he has successfully isolated Chitowa from these studies including from the relief that KSR sends. Every congregation is autonomous and I have no scriptural right to dictate terms to any congregation. When I organise the classes I conduct, I invite brethren in their

personal capacities not as congregations. Sadly, we are hearing rumours of many brethren that have stopped coming to church at Chitowa complaining of how Benjamin has been handling the affairs at the congregation including according to further allegations lack of good and understandable teaching. Benjamin himself still needed to be studied with because he is from the liberal background. We will learn more as time unfolds whether the allegations are true or false. We sincerely hope this is not true.

Chinhuwa brethren available for “Sermon on the mount”



### **Sunday 31 December**

We worshipped with Chinhuwa. I led a study from 1 Peter 4 (suffering as a Christian). Reason preached in the main service.



Chinhuwa brethren present. I am in a checked shirt with my back to the red door.



After service we travelled back home to Bulawayo and we arrived home safely.

Thank you brethren for making this work possible in 2023. We pray that the Lord may allow us another good year in 2024.

Your brother

Professor