

Dear Brethren

It is my great blessing for God to allow me this opportunity to write to you at this hour. Allow me to ask you about your welfare together with your families and the KSR flock which you are overseeing. It is my sincere hope that all is well. The same is happening here. We are doing well together with all the brethren in our company. We do not have any new major health issues that may need special mention. As you know, there are illnesses that are chronic such as BP, Diabetes, Asthma etc. We have a few brethren living with these conditions but are still able to manage the conditions with medication. One sister that was helped recently from the relief funds that KSR sent visited the doctor. She was bleeding nonstop for the past 20 years even way before she became a Christian. She has been a Christian as old as Chinhuwa congregation which is five years now. Her condition has changed for the better. Through the medication she is taking, she has not bled for over a month now which is a good reason to rejoice because she had not known such a relief in many years.

I have decided to write this email to give you a summary of the work in Zimbabwe in 2023 even though we are still about a month and a half to conclude the year. Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to KSR Elders for continuously having faith in me and the small effort I am putting in the Kingdom of God. For six consecutive years you have made me not to worry about the finance side of my work. You have provided me with finances to live with family and to evangelise. Early this year you helped me acquire a brand-new **VEHICLE** which should sort out my transport needs for a good number of years barring any unforeseen and unwanted mishaps. I have no adequate words to thank you for this big gift. Only the Lord knows how much my family and myself are thankful. You have also provided relief funds through me to the rural brethren that I work with and that has also lessened the burden of these brethren. We thank God who gave you the hearts to help. We also thank God for all brethren who are KSR members who contribute to the congregation's treasury. It is our prayer always for the Lord to continue blessing you and them with good health both physically and spiritually and many material blessings as the Lord permits.

2023 was not an easy year. The Church here faced some serious persecution through legal processes that affected Bera, Ruware, Chenhare, and Mutuvi. Their gatherings were outlawed from January to May. This was not an easy period as we were harassed by being dragged to the Chief's court who imposed unfair fines on John Makopa, Tichafa Munemo and myself. Again, KSR brethren stood with us in prayers and even availed funds for us to pay the fines. That period was depressing but we thank God for guiding us through and we managed to keep our cool throughout the period even in front of apparent provocation. Even though we are not thoroughly happy with the Chief's final verdict that we should not have more than three congregations in Shiku area, at least brethren are now meeting freely. Mutuvi was disbanded. The verdict fringes on our freedom of worship and our God given command to preach and teach those who care to listen and convert them to Him. We continue to monitor the situation and hope one day God will reign over these people who think that becoming a community leader on earth gives them rights to act willy nilly even if their actions will affect the preaching of the Gospel.

Soon after the Chief allowed the congregations to gather, the country was gripped by the election fever. From May until August the politicians were criss-crossing the length and breadth of the country canvassing for support. That also seriously affected our planning to visit and teach in the rural areas especially. I cancelled some meetings because there were ongoing campaigns in the vicinity. All the ruling party campaign rallies were a must attend. You could not arrange a parallel gathering lest you would be seen as a member of the opposition hence a competitor. This was another serious drawback. After the elections in August, we became a bit free. We even had Brother Allen and Sister Debbie

visiting in September and taught freely. October too was a free month as more visitors came and taught without problems. But this was not for long.

The months between November and April come with their own challenges. That is land preparation and planting till harvesting if the rain season is good. This means having meaningful preaching and teaching gatherings in the rural areas is affected. Of course, this year the weather forecast is predicting below normal rainfall. God knows the true predictions. People, brethren included will nevertheless go ahead with the preparations regardless of the meteorological department's predictions.

Despite all these challenges, I am thankful that God still allowed me to do some teaching and preaching in the rural areas. I managed to teach the books of Genesis and Exodus to Bera, Ruware and Chenhare brethren. I taught Genesis to Chinhuwa and Chitowa but failed to go to Exodus due to the campaign rallies but am hoping to do so soon. I also introduced a new series of lessons from the "Sermon on the mount" to Bera, Ruware and Chenhare. I am hoping to continue with this series in the future. I hope to introduce the same series to Chinhuwa brethren and anywhere else where I may have invitations. I also taught a lesson on PowerPoint titled Godly Families which was intended for Christian families. The lesson was taught to Bera, Ruware, Chenhare and Chinhuwa brethren.

My wife and I travelled three times in April and May to Redcliff 250 kilometres to the north of Bulawayo which is a small town. It is a defunct steel mine. I taught and we had a small congregation up and running there. Jabulani Hingi who was once helped with funds from KSR to have a hernia repair and his wife and family now live in this area. Him and wife were baptised in 2019. Their two children are Christians too. We baptised two more people who became members there. The last time we went there was in May and we would come back if Jabulani and wife were able to mobilise more people that needed teaching. That has not happened. I have not heard from him since then. I am suspecting Jabulani himself has become lukewarm. We will see if there is any chance of resuscitating that area.

In April I hosted two groups of men at our house in Bulawayo as you now know I teach Bible Periods classes to men from any part of the country. The first group had young and unmarried men while the second group had old and married men. Both groups arrived on a Monday and stayed through the duration of the class to the following Monday. It was an intense sixteen-day period for me as I taught every day from 9am to 5pm. I enjoyed every moment of the studies. My wife and her catering team were also working hard to make sure all the food was served on time and the house was kept clean. Each class had 12 men. I instantly had a couple of invitations from Gokwe nearly 400 kilometres North west of Bulawayo. Four men from different congregations in Gokwe district were in Bulawayo at my house in the adult bible Periods class. They enjoyed their time and they believe I may help with teaching in their congregations which are starved of sound teaching as the men themselves are still learning also. I have not gone there yet and will not be able to do so this year. Lord willing, I will try to fulfil this obligation next year.

In March I went to the Philippines for two weeks and came back first week of April. I explained how I got the funding for the trip in my March and April reports sent to KSR Elders. Lord willing, I hope to head to that direction in February 2024 for about two weeks. Paddy and Sandi Kendall Ball have organised one time funding from Hot Springs Church where their son Adam preaches. The church has availed **\$1750** which is enough to purchase a return ticket. Mount Zion has also availed a one-time payment of **\$1500**. Just hoping to get a few more dollars to make sure I will not run out supplies while in that far away country. I am hoping to introduce Bible Periods to a class of men there. Already twenty men have confirmed their presence in the class. They showed a lot of interest in the study when I told them about it. They are waiting for this class and I am waiting for it too. Attached below is the provisional itinerary which has been put together for my visit.

Itinerary for February 3-20, 2024

February 3, 2024..... Arrival
February 4, 2024-----Morning: Worship at Legarda Road Church of Christ Baguio City
Afternoon: Pinmilapil Church of Christ. Sison, Pangasinan.
February 5, 2024-----Morning: Preaching at Catagtingtingan Church of Christ Rosario, La Union.
Afternoon: Labayug Church of Christ. Sison, Pangasinan.
February 6, 2024-----Morning: Preaching at Mangaldan, Pangasinan.
Afternoon: Inmalog Church of Christ, Sison, Pangasinan.
February 7, 2024-----Morning: Preaching at San Luis Church of Christ, Pugo, La Union.
Afternoon: Preaching at
February 8, 2024 ----- Travel going Occidental Mindoro.
February 9, 2024-----Morning: Preaching at Alag Church of Christ. Sablayan, Occ. Mindoro
Afternoon: Preaching at Bagong Silang Church of Christ. Santa Cruz. Occ. Mindoro
February 10, 2024-----Morning: Langa Church of Christ Santa Cruz Occ. Mindoro
February 11, 2024-----Morning: Worship at Almeda Church of Christ, Afternoon Rest.
February 12, 2024-----Travel going Oriental Mindoro.
February 13, 2024-----Preaching at Victoria, Oriental Mindoro
February 14, 2024-----Preaching at Naujan, Oriental Mindoro
February 15, 2024-----Travel going Cavite.
February 16-17, 2024----Bible Men's Class at Carmona, Cavite.
February 18, 2024-----Worship San Luis Church.
February 19, 2024-----Preaching at Guimba, Nueva Ecija. Or Rosales, Pangasinan.
February 20, 2024-----Departure.

The Bible Periods programme has gained a lot of popularity locally and a number of men who have had an opportunity to discuss with someone who attended it before are asking me to put them down for my next classes. The class has proved to be a vital piece of the puzzle that was missing. I am thankful that the Lord permitted me to introduce this class. It has without doubt helped some men to piece together the Bible story. Some have become better teachers of the word in their congregations. In April 2024 I will try to have another double class like I did this year. It is straining but worth it. We ought to maximise the time while we still have the energy in us. One of these days, the energy will go away either due to age or some natural circumstances.

In 2024 over and above what I am already doing, I ambitiously hope to:

1. Have more follow ups with those that have already gone through the Bible Periods programme and study with them some key Old Testament books such as 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and many more in the New Testament. We will see whether **time** and **funds** will permit me to host men at the house a couple of times than usual. If possible, I wish to have such a class every month. If I am not travelling to teach, I am having men at the house teaching and studying.
2. Continue travelling to the congregations in the rural areas that I am already visiting. I want to continue studying with the congregations all the books of law, the lesson series from the sermon on the mount and any other needed studies. The brethren still have much to learn. I pray God can continue giving me better understanding of his **Word**, continue sending me out and grant me health to be able to work.
3. Recently we had a discussion with brother Allen to see if it is possible to have him teach the rural brethren on zoom or some other social media platform before he physically comes here in August. That needs some internet connectivity and we are still working to see how this can be made possible. If this happens, that means more travelling for me to facilitate and translate.

4. I hope to have more interface with those few men who are already preaching for the rural congregations and help them to have more preaching and teaching practice. We had one such meeting in September 2021 at my rural home that was attended by 23 men from Chinhwa, Chitowa, Bera, Ruware and Chenhare. Another one was in September 2022 at Ruware building attended by around twenty men from the above-named congregations. The most recent one was in August this year attended by men from Bera, Ruware and Chenhare. These meetings were very helpful. The momentum needs to be maintained
5. To fulfil any other invitation to an old or to a new place wherever and whenever it is possible. Hillside remains in the picture as well. I do the donkey there and we will see how my son Predecessor and another young man called Parvel will cope. They have had opportunities to preach here and there and they still need to work very hard to be fully relied on.

I have already expressed a big thank you for the funding from KSR and I repeat to express the statement many more times. For transparency's sake, I have told you in the past that Mount Zion gives me a monthly support. They give me \$800 a month which keeps the family going from month to month before my quarterly support from KSR comes. The support from KSR takes care of all the travelling costs that are related to my preaching and teaching, the food and transport for men coming for Bible Periods classes that I hold in Bulawayo, all classes in the rural areas and other big family needs like school fees etc. The support allows me to do a lot but it cannot be stretched further enough to do everything I hope to achieve. This year it was adequate largely because my travelling was reduced due to the Church ban earlier in the year and the election campaign rallies in the middle to the second half of the year. If 2024 becomes a free year as we anticipate and I still hope to achieve everything as listed above, the support will fall short. If there is any chance for the Elders to adjust the support, I will kindly ask them to adjust because that will do a lot of good to my 2024 ambitious programme. But if there is no chance (*considering that KSR will be committed with the relief to Zimbabwe which I am receiving on behalf of the brethren and support to other places*), I can work with the current support and do that which I can. By any standard, the support I am receiving from KSR is still good enough to allow me to do something. I am certainly not in the red.

I am sorry I have no figure to suggest. Some of the costs are still far ahead to know the actual figures and that makes it a bit difficult to know. Fuel usually drives everything here and it is not stable at all. Last adjustment to the support end of 2022 the Elders came up with a figure and it worked out just fine.

Thank you

Your brother

Professor.