

Greetings brethren. I find great joy to write this email to you giving you an update of the work in Zimbabwe particularly my activities during the month of April.

Sunday 7,14 & 21

On these Sundays I was at Hillside where I am teaching the overview of the Bible in the morning study before service. Now I am in 1 Samuel having started from Genesis. On Sunday 21, I preached on what parents and children alike can do to prevent marriages which will take the newly married away from the Lord. This has become a serious problem especially with girls. If they marry someone in the denomination, they leave the Lord and become members of the denominations.

Saturday 13 April

I was accompanied by my son Predecessor to Mberengwa nearly 200 kilometres southwest of Bulawayo. There was a gospel meeting where brethren from a number of congregations in that area met at one place for two days. I got two opportunities to teach during a combined session and during a men's class. In the combined class I taught from 1 Peter 5:8-9- the Devil is a roaring lion. When the classes were split, I was asked to lead the men's class and I taught about the church autonomy. This lesson was motivated by the fact that for the longest of time these congregations organise their gospel meetings as a group.

An organising committee comprising of different men from different congregations is put in place. The committee is charged with the responsibility of identifying a venue which is usually a meeting place of one of the local congregations. The committee also calculates the amount of food and the associated costs during the meeting and then collect money from each

congregation. The money is then used to feed the people during the meeting. This committee usurps the autonomy and authority of each local congregation. The study took an hour and half because there was a flurry of questions. These are men who have known no other practice for many years and to think this was unscriptural was unlikely. Some got the point of the study but some remained with doubts. I hope we will get more time in the future to study more. Soon after the class around 5pm, we left for home and we arrived after 8pm. The brethren numbering around three hundred remained at the place of the meeting as they were dismissing the next day Sunday after service. Another error is that all the other congregations will dispense of meeting at their usual meeting places for regular worship and everyone in the area meets at the “hosting” congregation. The Sunday becomes some “big Sunday”.

The first picture is some of the brethren present, the second picture is me in black jacket teaching during combined class through an interpreter. I taught in Shona translated to Ndebele the local language in the area. The third picture is me teaching the men’s class.





Monday 22 to Sunday 28

Nothando and I visited our rural areas where we were going to begin the repairs to our rural house. We started the repairs but did not finish because I discovered that there was a bit more work than I had thought. Some sections of the wall need to be completely taken down and be reconstructed. We also were digging the corners past where foundation is and pour in some concrete in case the foundation shifted. I engaged a builder and two more men to assist. The work continues when I go back until we finish. I hope we will win.





Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 April

On Wednesday 24, we met with brethren from three congregations namely Bera, Ruware and Chenhare. They met at Ruware building and I studied the book of Joshua with them. You are now aware from my previous monthly reports that I am not only doing the Bible overview at Hillside but with the rural brethren too. I began in Genesis and studied the following four books of law. During this visit we did Joshua and in my next visit we move into Judges. The class began at 9am and we finished around 3pm.



The following day Thursday 25, we met with brethren from Chinhuwa studying Joshua also.



Sunday 28 April

On this day we met with Ruware, Bera and finally Chenhare for worship. I asked the men to teach as I was interested in being just a listener. The problem always is that when I am visiting the men are quick to ask me to teach and preach. But I also need an opportunity to hear these men preach and teach. We attended a Bible class at Ruware which was led by John Makopa, service at Bera and Nhamo Gumbo preached and finally another service at Chenhare and Tichafa Munemo preached. Thereafter, we left for Bulawayo and we arrived safely.





FUTURE PLANS

Lord willing this coming month of May on the 10th to the 12th, I will visit Gokwe about 400km away for three days. I have an invitation to teach there. I was asked to speak on the following topics during this visit. I just copied the topics as they are in the WhatsApp message from the preacher who invited me.

- 1, Drinking alcohol and taking abusive substances.
2. The coming of Christ and the Church as a way of salvation.
3. The second coming of Jesus Christ.
4. Are there still prophets and miraculous spiritually gifts operating nowadays.
5. The new Testament Church and Church autonomy.
6. Did God give us a pattern to follow?

When I return, I will have twelve men visiting us for Bible periods studies from Monday 13 to Sunday 19. More information on the Gokwe visit and the Bible periods studies in my May report.

Thank you very much for the financial support which continues to allow me to visit different places to study and to teach the Gospel. We continue to pray that the Lord may continue to bless his work. Greet your families and all the brethren.

Your brother

Professor