



ZIMBABWE VICTIMS' SUPPORT FUND

Prayer Focus

"You give them something to eat"

In the well-known story of the feeding of the five thousand there is a moment when Jesus responds to an apparently reasonable suggestion from the disciples with what seems an unreasonable demand of them. After an exhausting day and with Jesus teaching late into the evening, the disciples suggested he should dismiss the crowd. *"You give them something to eat,"* Jesus replied. And we can imagine the stunned disciples asking themselves – What food? From where? And with what money?

We know the end of that story, but it's different when the same demand is made of us today, *"You give them something to eat,"* and we can't see how. And that's the challenge facing our ZVSF team in Bulawayo.

After a clearly fraudulent election in which the incumbent President was declared to be the winner, there is real anger among the people who know full well they have been cheated of the radical change and new beginning they have longed for, worked and prayed for, over so many years. The nation is virtually bankrupt and most of the normal services have collapsed. Zimbabwe is effectively a failed state. And there is widespread fear and desperate hunger among the people as most of the country is now classified in the Acute Food Insecurity category.

We asked our Bulawayo team what we should pray for, and here is a summary of their responses:

- The resources to give the people something to eat – both physical and spiritual food
- The Church to care for and counsel an angry, despairing people
- Discernment and courage for Pastors to speak the truth in love
- God's encouragement for his faithful servants
- God's provision for the needs of their families

Our team are not without hope, but they are being stretched and they need our prayerful support and every encouragement we can give them.

Right now we are reviewing the level of funding we can provide so that, together, we may respond to the question the Lord posed to the disciples later in the same story (in Mark 6:30-44) *"How many loaves do you have? Go and see."* They did that and the miracle of multiplication followed on.

As we press on we would value your prayers more than ever. And thank you for that crucial support.

Your partners in Christ,

Graham Shaw

and the ZVSF Team

