

Faithful, persevering love ... will find a way

Dear friends,

As I write this piece on the work of our dedicated team in Zimbabwe through 2024 it is difficult to find the words to do justice to their endeavours. But the inspired words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 do help – and especially within his stunning picture of the love revealed in Christ in the words of verse 7:

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Such is the quality of love we see reflected in the labours of our Bulawayo team - a faithful, persevering love against all the odds. And the odds are certainly stacked against anyone committed to the way of truth and love in Zimbabwe. A corrupt and self-serving elite who care little about the plight of the majority have run up a staggering national debt of \$ 21 billion, resulting in the country being denied any further loans or emergency funds. To make matters worse the country is now struggling with the impact of a once-in-a-generation drought – followed by some flooding ! It is no surprise then that by May 2025 about 7.6 million people are expected to be dependent on relief food.

This is reflected in the urgent request of our team on the ground that we should pray with them, for such basic things as for children to be able to go to school, hospitals to function and food to eat. In the longer term, and underlying so many of the present woes, we are asked to pray for national leaders with a heart to care.

Despite all the current challenges our amazing team of volunteers have certainly not shown any sign of “growing weary in doing good.” On the contrary as **Chris Sworn** discovered on a visit to Bulawayo in

August, they are persevering cheerfully with the relief feeding programme, enhanced by our **Special Appeal** and other bold initiatives. To the most vulnerable children and frail elderly they were able to give 960 kgs of the wonder nutritional food, e’pap - enhanced with a further 1,700 kgs supplied by Barnabas Aid. And that’s not to mention sustaining the vital programme providing school lunches to six primary schools in the Lupane area, which is a game changer for the children. And to those with access to any arable land, between September and December the team delivered 6 tonnes of OPV seed maize kindly donated by the **Mike Campbell Foundation**.

Work on the **Intuthuko community garden project** suffered a setback when the water provided by the first borehole declined under the impact of the prolonged drought. But as our Treasurer notes in her report plans are now in hand to provide a second borehole to remedy this.

Through all these challenges and many more our team perseveres, and by the grace of God they have managed to navigate through the obstacles, always finding a way to bring his blessing to those close to despair. Time and again the people see and rejoice that faithful, persevering love will always find a way !

And so to all who are supporting this work of compassion with your prayers and sacrificial giving we say, with our partners in Bulawayo and all those blessed by your generosity,

Siyabonga Kakhulu! Thank you very much!

Graham Shaw and the ZVSF Trustees



Top: A double blessing - e'pap and mealie meal - for the people of Esikhoveni
Lower left: A helping hand from Chris Sworn
Lower right: A grateful recipient of seed maize

Treasurer's Report

In April we launched our **Special Appeal**, setting ourselves the target of doubling the funding for mealie meal to 30 tonnes a month. I am happy to say that through your wonderful on-going support, we have managed to sustain this target despite all the monetary challenges of the last year. This resulted in ZVSF being able to send £122,832 to provide vital support to the people of Matabeleland during one of the worst droughts the country has experienced. This was 28% higher than the previous year. We were also able to support the feeding programme at six primary schools in the Lupane district where, without this critical assistance, our Bulawayo Team tell us, the children would have been too weak due to malnutrition to attend school.

Your funding has also provided continued support for the self-help **Intuthuko** community garden project. Thanks to the continuing generosity of one of our supporting churches, we are now funding a second borehole, and it is hoped that this will enable the expansion of this project and encourage more families to take part in the scheme.

Although the rains have come, the challenge still remains to support these vulnerable people in difficult times. The cost of food is spiralling; we have seen the price of mealie-meal rise by 16% within the last two months and there is little relief available. In short our programme of relief feeding is vital to the survival of the local population. It is only through your amazing generosity that we can continue to supply this support to our brothers and sisters in need and for this we thank you.

Caroline Hastie-Smith

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Bank	HSBC
Sort Code	40-34-18
Account Name	Zimbabwe Victim's Support Fund
Account Number	34676637

Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund

Draft (Unaudited) RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

2023		2024
£	RECEIPTS	£
72,072	Donations	118,945
11,539	Gift Aid Receipt	8,187
297	Interest	778
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83,908		127,910
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PAYMENTS		
95,865	Remittances to Zimbabwe	122,832
468	Bank Charges	567
289	Printing Costs	200
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96,622		123,598
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12,715	Surplus /(Deficit) for year	4,312
53,443	Funds brought forward	40,728
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40,728	Funds carried forward	40,040
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The funds carried forward at 31 December 2024 (and 31st December 2023) are represented by cash at bank



Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund

(Registered Charity No.1145569)

YEAR END REPORT 2024

www.zimbabwevictimssupportfund.org

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