

## Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund

(Registered Charity Number 1145569)



### Trustees and email contacts

Graham Shaw (Chairman) shamwari48@gmail.com Graham Matthews (Treasurer) zvsf.treas@gmail.com Chris Sworn (Secretary) zvsf.csworn@gmail.com

# SHINING LIKE STARS IN A DARK SKY

#### Dear friends,

Can you imagine a country in which, although the people have a deep longing for political change, they dread the approach of the next elections. They do so because of their bitter experience of rigged elections and the further repression and violence which always accompany them.

Such a country is Zimbabwe today, where the tension is already building ahead of the elections due in 2023. This fear, compounded by Covidrelated anxieties, adds to the misery suffered by a people, half of whom are now living in extreme poverty.

We must pray therefore that in the days ahead the nation will be blessed by God to see his righteousness prevail over every attempt to suppress the truth and deny justice to the people.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness", says Jesus, "for they will be satisfied".



THE BULAWAYO TEAM (Left to right) Pastor Robert Chatindo Phanuel Moyo (Admin Assistant) Di Charsley (Team leader) Pastor Bheki Siziba

As we pray for our partners in Zimbabwe we should be aware that it can be a dangerous place for those who hunger and thirst for justice and mercy. The recent BBC documentary entitled "President" exposes the brutal reality and farcical nature of the last election in 2018. Nor is the brutality limited to election time, as we have seen in the recent case of the 13 teachers arrested and put in leg irons for daring to call for a living wage.

As I write I recall the humble testimony of my dear late friend, Pastor Albert who was himself subjected to intimidation and abuse, his life being threatened on more than one occasion by agents of the State.



Part of the community at Springs Farm rejoicing in the delivery of relief food to sustain their families

Once, having rushed to be with a community whose homes were being destroyed, he was seized by security agents, taken aside and told – while a pistol was held to his head – that he was about to die.

To borrow a metaphor from the Apostle Paul (Philippians 2/15), we can truly say that the righteous servants of the Lord in that beleaguered land "shine like stars" against a dark sky.

Thank you, dear friends, for standing with us and supporting this vital ministry with your prayers and generous giving. Our Treasurer, Graham Matthews, provides a helpful summary of donations received through the course of the year, and the provision of relief food and essential help made possible through your giving.

We rejoice that the Mike Campbell Foundation partnered with our team, entrusting them with the distribution to over a thousand desperate families of 5 tonnes of OPV seed maize. This is a real gamechanger because future crops can be grown from the seed of this one – so moving these families from helpless dependence towards the dignity of being self-supporting.

On a personal note, I am delighted to say that, after many Covid-related delays, I am finally booked to visit Zimbabwe in early March (2022). I hope to have the time there to listen to and learn from our partner team in Bulawayo, to pray together and discern God's vision for the nation - and the part he has graciously assigned us within that vision. I also hope to return with many stories and photos to share with you !

In that partnership of grace,

Graham Shaw

Once again you have all risen to the Lord's challenge of supporting his work in Zimbabwe. It has been a truly humbling experience receiving your donations to continue the support of the poor and d destitute in Matabeleland. Thank you. There were times when I wondered how we would be able to meet the rising cost of the mealie meal required. I need not have worried!! You have enabled us to purchase 236 tonnes of the staple food, as well as the nutritional supplement e'pap and soya chunks.

I also wish to add my thanks to the team in Bulawayo for all their dedication and hard work, to which we refer in our reports through the year and which are also shown in the photographs supplied and on our ZVSF website.

Sadly over the year we have lost friends who have supported ZVSF's work. In their memory we will persevere in the struggle against injustice and neglect.

Thank you, **Graham Matthews** Treasurer

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#### ZIMBABWE VICTIMS' SUPPORT FUND

#### **RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

For the year to 31st December 2021

<b>2020</b> £		2021 ਜ਼
9	<b>RECEIPTS</b> Donations & Fundraising Interest received Gift Aid Refund	115,114 13 10,508
132,887		125,635
570	<b>PAYMENTS</b> Distribution to Zimbabwe Financial Costs Admin & Support UK	125,956 488 175
138,526	•	126,619
(5,639)	(DEFICIT) for year	(984)
42,756	FUNDS brought forward	37,117
37,117	FUNDS carried forward	36,133

