



Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund

(Registered Charity Number 1145569)



MID YEAR REPORT 2021

www.zimbabwevictimssupportfund.org

Trustees and email contacts

Graham Shaw (Chairman)

shamwari48@gmail.com

Graham Matthews (Treasurer)

zvsf.treas@gmail.com

Chris Sworn (Secretary)

zvsf.csworn@gmail.com

ZIMBABWE: where the rich get richer and the poor, poorer

Dear friends,

'There is nothing new under the sun' or so wrote the author of Ecclesiastes some 2,400 years ago – and it is certainly the case in Zimbabwe today.

What is happening is a re-run of the evils which Micah wrote about 700 years before Christ –

'Listen you leaders of Israel – you are supposed to know right from wrong, yet you are the very ones who hate good and love evil: you skin my people and strip them to the bone' (Micah 3 v 1)

'You want a certain piece of land or someone else's home (though it is all he has); you take it by fraud and threats and violence' (Micah 2 v 2).

These verses sum up what is happening in Zimbabwe today – the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Examples abound – from the luxury vehicles driven by the elite to the shacks occupied by the ordinary folk; from the well-stocked shelves of the OK Supermarkets to the meagre rations of the urban poor (mealie meal porridge with the slightest helping of relish – if they can afford even these!); from the bail granted to Henrietta Rushwaya, a friend of Mnangagwa, who had tried to smuggle 6kg of gold out of the country on a flight to Dubai, to the incarceration in the feared Chikurubi maximum security prison of Hopewell Chin'ono for daring to suggest that the government of Zimbabwe is corrupt; from the empty promises of the purveyors of the prosperity gospel in Harare to the Christ-like servitude of ministers of love like Pastor Albert.

The man in the street has now been robbed of his savings on two occasions – first in 2008 when the government of Zimbabwe stopped counting as inflation topped 100,000% and a loaf of bread cost Zim\$30,000,000; second in 2019 when savings in US\$ were converted by the government into 'new Zim\$' at 1:1 and then in 2020, when they allowed inflation to reach 837% in July so that today one US\$ buys up to 362 'new Zim\$'. No wonder people can't afford to eat, little surprise that prescribed medicines get left on the pharmacists' shelves, yet the Government envisions that by 2030 Zimbabwe will be a middle income country.

How would our Lord respond to such vacuous promises and, indeed, such thievery? Remember what he shouted when he drove out the traders from the temple courtyard:



How the Zimbabwean elite live



How others exist – on this rubbish tip outside Bulawayo 140 families gather plastic waste to sell for re-cycling. Their nearest source of fresh water is 7 kms away

'Woe to you for you have turned my Father's house into a den of thieves' (Mark 11 v 18). But this Government just goes on and on – moving from one gross violation to the next, skinning the people and exploiting the country's resources for their own gain. What can be done? A good answer would be *'Pray without ceasing, feed the hungry, support the sick and encourage those at the sharp end of all the suffering and exploitation'*. *But what does the Lord require of us but 'to act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God'* (Micah 6 v 8).

Chris Sworn

AND SO TO PRAYER...

Prayer points

- F**or those severely impacted by the Covid pandemic and the poorly equipped or protected health workers
- F**or our partners there facing huge challenges in sustaining the supply and distribution of relief aid and their caring ministry to those depending on them
- F**or those bravely exposing the pandemic of corruption and daring to stand for truth and justice
- F**or our own advocacy and fund-raising work here in the UK in support of ZVSF projects



ZVSF provides the nutritional food e'pap which, for many of these Primary School children, is their only reliable meal of the day

LOOKING BACK

We are deeply grateful for your amazing generosity in enabling us to meet the ambitious targets set for the **Special Appeal** (October 2020 to March 2021). The final report on that Appeal, headed "**Signs and Wonders**" and written by Pastor Albert, was emailed to our supporters on email and posted to our website. Printed copies are to be sent to other supporters with this Mid-Year Report.

MOVING ON

In rising to the challenge of the Special Appeal the Trustees decided to allow our reserve funds to fall to a minimal level. Following on from your great generosity throughout that Appeal and this deliberate policy on our part, we find our resources stretched now to meet some of the challenges ahead – including setting up a new self-help community project which our partners are exploring. Watch this space for more on that project!

Meanwhile do please contact us if you have any imaginative new fund-raising ideas to share with us or if we can help you. As Covid restrictions here are lifted we are always willing to do our best to respond to requests to speak about **ZVSF**, either in person or on Zoom.

Our Treasurer's details:

Graham Matthews

53 Renda Road
Holbury
Southampton
SO45 2LX

Bank:	CAF Bank Ltd
Sort Code:	40-52-40
Account name:	Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund
Account No:	00022807

