

July 2025



“But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted ...”

Psalm 10:14

This vivid painting caught my attention when visiting Zimbabwe last month. It depicts graphically the trauma and fear which enveloped the nation in 2005 when the Mugabe regime unleashed a violent onslaught against the poorest and most vulnerable, destroying the homes and livelihoods of 700,000 people. I was then serving at Hillside Methodist Church and the scenes of desolation and grief I witnessed will be forever etched on my memory. *“Operation Murambatsvina”* the military called it, meaning “Discarding the Filth.” Such was the contempt for the most vulnerable displayed by those in power.

The artist portraying so well the intense suffering of that time is **Di Charsley**, leader of our Bulawayo team. The saddest thing is that 20 years later nothing has changed in that callous, uncaring attitude of the ruling clique – only the level of their corruption. It is no surprise then that healthcare, education and most other services are collapsing – as reflected in the prayer requests of our partners on the ground. These include prayers for:

- **An end to the cancer of corruption and abuse of power**
- **“Justice to roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream”**
- **Health services to be restored to those in most urgent need**
- **Help with school fees for the children of poorer parents – such as Pastors**
- **The Gospel to impact the lives of all within this troubled nation ...**

The verse from the Psalm quoted above continues:

“...you consider their grief and take it in hand.”



These chaps waited for us for a long time but they are happy

Our founder Graham recently visiting some grateful ladies

GOOD NEWS STORY

Phanuel Moyo, the Administrator of our Bulawayo team, also serves as the driver of our single-cab pick-up 4x4 Isuzu, delivering the relief food to no fewer than 42 distribution points across Matabeleland – often accompanied by **Pastor Bheki**.

Recently he undertook the arduous journey from Bulawayo to Lupane, carrying the food needed to sustain the programme of school lunches for hungry children in five Primary Schools. The road is now in an appalling state, testing the driving skills and patience of the most careful driver.

Here, to share with you, is the prayer he offered on his safe arrival:

“Dear Lord, we have faced numerous challenges on our journey, from reckless drivers to the treacherous Victoria Falls road, plagued by potholes that tested our patience and resolve. Yet, through it all, You have been our guiding light. After a gruelling 4-hour drive, we finally arrived at the school in Lupane, bringing joy and hope to the learners and educators. May your presence be felt in every corner of our lives, and may our struggles be transformed into testimonies of Your faithfulness. Amen”

Yes, what a remarkable team they are, the Bulawayo team of volunteers who are our partners in this God-appointed ministry. As they reach out to you, our amazing supporters, with a word of heartfelt thanks for your persevering prayers and generous giving, I am sure you will give thanks with us for all the Lord is doing through their unstinting service.

Together in His service and to His glory,

The ZVSF Trustees



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