

January 2024



Feed my sheep

In our December Prayer Focus, we talked about how providing physical food is opening the door for the team to have conversations and provide emotional support in the rural communities we serve in Zimbabwe, as well as opportunities to share the Gospel.



On the 23rd December, the team began the distribution of an increased amount of 30 tonnes of mealie meal (more than double our usual monthly distribution) so that they could reach more people who would otherwise have gone hungry over Christmas. Phaniel, from our Bulawayo team, captured the response beautifully in a recent message:

What is exciting for me when we go for these distributions is the joy that some people express so unreservedly with great smiles and comments such as "sengiyitholile i khisimusi" meaning 'I got Christmas!' and "sibonga ukukhunjulwa" which is 'thank you for remembering us'. Knowing where we are economically these words bring momentary sadness and instant joy all at once. The question being what if we did not come? What if no one cared? This is the rude awakening that we get all the time.

Pastor Bheki also wrote to update us on the spiritual impact of the work, saying:

The ministry is progressing well. This year I would like to reach more villages with the gospel and train more new leaders. We also thank you for the amount of mealie meal we received this time . We managed to reach more people. As we distribute mealie meal we find out that many people have challenges and do not have any one to tell. They tell us and we try by all means to help them where we are able to help and meet the challenge. It's an opportunity to serve with joy.



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Reading these messages, we think of Jesus' commands in John 21:15-17, where He tells Peter three times to feed and take care of his sheep, in other words, to love and care for His people in the way that Phaniel, Pastor Bheki and the rest of our team are doing in Zimbabwe.

Please join with us for praying for the people of Zimbabwe and the work there:

- For our team in Zimbabwe, as they distribute food but also demonstrate love by providing a listening ear and emotional support to those who are otherwise forgotten.
- For people to understand God's love and the message of the Gospel through the team and the work of ZVSF.
- For consistent rainfall, which has so far been sporadic in many areas, so that the crops will grow.
- That ZVSF will have the financial resources to continue to provide much-needed food as well as support other invaluable projects such as the Intuthuko Community Garden.

Thank you, once again, for all your support, both in prayer and financially. We pray for the Lord's blessing on you in the year ahead.

The ZVSF Trustees and Bulawayo team.



These ladies in Mbbeswana are only trying to plant their crops now due to the lack of rainfall so the gift of mealie meal was a cause of much excitement.



Providing mealie meal at Springs Farm in December.



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