

TAKING THE SAVING GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD

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"...GO INTO ALL THE
WORLD AND PREACH THE
GOSPEL TO EVERY
CREATURE..."

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CAMPAIGN IN ZIMBABWE

My most recent trip to this troubled nation was two years ago with a team led by **Paul Jones** who once preached in South Africa. Conditions were bad then but we had a wonderful work! In 2008 things were worse and we didn't go because of political turmoil and all the dangers and problems that created. This year things are better. Politically, things are quiet at the moment. More goods are available in the stores and gasoline is obtainable in most areas. There is more financial stability because the Zimbabwe dollar is not used any more. All business is done in either the US dollar or the South African Rand. There is still terrible poverty, disease and crime—but people, I think, have more hope and optimism than in recent years.

Paul Jones now preaches in Palestine, Texas and most of our team of eleven was from the Court Drive congregation there. Our group included two doctors. As on previous trips to Zimbabwe, we carried medical supplies that had been donated by pharmaceutical companies here in America.

From Johannesburg, South Africa a flight of just over an hour took us to **Bulawayo** in southern Zimbabwe. It is the second largest city in the country with approximately one million people. On Sunday we met with **Hillside**, the largest congregation in town, and while working in this area we stayed with Hillside members. On Monday we worked with the **Reigate** congregation not far from the city. Tuesday we traveled about 40 miles into a rural area to work with the **Malunga** church. In both places we spent the whole day teaching classes and preaching the word. There were some special classes for children and youth. The brethren were certainly encouraged and edified. *Two men at Malunga decided to become Christians.* The wonderful African preacher we always work with, **Joshua Kuchena**, had arranged these meetings and suggested a theme and topics for our studies in both places.

Wednesday we headed north to the rural area of **Lupane** which was the main focus of our work in Zimbabwe. It was about a five hour drive, the last 35 miles down an unbelievable dirt road. We left behind electricity, plumbing, decent water and most signs of civilization. We took with us some modern conveniences...bottled water, sleeping bags, flashlights and some food items. We stayed on the homestead of the same Christian family that has hosted us on every trip. They have five huts and we used two; one for the men and one for the ladies. Five in our team were women, including the two doctors. It is now winter there and it was *cold* at night but the days were beautiful. We had African fare for breakfast and dinner and took snacks with us for lunch since we were away from the homestead all day.

We first visited the chief for his permission to work there—always very willingly given! Then our several days of work began at the **Malunku Primary School**, a few miles from where we stayed. Two new congregations resulted from our last work in Lupane and one of them meets in this school. The doctors set up their clinic. Three of our workers were involved in registering patients and dispensing medicine. Reading glasses were also distributed—I think 200 or more pairs. Classes and some private studies continued throughout each day. At times there were separate classes for the men, women and children. Hundreds of people came to the venue. Nearly all had walked great distances, many slept there and stayed until we left the area. **The doctors treated nearly 500 people...**folks who have virtually no access to any decent medical care. **About 35 were baptized into the Lord** and we expect other conversions as the local Christians follow up the teaching done. When our group departed we left some of our clothes, shoes, sleeping bags and other items for the local brethren. I had \$520 which was used to help for benevolence. \$220 of that was sent with me by the church in **Querétaro, Mexico!** Joshua was going to use most of that to feed hungry Christians and the rest to buy seed for them to plant in the coming rainy season.

Monday we traveled by road back to Bulawayo. The following day we worked with the **Gwabalanda** congregation at the edge of the city. That was a very busy and wonderful day. *Four obeyed the gospel* and this relatively new church was very much encouraged.

The Monday night after getting home I had dinner with and spoke to the “Prime Timers” group at a congregation that has supported us for a long time, **Johnson Street in Greenville, Texas**. I was invited by one of the elders, **Wayne Wallace**. I have known Wayne and his wife, **Nadine**, for many years. They are truly a blessing to the kingdom. I gave a PowerPoint report and the generous senior citizens present gave \$655 to help the poor in India on my coming January trip!

Thanks for your prayers and encouragement. May the Lord richly bless you.

Your coworker,

Ronald Coleman

UKRAINE BENEVOLENCE

Each time I travel to Ukraine many help with contributions for the needy...especially for the orphans and abandoned children. This is a wonderful work that has helped so many and Christians here in the USA are always very generous. If you want to assist this time funds must reach me by September 25.