



The Cadenheads to Zimbabwe



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Cornerstone Baptist Church
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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are grateful to report that through your faithful intercessions we prosper and are in health, even as our souls prosper (3 John 2). Thank you for your care for us.

Church Edification

One of our primary focuses in 2024 is getting our young church rooted and built up, recognizing that the larger vision for outreach beyond Mutare calls for a strong spiritual base. Bro. Cody Rich has begun a weekly series on principles of the gospel from the book of Romans. I have been preaching to correct the errors of the health, wealth, and prosperity false gospel that permeates the religious landscape here. Having concluded our Thursday-night study of Galatians, we have repurposed that weeknight gathering to minister to the different segments of our congregation, including a monthly mens' meeting, ladies' meeting, youth meeting, and couples class. So far, the participation has been good. In January, Evangelist Bill Smith assisted us with some of our ongoing programs. He also conducted a 2-day module on Biblical principles of finance. He handled the topic with tremendous wisdom (we are in a tragically depressed and mismanaged economy) and our people were genuinely helped. We will conduct a follow-up session in March.

We continue to conduct weekly Bible studies in three rural locations. Our regular participants have increasingly begun to regard themselves as a part of Cornerstone Bible Baptist Church. This is especially the case in the rural village of Nyangani. On Sunday afternoons and Wednesday mornings a dozen or more (mostly) new believers gather in a small house in this remote village to sing hymns and study scripture. Of late, the spirit of this gathering has been apostolic in its simplicity, sincerity, and sweetness. A neighbor has allotted us a plot of ground to construct a shed for our meetings since we have outgrown our current meeting place.

It was never part of the plan to have a "multi-site" church or "satellite" congregations, but the format has developed organically. Organizationally, it is a bit like methodist or baptist congregations in a rural circuit in the early-American West. We desire to see the day when these gatherings will be autonomous local churches pastored by qualified national pastors. But in the meantime, it is a pleasure to see these simple saints enjoy their part as "the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22-23). We would appreciate your prayers as we prepare to conduct evangelistic crusades in two of these rural villages in the month of April.

The Word of a King

We previously reported on the opposition to the gospel which we faced in Manhu Village. While our Diotrephes prevailed in retaining the majority of the Bible study participants, a nurse at the local clinic stepped up and insisted on hosting the Bible study in her home. This lady is newly converted and witnesses to everyone. We have normally attracted men to work with, and it should be so. But this lady is like our Lydia (Acts 16) and we are grateful for her sweet spirit and gospel zeal. A couple dozen new faces have come around to hear the gospel of the grace of God under her roof. She recently proposed that we make an appointment to see the chief of the large rural area called Marange in which Manhu Village is situated. We were appointed a day to appear before the Chief (the Shona word is “mambo”, otherwise translated as “king”) as he was seated for court. In much of Africa, these rural chiefs still bear significant authority and influence, which is officially recognized by the national government. I was permitted to stand and preach the gospel of Christ before Chief Marange and we presented him with a Shona Bible and a Discipleship Book, which he gladly received. Mambo Marange responded very graciously to the message, indicating that the people of Marange needed to hear the gospel which we preach and giving us formal permission to preach house-to-house and village-to-village throughout his dominion. This larger door of utterance opened unto us only after our message was refused in a much smaller setting. We thank God for His wisdom and guidance.

Continuing Outreach and Evangelism

In the month of January, a local pastor who had attended one of our modules invited us to teach his congregation about salvation. I was able to teach the church about the gospel for three weeks using our discipleship material. Those that completed the lesson questions were provided with Bibles. In February, we resumed our Thursday night Bible study at Marymount Teachers College. In our first meeting, we had over 100 students. I'm teaching our newly prepared material on the New Birth. Years ago, a fellow-missionary out of Cornerstone wrote a simple bi-fold gospel tract which we call the STOP tract. We have printed and distributed thousands of these in Mutare and beyond. We are happy to report that it has now been translated into the Shona language.

With the arrival of gospel literature back in December we have been in a position to more liberally arm our men with tracts for their own outreach and evangelism efforts. My heart has been encouraged of late to see the faithfulness and zeal of some of these 'lay-evangelists' making a concerted effort to preach the gospel throughout this city without my presence or supervision. This is why I came to Zimbabwe - to equip Zimbabwean men to reach other Zimbabweans. It is my great joy to see these men in action, using the scriptures and illustrations they were taught, in their mother-tongue, to deal more effectively with their own people than I could ever hope to do. This is fruit that abounds to your account.

In Christ Jesus,

Lee Cadenhead