

# My Mission Trip to Zimbabwe




February 2014

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Trip 29

## INTRODUCTION

A new year dawns and I am so very excited. Our missionary college is full for 2014 with 30 students and what a privilege this gives me to train and prepare these men and women for ministry into Africa. In addition I have 8 mission trips planned for ministry into Africa, so here I am on the verge of heading up on my first, to Zimbabwe. Siphso Moyo, Siphso Dhlamini and I will drive almost 4000kms to NGUNDU, CHIREDDI where I will be meeting pastors and preaching in MANZUIRE, then on to KWEKWE where more meetings are planned, and from there I will fly home from Harare.

 A book I read recently was 'THE BLANTYRE MISSION AND THE MAKING OF MODERN MALAWI' which is an indispensable work of reference for understanding the history of both the nation and the Church in Malawi. Besides describing the amazing work of those early missionaries: Scott, Henderson, Stewart, Hetherwick and Laws, the author gave deep insights which challenged me:



### **1. WORK OF DAVID LIVINGSTONE IN CENTRAL AFRICA**

*Rev. G. Kapuma wrote "without Livingstone we could have missed Christianity, civilization and education. The Church is the one who started schools and the ministers that the Church has today went through mission education. We are proud of these developments and we are thankful to God that He served us through David Livingstone."*

As I visit Zimbabwe, Malawi, Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia and Mozambique this year, the work of Livingstone is everywhere to be seen ... it is amazing to witness...

### **2. NEED TO HAND OVER TO AFRICAN LEADERSHIP**

*In 1881, David Clement Scott who started the Blantyre Mission wrote:*

*"People will not believe how much the African is capable of until they have tried. Our AIM is always to teach responsibility, and at the proper time lay it on those who have had to bear it. In many ways the time has now come. It is a fatal mistake to keep the African in leading strings. We cannot too soon teach him to realize he has a part to play in the education and life of Christ's Church and Kingdom. The more he realizes this, the greater his progress will be."*

What has been staggering is to see the growth of Christianity in Central Africa since their independence and assumed leadership. KLAUS FIEDLER a missionary in Tanzania for many years wrote:

*"Today African countries are independent, most for more than a generation, and the percentage of Christians has been growing steadily. In 1950 it was 20%; in 1965 it was 32%, reached 36% in 1970, and now stands at over 50%. Thus at the beginning of the third millennium about three quarters of the population south of the Sahara are expected to be Christians, and about 20% Muslims. The latter share is roughly the same as in 1950. In AD 2000 the number of Christians in Africa will be equal to that of Europe."*

We live in Africa and our leadership structures ought to reflect that, but sadly too many people hold on to power and money.

## **BUT**

The one great sadness for me is that Jon, my son is no longer with us, but is in glory. He loved the work of *Footprints into Africa* and so longed to join me as a missionary into Africa. Listen to what he wrote in his diary:



*"I'm going after the lost – Dad. I want to be like you, a missionary. In standard 5 my teacher asked me what I want to be one day – I said I want to be a missionary to the Congo. It is close now. I am loving prayer times with the Lord ... praying for the ministry, praying for my family."*

I miss him incredibly but the passion for mission is now greater than ever before. As my hero David Livingstone prayed:

*"Nothing earthly will make me give up my work in despair. I encourage myself in the Lord, my God and go forward. My Jesus, my King, my life, my all, I again dedicate my whole life to you. Accept me and grant, O gracious Father that ere this year is gone, I may finish my task."*

So I am off to Zimbabwe ... back into the heart of Africa ... I love it!

# **Zimbabwe**

**Republic of Zimbabwe**  
Africa

## **Geography**

Area: 390,759 sq km

Landlocked state in southern Africa.

Population: 12,644,041    Annual

Growth: 0.27%

Capital: Harare

Urbanites: 38%



## **Peoples**

Peoples: 44 (7% unreached)

**Official language:** English. Trade languages Shona spoken widely, Ndebele in the West    **Languages:** 22 [All languages](#)

## **Religion**

**Largest Religion:** Christian

Religion	Pop %	Ann Gr
<a href="#">Christians</a>	9,861,088    77.99	1.1
<a href="#">Evangelicals</a>	3,910,631    30.9	2.2



**(Extract - Operation World)**

## UPDATE ON ZIMBABWE

An unmitigated economic disaster despite rich agricultural land and mineral deposits. Mismanagement, corruption, the devastation of disease, costly military adventurism in the Congo and the land redistribution programme which seized white owned farms - a crucial economic disaster plunged the nation into an economic death spiral. Hyper-inflation (at one point calculated at 230 million per cent) and mass unemployment (over 90%) ensued, prompting effective abandonment of the Zimbabwean dollar, the SA Rand and with this the education and health systems were paralysed.

### BUT

In spite of all this, the Church has grown in numbers and passion even as the country disintegrates all around. As the Church has grown so have the challenges, so we need to PRAY.

1. **Pray for the less-evangelized.** Zimbabwe has been extensively evangelized, but areas of need remain:

**The rural areas**, often neglected for church planting and for sending qualified workers. Pray more will be called to this humble but vital task. Pray also for evangelistic outreaches and suitable literature distribution specifically to these areas.

**The burgeoning cities**, swollen with hundreds of thousands of rural migrants looking for non-existent jobs. Squatter settlements are multiplying and crime is on the increase. Outreach to the unemployed is a major challenge.

2. **The relationship with government.** The Church must be a prophetic voice engaged in the politico-economic life of the nation. Any such engagement has brought heavy-handed reprisals from the government including the intimidation and harassment of pastors and the destruction of certain church buildings. Some denominations have compromised their testimony by blindly endorsing Mugabe; others have spoken against government policies and suffered for it. The Zimbabwe Christian Alliance and the Save Zimbabwe Campaign are examples of churches engaging in the political process to catalyze change.
3. **Social action.** With much of the country in decay, it is increasingly falling to churches to feed the hungry, care for the orphans, protect the vulnerable and heal the sick. With assistance from ministries based in South Africa and around the globe, Zimbabwe's churches are doing this, but *they could benefit from further mobilization, training* and, of course, financial resources.
4. **Theological training and education** - crucial as the church grows but threatened by widespread instability and want. There are at least 23 Bible colleges and seminaries, but the real growth is in modular training and TEE. Positions for study exist here and in broader university religious

study programmes as well, but funding in the present economic environment is scarce and to non-existent. Pray for effective teaching and discipling of those called to serve the Lord.

5. **Spiritual unity.** Divisions and splits still occur, especially within Apostolic and charismatic groups. The gap separating evangelicals, mainliners and African Independent Churches (AIC's) makes collaborative efforts difficult at a time when a unified mission of the Church is greatly needed. The Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe links over 121 denominations and 20 organizations and Fambidzano/EFZIM links AIC's for fellowship and theological instruction. The Zimbabwe Council (ZCC), Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference (ZCBC), National Pastor's Conference and Ministers Fraternal all hold influence and therefore opportunity.
6. **The purity of the Church** is often compromised by traditional African practices that are incompatible with the gospel, often by outright witchcraft and occult activities. The growth of AIC's is commendable for cultural relevance but not at the expense of theological orthodoxy. Pray for churches to find truly Zimbabwean expressions of biblical faith rooted firmly in God's Word.
7. **Young people** have watched idealistic visions fade to empty slogans and oppressive misrule. They constitute a huge swathe of the population, but have little reason to hope for improvement to their difficult lot. Pray for the ministries of:

**Fellowship of Christian Unions** - FOCUS (IFES) has 50 groups with 5,000 students served by five full-time and one part-time staff. In the midst of societal dysfunction the students continue to declare the gospel and help where they can to serve the practical needs of the people.

**Scripture Union** has had a decisive impact on the educated via its work in secondary schools. They impart life skills to younger students, work with orphans and children at risk and provide HIV/AIDS education. Camp ministry has been especially fruitful. Pray for more Christian teachers to nurture this work in their spare time.

With my brothers, SIPHO MOYO and **SIPHO DHLAMINI** I head up to Zimbabwe, which will be my 3rd visit there, and it certainly is fantastic to be back in Central Africa again. It was said of Robert Laws, the founder of Livingstonia in Malawi:

"the spell of Africa gripped him, it never to let him go."

In some small way that is true for me ... hold on, this is going to be a great time.

# MY DIARY

Thursday, 20 February

We are due to leave at 3:00am so I did my readings the night before. As I follow Robert Murray McCheyne's daily readings, my readings were from Exodus, Luke, Job and 1 Corinthians. This is absolutely critical to read the Bible every day. A book I read recently entitled 'FAMINE IN THE LAND' was stressing the need for pastors, preachers, missionaries, indeed all believers to be steeped in the Bible. Steven Lawson said in the book:


## BIBLE

*"every preacher must follow Ezra's example and be committed to the study of the Scriptures in a way that is consuming, careful and comprehensive ... a shrinking study time will result in shrinking power in the pulpit. The day the preacher stops studying God's Word, whether he realizes it or not, is the day he begins losing spiritual passion and vitality in his preaching."*

Once the Bible is read, I always read from Oswald Chambers 'MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST', which I have done for the past 46 years. He wrote:

## HE IS OUR LIFE

*"leave Him to be the source of all your dreams and joys and delights and go out and obey what He has said. If you are in love, you do not sit down and dream about the one you love all the time, you go and do something for Him ... and that is what Jesus Christ expects us to do."*

This year, in addition to the Bible and Chambers I was given a book entitled  'EXTREME DEVOTION', which consists of daily devotional stories from the Voice of the Martyrs. Today the reading was on NADEJDA SLOBODA and this is how it concluded:

## LOSING THE FIRE

*"most Christians can recall a time in their spiritual journey when it seemed like they could never get enough of God and His Word. Spiritual zeal was second nature. Fervour was a constant friend. Yet ... somehow our faith grew cold along the way. Perhaps it was persecution that squelched our enthusiasm. Perhaps it was personal tragedy. Or perhaps it was nothing in particular – just ordinary activities that dampened our spirits and reclaimed our priorities. Are the flames of spiritual fervour now merely smoldering ashes? Has your zeal grown dormant?"*

So as I set out, I want to be aflame for God, passionate in my love for Christ and zealous to bring the Gospel to Africa. Need now to sleep before a long drive tomorrow ... but I have my Bible, books, camera and so I am raring to go ... also a bag of clothes with which to barter so that I can bring back mementos for my office.

At 3:00am, we set off on our mission trip to Zimbabwe. The plan was that I would drive in South Africa and Sipho in Zimbabwe. So with me at the wheel good time was made through Hilton, Mooi River, Estcourt, Warden, then we stopped along the highway just outside of Johannesburg to pick up George, a pastor known to





Sipho Moyo. There was not even time for a break so I caught Sipho "weeing along the highway" ...

Eventually we stopped because they were ravenous, so we had a quick bite to eat and enjoyed a Wimpy Burger. From there we made our way through Pretoria, Polokwane, then on to Louis Trichardt, finally reaching Messina where we filled up with petrol and enjoyed a traditional African supper, then heading on towards Beit Bridge.




We passed through South African customs easily but on the Zimbabwe side we were met with thousands of people, buses, cars, taxis and crooks!! The queues were long, it was hot, and sweaty and very slowly we made it to the counter only to find the most arrogant, stropky man. He rejected my form 3 times, but after a 4<sup>th</sup> attempt he threw my passport to me and I left with my stamp ... what a welcome but that took 2 hours ☹. We were so glad to get out of there; it reminded me so much of Kasembalessa in the D.R.C.



By now, the sun was setting and we crossed over the Limpopo into Zimbabwe, such a beautiful sight.

I had been driving for 13 hours and now it was time to hand over to Sipho. Let Piper bring some encouragement ...

 The book I brought with me to read on this trip is 'TASTE AND SEE' by John Piper. It consists of 140 meditations "savouring the supremacy of God's in all of life". So along this trip I will share his thoughts with you, here is the 1<sup>st</sup>:

PSALM  
91

*"When He says 10,000 may fall at your right hand, but it shall not approach you" (v7), he means for you to understand this unspoken qualification 'it will not approach you WITHOUT MY PERMISSION AND DESIGN'. And My design for those who are ever in My care is always good; even I permit the arrow to take their life. This is a statement of exact, sweeping providence, not a charm against adversity ... what it does assure us is that nothing can touch God's servant but by God's permission."*

So in God's providence He permitted the arrow to take Jon's life, just at the prime of his life when he was studying to be a missionary to Africa with me. Piper then says:

TRUST

*"God's omnipotent exuberance to do as good is one of the most freeing discoveries a human can make. Unremitting confidence in this truth would surely transform our attitudes and keep as steady in the face of great adversity."*

From Beit Bridge, we took the Harare turn-off and headed for CHIREDDI where Devison, one of our past students, met us at NGUNDI and took us to the Pastor's house in MANZUIRE for the evening. Wow ... it is dark, the buses and trucks are hurtling towards us, the potholes are everywhere, but we eventually made it home at 01:30am - 22 hours later after leaving Pietermaritzburg. We almost ran out of petrol and it was hilarious looking for some petrol in the rural areas at that time of the night ... but ... we found some!!! Look at the petrol pump with everyone looking in to make sure it was petrol ... AFRICA at its very best!



It was quite touching to see the Pastor waving his torch along the road so that we could find his house ... at 1:00am ...

Before I fall asleep, one great quote from Stanley on Livingstone.

**TRUE  
RELIGION**

*"Stanley wrote his book, based on the dispatches; he saluted Livingstone's 'Spartan heroism', 'Roman inflexibility,' and 'Anglo-Saxon resolution never to relinquish his work', and even ventured, in his flamboyant manner, to examine his religion. It is, he said, not of the 'theoretical kind but is a constant, earnest, sincere practice. In him religion exhibits its loveliest features; it governs his conduct not only towards his servants but towards the natives, the bigoted Mohammedans, and all who come in contact with him. Without Livingstone with his ardent temperament, his enthusiasm, his high spirit and courage, must have become uncompanionable, and a hard master. Religion has tamed him, and made him a Christian gentleman."*

*Stanley comments on the 'good natured abandon about Livingstone. Whenever he began to laugh, there was a contagion about it that compelled me to imitate him, a laugh of the whole man from head to heel. If he told a story, he related it in such a way as to convince one of its truthfulness; his face was so lit up by the sly fun it contained that I was sure the story was worth relating, and worth listening to.'*

*Allowing for Stanley's own ebullience, his pen portrait of Livingstone-the only first-hand one there is-has the authentic marks of a skilled observer, experienced in a hard journalistic school, who knew a man when he saw one. 'I defy anyone,' he wrote, 'to be in his society long without thoroughly fathoming him, for in him there is no guile, and what is apparent on the surface is the thing that is in him.'*

I am exhausted ... off to sleep in Central Africa ... life at its best.



## FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

**W**oke up to a beautiful morning in Zimbabwe and began with my Bible readings from Exodus, Luke, Job and 1 Corinthians. After that Oswald Chambers again challenged when he wrote:

LOVE  
HIM

*"have I ever been carried away to do something for God not because it was my duty, nor because it was useful, nor because there was anything in it at all beyond the fact that I LOVE HIM."*

Then the Voice of the Martyrs also made me think .. listen:

SEE  
PEOPLE

*"the power to notice is the first step towards making a difference. What do you see when you look into the faces of the people around you? Or do you even look? In today's culture, it is possible to be surrounded by a crowd in a lift, airport or shopping mall and never to meet eyes with other human beings. Do you see people who need to know Christ?"*

Ready now for the day and sharing from the precious Word of God.

A beautiful morning greeted us but before having my wash and breakfast, I took a look around the area. The pastor is totally self-contained, amazing how they live out here with solar panel lights, goats, pigs, chickens and maize ... a wonderful model for us.



They brought me my bucket of water so I enjoyed my shave; shampoo and wash ... feel refreshed for the day ahead. It is amazing to see the women at work preparing us food while the men sit under cover talking about the things of life; it is so good being back in Africa ... I love being here!



This morning I will be meeting with the leaders so I hope what I share is helpful. As always I take 2 TIMOTHY as my basis and so enjoyed sharing on the marks of a Christian leader. There was such a lovely response which was encouraging. Afterwards I spoke on KMBC and the different options available for them to study. It seems an answer to prayer for the pastor to be given an Envoy from which he can teach his leaders on a weekly basis working towards a Certificate in theology. He himself wants to come to KMBC in April which will be great.



We were just across the road from RENAMO territory and 10km from the Mozambique border so suddenly I felt a bit vulnerable .....

Time for lunch so I joined the pastor and all the men under the tree where we spoke for hours after such a good meal of a mealie and a huge piece of watermelon, all from the Pastor's grounds.



After visiting the loo outside I saw the most ingenious washing up method for your hands, where they get a 5 litre container of water and hang it over a stick so that you can just tilt it and out comes some water ... and does not cost a cent ... well done.

Look at the kitchen and stove ...



During our discussions, the whole question of poverty came up often. There is just no work, some of the men have to go down to South Africa while some of the women get a job on the Sugar Plantations for R20 a day - a bricklayer will get R120 per day ... So as the sun sets, we enjoyed such a lovely supper then I headed off to bed.

Listen to Piper again as another great day in Africa closes with such an amazing devotion on 'OUR HOPE':

#### OUR HOPE

*"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying ... any more, for the former things have passed away ... The city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. (Revelation 21:4, 23, RSV.)*

*This is our hope. The glory of God will one day stand forth in a new creation and wipe away all evil and all pain and all sorrow and all fear and all guilt. All obedience and faithfulness will be vindicated and rewarded. All self-denial and suffering in faith will be recompensed a hundredfold. He who did not spare his only Son, but gave him up for us all, will freely give us all things with him (Romans 8:32). All that God owns will be the inheritance of his children for their everlasting enjoyment. Therefore put your hope in the glory of God, and rejoice in that hope, and let that joy be your strength for the warfare of this life."*

Wonderful contacts made, new friends established now off to sleep ... under the beautiful African sky.

## SATURDAY, 22 February

**A**nother magnificent morning in Zimbabwe so let me dive into my readings. I continued with readings from Exodus, Luke, Job and 1 Corinthians. Afterwards Chambers reminded me of the following:

#### WAITING

*"if our hopes are being disappointed just now, it means that they are being purified. There is nothing noble the human mind has ever hoped for, or dreamed of, that will not be fulfilled. One of the greatest strains in life is the strain of waiting for God ...*

Then the Voice of the Martyrs again reminded me of the place of suffering in the believer's life:

#### SUFFERING

*"how could unjust suffering play into such a plan? Like the tree that formed the cross, they realized they were being shaped into God's ultimate purpose for their lives. From this perspective, suffering is not seen as an interruption of God's plan for your life, but an integral part of the process."*

Up at 04:30am, left the Pastor's house at 5 heading for KWEKWE. We drove through Tangana arriving at the Birchenough Bridge which took us across the Sabie River and where we were able to fill up with petrol. Filling up in this rural area it is amazing what you see. An ox-wagon arrived fully laden with the driver singing merrily as if there was not a worry in the world.





From there on to Nyika then to Masvinga where we dropped off Devison and made our way across the river because the bridge had been washed away in the recent floods. No sooner had we crossed when we received our first fine for not wearing seat belts in the back ... Anyway, after trying to talk my way out of it, I eventually paid R50 and we set off on the pot-holed road to Shurugivi. There we hit a large pothole and unfortunately a stone flew up and hit the windscreen of the car behind us, cracking it badly. The driver reported us to the police so we had to go off to the police station, only to be confronted by the most corrupt officer. Eventually after refusing to leave our watches and pay bribes, we asked to see the officer in charge and he sent us on our way ...finally we arrived at KweKwe at 2:00pm. This was where Sipho Moyo grew up so he showed us where he was born, the schools he went to, it was so nice to be shown around and he was in his element. We drove to his uncle's home, who is a Lieutenant Colonel in the army, where we will spend our last 2 nights.



After the greetings, we set out for Sipho's farm, a 36-hectare farm given to him by the Robert Mugabe government and which Sipho now wants to develop into a mission's base. He loves it here and it was especially moving to meet his old mother who now lives alone on the farm. It was time to head back home for supper and our first meal ... by now I had a splitting headache. It was so interesting talking to the Lieutenant Colonel, who was trained in YUGOSLAVIA during the liberation war, giving his perspective on the country and the Mugabe government. He is very positive but a little sideline which amused me was the Banks. He says they are totally corrupt so when his salary is deposited in the bank, the next day he draws out the full amount and keeps it at home. We discussed the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Great Brittan, Tony Blair ... now ... so interesting to get another perspective. Anyway supper is over and I am off to sleep with the 4 of us sharing a bedroom.

Let Luther close off another excellent day in Africa by telling us of the 3 things which make a theologian ...

## GREAT THEOLOGY

*"Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany. He died February, 18, 1546. In those years, he preached over three thousand sermons and wrote fifty thousand pages. From his Bible professorship at the University of Wittenberg, he played the decisive human role in creating the Reformation. He gives profound counsel to us about getting the most from the Bible. Don't be put off by the word 'theology'. What he has in mind is good solid reading and thinking about what God says. It is for everybody: 'I want you to know how to study theology in the right way. I have practiced this method myself... The method of which I am speaking is the one which the holy king David teaches in Psalm 119 ... here you will find three rules. They are frequently proposed throughout the psalm and run thus: Oratio, meditatio, tentatio (prayer, meditation, trial.)"*

What a full day in Africa ... amazing to be here and to experience so much.

## SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

**A**nother beautiful morning in Central Africa. I love being here and now to spend time with the Lord reading from His Word. My readings continued in Exodus, Luke, Job and I Corinthians, after which Chambers wrote:

## DOOR MAT

*"according to Jesus Christ, the minister is called to be the DOOR MAT of other men, their spiritual leader, but never their superior. If we are devoted to the cause of humanity, we shall soon be crushed and broken-hearted, for we shall often meet with more ingratitude from men than we would from a dog, but if our motive is love to God, no ingratitude can hinder us from serving our fellow man."*

Then the Voice of the Martyrs was such an encouragement and challenge, listen:

## EXTREME WEAKNESS

*"The Christian faith is full of paradoxes. Die to live. Lose to win. Be weak in order to be strong. In fact, unless we are willing to embrace our own failures, we cannot experience God's strength. When we undergo hardship and trial or even witness the unjust suffering of others from afar, we may begin to doubt God's goodness. This is a human, natural response. However, God does not reject our human weaknesses. He restores our weaknesses with His strength. Therefore, we can rejoice in our failures because they remind us that human strength is no substitute for godly power. We may fail but God remains strong."*

Today I am the speaker at a large Assembly of God Convention, so I am looking forward to teaching the Bible there. My hot water has arrived so I am off to get spruced up for the day ... while Sipho will press my shirt and pants so that I look really smart. They are amazing to me ... making sure everything is fine for me ...

The Church was packed for the 4 hour service with phenomenal singing and testimonies. This is the church where Sipho grew up and also where he and Amanda were married, so it was very special to preach there. I preached verse by verse through 2 Timothy Chapter 1 and they all seemed to find it very helpful. My interpreter, funnily enough was from the Eastern Cape, but he really seemed to do a great job.





After the service, a lunch consisting of cabbage, meat and sadza (our pap) was provided for everybody. No need for knives and forks as you eat with your hands (my family would have gone crazy ...) but I loved it. You chat to people and a number of young men came over to discuss the possibility of coming to study at KMBC which would be wonderful. My heart goes out to the pastors, so many of them have had no training so I urged them to come and study the mission's course. Time will tell ... but some new friends were made and new contacts established for the future.



It always amazes me, but on this whole trip of over 3000kms, I have not seen a white face here in Zimbabwe. The Lord has given me a real love for these precious people and for Africa, I never want to work anywhere else but teaching the Bible across Africa and training up a new generation of Gospel preachers.

As the sun sets my 29<sup>th</sup> mission trip draws to a close. It has been a brilliant trip and one sensed the gracious hand of God being upon us along the way. Next month I head off to Malawi then to the Congo in April, Uganda in May and Mozambique in June so the Lord is opening some wonderful doors. Let Piper close off a special day in Africa.

### COMMUNION WITH GOD

*The old Puritans called this drawing near "communion with God". We need to learn from them. J.I. Packer says that the Puritans differ from evangelicals today because for them:*

*Communion with God was a great thing; to evangelicals today it is a comparatively small thing. The Puritans were concerned about communion with God in a way we are not. The measure of our unconcern is the little that we say about it. When Christians meet, they talk to each other about their Christian work and Christian interests, their Christian acquaintances, the state of the churches, and the problems of theology – but rarely of their daily experience of God."*

Off to sleep so fulfilled having preached my heart out to some very precious people in Zimbabwe.

## MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY

Today is my last morning in Zimbabwe. We will drive together to Harare and from there I will fly home, so let me charge up the batteries and continue with my Bible readings from Exodus, Luke, Job and 1 Corinthians. Listen now to Chambers:

### SACRIFICE

*"the delight of sacrifice is that I lay down my life for my Friend, not fling it away, but deliberately lay my life out for Him and His interests in other people, not for a cause."*

Then the Voice of the Martyrs reminded me yet again:

### UP AND DOWNS

*"Christianity is not a 100 metre dash. It is an endurance marathon. Scripture teaches us that there are times we soar like eagles and run without growing weary. However, there are also times in our lives where, long, lonely stretches loom before us. At those times, we are doing well just to walk without fainting until we gather more strength. This is the image of those under persecution."*

Let me share another meditation with you from Piper from this great book:

### THE GREATEST EVIL IN THE WEST

*"Where is God in your daily newspaper or in your talk radio show or the network T.V. programming or Time or Newsweek or the theatre or in the classroom? God is the most important reality in the universe, but He is almost totally ignored. And if not, He is as likely belittled as revered. YET He is the most crucial factor in every issue facing the nation. There would simply be no nation without God. But He is disregarded by our cultural leaders in almost all they do. Disregard for God is the greatest evil in the West today. It is as though an ant on his anthill should disbelieve in the earth."*

My book is read, I have preached my heart out so all that now remains is a short trip to Harare from where I will fly home and then give 5 lectures tomorrow. The great James Stewart, the missionary to Malawi and Lovedale said this in closing:



Harare Airport

### ROOT THINGS

*"I am sometimes asked the secret of my so called success. I wish I could be conscious of it, but I am not. I have simply allowed God my mind and body for His ends and with His help I have tried to do the ROOT THINGS of life and leave the secondary things alone."*

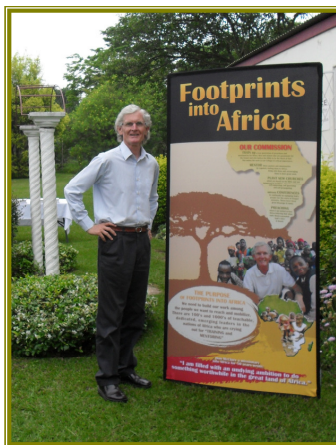
### A TASTE OF HEAVEN

*Henry Martyn put it nicely ... listen ... "I do not know that anything would be a heaven to me but the service of Christ and the enjoyment of His presence. Oh ... how sweet is life when spent in His service."*

He wrote those beautiful words on his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, just before he died. I have tasted how sweet is the service of Christ in Africa ... it is wonderful.

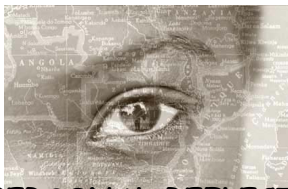
## GREAT MEMORIES

- ☐ Travelling with 3 of our past students across Zimbabwe and South Africa.
- ☐ Looking for petrol at 01:00am in the morning only to find the most ram-shackled pump imaginable.
- ☐ Meeting the MANICA BAPTIST CHURCH leaders and teaching them from 2 Timothy.
- ☐ Time spent with REV. HAMA, a real evangelical, Bible man who D.V. will come to KMBC and do the Mission Course.
- ☐ Living again in the townships is incredible.
- ☐ Speaking with the Lieutenant General about Zimbabwe and Mugabe.
- ☐ Preaching at the Convention in KweKwe was such a privilege.
- ☐ Finishing this great book by John Piper was a huge blessing.
- ☐ Visiting Sipho's farm and to see his dream was moving.
- ☐ Just being in Africa experiencing her life is the most wonderful blessing for me.



Let Piper close:

*"This is the wisdom of God: Purchase the day! Purchase the hour! Purchase the moment! Spend whatever it takes to buy each hour and harness it in the chariot of your highest, eternal goal – the glory of God."*



## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

**A**t the end of each mission trip I always share a few personal thoughts with you.

### MY LOVE FOR AFRICA

This year I will be visiting Zimbabwe, Malawi, DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, Mozambique, Zambia and Kenya and what joy this brings me. In a book on Livingstone by Cecil Northcote which I read recently, he wrote:

*"Livingstone was dedicated to Africa, its heat and fevers, its people and their future, this unrelenting, unromantic continent which cut its explorers to size and usually gave them an early grave. There could be no going back on Africa. He had married Africa on the March day in 1841 when he first set foot on its soil and now 30 years later there could be no divorce."*

I relate so very much to that and long to live the rest of my life serving Africa with the teaching of the Bible. All my life has prepared me for this amazing privilege. Last year not being able to travel into Africa was hard for me ... wonderful to be back ...

### STAYING ON FIRE FOR GOD

*"When you get the sovereignty of God straight, everything gets straighter. Going wrong here will lead to error in all kinds of unexpected places. Oh, how I pray that God will give us clarity and conviction and joy in our vision of God's absolute sovereignty over our frail and fickle lives!"*

You may recall that David Brainerd was a missionary to the New England Indians over 250 years ago. He wrote;

ON FIRE

*"Oh, that I might be a flaming fire in the service of the Lord, Here I am, Lord, send me; send me to the ends of the earth ... send me from all that is called earthly comfort; send me even to death itself if it be but in Thy service and to promote Thy Kingdom."*

Please pray that this will be true for me as I teach at KMBC and reach out into Central Africa ... I want to be on fire for God ...



### KMBC

This year we have a good intake with 30 students coming. The vision for the past 28 years has been to train pastors and missionaries for Africa and how gracious the Lord has been. Over these years over 400 have come to the College and they leave knowing the Bible and with a passion to go back into Africa to live out the Word of God and to teach it. This term I have 26 lectures a week so my life is very full and packed.

Writing to his students CHARLES SIMEON wrote:

*"You are training to ascend to the most valuable, most honourable, most important and most glorious office in the world – to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ – train accordingly, no sacrifice is too great."*



My vision is to grow this ministry of second hand Christian books and use the money generated from the sale of the books for different projects of assisting our students in need. You may remember how we managed to supply Anderson Mwila with 2 solar panels and a car battery so he now has electricity. Because of the number of books collected I am trying to raise enough funds to erect a vibracrete double garage at KMBC which will provide us with a lovely room from which I will drive this new ministry. Pray that the funds will be raised and many books go out, assisting our students in their ministries. It has been such fun ... It is also great to have SHEENA PARK with us now and she will be running the Shack for me.



#### JON COLE-EDWARDES CHURCH HISTORY PRIZE

Alongside is a picture of THEOPHILUS META-PHIRI the recipient of last year's prize. Jon loved reading missionary biographies so I want this prize to encourage the students to read great books - especially biographies. On one of my trips to Jon, we both went to Cambridge and spent time in the Henry Martyn Hall.



Listen to an amazing poem Henry Martyn wrote at the age of 24:

*"what is the meaning of the Christian life?  
Is it success? Or vulgar wealth? A name?  
Is it a weary struggle – a mean strife?  
For rank, low gaud, ambition or for fame?  
What sow we for? The world? For fleeting time?  
OR for far off harvests, riches, mere sublime?*

*The brightest life on earth was one of loss  
The noblest head was wreathed with sharpest thorns  
Has He not consecrated pain – the Cross?  
What higher crown can Christian brows adorn?  
But we are content to follow on the road  
which men count failure – but which leads us to God."*



Now let John Piper close off this journal with a prayer:

*"Fight for us O God that we do not drift numb and blind and foolish  
into vain and empty excitements. Life is too short, too precious, too  
painful to waste on worldly bubbles that burst.  
Heaven is too great ....  
Hell is too horrible ...  
Eternity is too long  
that we should putter around on the porch of eternity."*

What a prayer ... I never want to putter around on the porch of eternity ...

GOD BLESS AFRICA  
Guard her children  
Guide her leaders  
And give her peace

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