

## HOPE FOR ZIMBABWE

## BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



Having never set foot on African soil, it was with a certain amount of trepidation, excitement, and travel fogginess that we touched down in Harere, Zimbabwe. It was immediately obvious that Zimbabwe was a country struggling to function on many levels, with broken roads, treacherous local transport, and rubbish everywhere. But there was also an energy and passion of a people trying to make the most of what they had.

While still absorbing all the sights and smells of Harere we arrived in the oasis of the Foundation for Farming (FFF) base, just outside Harere, where we spent the next week receiving training.

After we completed the FFF training we were joined by some of the Bright Hope World team from New Zealand and North America. The next day we headed off on field trips visiting farms and meeting the farmers who were using FFF methods. This involved packing like sardines in "combi" vans, with multiple police checkpoints and toll collection booths along the way to make things interesting. We had heard that Zimbabwe was having one of its worst droughts in years, and travelling through the rural areas it became apparent how severe and widespread it was, with stunted maize crops and little or no cobs to harvest. In stark contrast, when we visited the farms using FFF principles the maize plants were tall and almost ready for harvest.

Most people in Zimbabwe face serious food shortages in the coming months. In a country that is struggling to function, food aid will only reach a few. The effect of the drought has underlined how important FFF principles really are. Seeing individuals, families and communities transformed when using FFF, and the testimonies of physical and spiritual needs being met is truly amazing. These families should have enough food for the coming months. Things really do happen when we apply the Godly principles of "on time", "to standard" "without waste" and "with joy", not only to farming but all aspects of our lives!

Travelling to Bulawayo and meeting Gideon and Jennifer, who head Fountain of Hope Ministries, and meeting the team of totally committed people who work with them was a real privilege. These talented people serve others and bring with them the gospel of Christ's hope to communities that would otherwise be lost. They provide practical help to the numerous farmers who have embraced FFF and were rightly proud to show us their bountiful crops, and often assist them into other businesses, like goat loans. The bores and solar pumps they have installed have such a positive effect on schools and communities which goes way beyond providing water. These people are demonstrating Christ's calling (Mark 8 :34) through their humility, faithfulness, and unselfishness in serving others.

Zimbabwe has made a deep impression on us. The problems the country is facing are immense, tragic, and very saddening but Zimbabwe has the potential to be a great food producing nation again. Through the ministries of FFF and Bright Hope World partners we saw God's love transforming people's lives. People were becoming empowered and had hope for the future.

Glenn and Sharyn Cant

*BHW Foundations for Farming Team*

As you will see from Glenn and Sharyn's report on this page, Bright Hope World sent a team from New Zealand, Canada, and the USA to visit Zimbabwe in March.

This trip involved attending the Foundations for Farming organisation 'Champs' conference in Harare. This was an encouraging opportunity to hear how FFF is impacting people from all around the world, as well as hearing some of the struggles that are being experienced.

The team then headed down to Bulawayo and visited with our partners Fountain of Hope (see <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=216>), to see how people are coping with severe droughts that are plaguing Zimbabwe and the surrounding countries.

A great many families have seen complete crop failures and will need food aid (see here for more: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/southern-africa-faces-hunger-el-nino-drought-kills-crops-2024-04-08/>). This will require a lot of prayer and external support.

For our part, we are continuing to invest in and support sustainable agriculture as a way to increase crop yields even under difficult conditions. It is wonderful to have the likes of Glenn & Sharyn join our team!



Mary (name changed for safety reasons) is a young lady who accepted Jesus. She was about 23 years old. She lived in a room without electricity and when she wanted to read the Bible, she opened the door and read by the outside light. One day a neighbour saw her reading the Bible and he grabbed the Bible from her and started shouting to all the people that the lady had become a Christian. The people started shouting and beating her and tried to kill her. She lost consciousness and went into a coma.

About this time her cousin came to visit her and saw what had happened. He took her to a hospital, and she disappeared. The team couldn't find her. For two months they searched as she didn't come to the discipleship class, but it was difficult because they didn't know what had happened or where to search and they had to be careful as doing so might be dangerous for them and for her.

After two months she came to the office and told them that in the hospital the cousin had made an agreement with a corrupt doctor, and they took some of the organs from her body. She stayed in the ICU for about a month and when she came, she told the story. She showed them the scars and said she had a scan and only had one kidney.

They thought that she had come to tell them she was giving up on faith and returning to Islam, but she surprised them by asking them to train her how to do evangelism. She wanted to share more about Jesus because the whole time she was in ICU Jesus was in the room with her. "He didn't leave me; I believe even more than before that Jesus is alive. I want to share with people about Jesus, so teach me?" They began to train her how to do evangelism, how to protect herself, and how to deal with security. She is now actively sharing her faith and is fearless.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=418>.

1. Praise for a great, but challenging, trip for the international Bright Hope World team. Pray that this team would be successful in working with locals to find and support solutions to the many difficulties they face.
2. Pray for the people of Zimbabwe and Zambia as they face drought and failed crops this year. Pray that God would provide for their needs and encourage those that are suffering. Pray that rain would come and enable some food to be grown locally.
3. Pray for Mary as she recovers from the trauma of what she experienced and seeks to share her faith with others. Pray that she is successful in her endeavours.

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