



## Mission report from Rev. Pardon Chingovo

### *Dear friends of the International Miners Mission*

As we look back over the past year, then we must give all the praise to Almighty God who has cared for and protected us since the start of the year.

Thank you so much dear friends of the Miners' Mission in Switzerland for all your sacrificial support that we have experienced in these days

I personally thank the Lord for His protection during the many visits I have made to the mining areas - Gwanda, West Nicholson, Zvishavane, Mandamabwe, Mashava, Mkotosi, Shurugwi, Kadoma, Chakari, Mbizo, Globephonex, Redcliff, Rutendo and Torwood mines.



*Chrome ore in railway trucks*

During these visits I met with so many mine employees. Many of them do not have work, as few of the mines are in operation. In addition it has been important for me to be in close contact with the evangelists and share their burdens and concerns. They are working in very difficult places, but the Lord is blessing their ministries.

In Zvishavane I met Mr Aron and his family. He told me „God is good to us. Since you visited us we have new faith in God. Beforehand the needs we had pushed us down and we no longer prayed to God. But now we are praying to our living Lord together and reading the Bible sharing as a family.



*Great thankfulness for the Maize*

In this way we get to know God better. We are so thankful for your visit. We thank all IMM supporters in Switzerland so much for the **bags of food**, that we have received.“ Then he started to cry. This family are making great progress in their Christian discipleship.

**Grandmother Nyama** from Shurugwi told me: „It was so hard for us. We were all sick. Then you came to visit us and prayed for us. I had hardly been able to walk. The pain in my knee was so great. But after you prayed the pain vanished and I was able to walk normally again. I thank God and give Him the glory, for He hears prayer and cares for us.“

What a wonderful testimony from this believing grandmother.



*Tafadzwa Chikudo with his wife and son*

**Tafadzwa Chikudo** will complete his theological studies at the Bible School in Rusito by end November 2016. We wish to thank you for the assistance you gave him for paying for his training course expenses, as well as the cost of his practical experience in West Nicholson und Gwanda.

Special thanks too for your willingness to support him financially as a **future Evangelist** working in West Nicholson and Gwanda mine areas!

Of considerable ongoing concern to us are the many **street children** in the impoverished mine areas. Many teenagers are to be found among these street children. We visit them and share with them their miserable existence, tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to them and help them with food and clothing. When we have gained their trust, they are often open to God's goodness. **A few of them have been able to experience what it means to belong to Jesus.**

We are grateful to God, that the **chicken raising project in Kadoma** has made an excellent start. By purchasing chicks and then later selling the chickens, **widows** taking part in the project are able to **pay for the school fees for their children** and also **purchase vital food supplies for their families.**



**One widow called Joyce Nyanga** told us: „I was not able to send my children to school, but now I am able to do this, through the financial income from this project. I am also able to put food on the table at home. My heart is deeply moved and I want to thank IMM England/Switzerland for their great heart for us - the widows of Kadoma. God is so good to us and we give Him the glory.“

We still have permission to preach the Gospel in the **police stations in Zimbabwe**. We are very encouraged by this particularly when we notice how open these people are to the message of Jesus Christ and how they respond to it. God is at work!

God has opened **another door** to me as I am now able to visit a **prison**. I have been able through His enabling to preach the message of Jesus Christ to the prisoners who listen carefully to what I am telling them. Indeed 23 prisoners were ready to begin a New Life with Jesus. I have been visiting this prison frequently and also prayed with the prisoners. They have asked me for **Bibles** and I have also received this request from other prisoners. We would prayerfully ask you to help us. We need as many Bibles as you can send to us. Please, come to the aid of our brothers in the prisons. Please help us to put the Gospel into the hands of these people. We are praying for lots of Bibles!

**Many children**, particularly those living in the mining areas cannot go to school because the parents are too poor to afford paying their **school fees**. If God does not come to our aid the streets of our mining towns will be flooded with more **street children** and the pull towards prostitution will increase. **Please pray with us for this huge problem..** We can only help a few but in reality there are thousands of children who find a school education closed to them due to lack of funds.

A huge 'thank you' is due to you for your support for the people living in the mining areas. The mine workers, whether in employment or not working and their families are all threatened with hunger. We help with food supplies where we can but our resources are very limited. Again thank you for your help. God bless all your supporters. God bless you.

*Pardon Chingovo*

Extracts of reports from Rev. Dereck Marijeki Rev. Elija Katiyo and Rev. Kelvin Chipangura follow:

**Rev. Dereck Marijeki, Shurugwi**

In all the time I have been working here, I can tell you that 2016 was one of the hardest years that I have experienced. I have felt both bodily and spiritually oppressed. But I have also felt how faithful God is to me and how God works in peoples' lives, particularly when I have witnessed in the Name of Jesus seeing people accept Him into their hearts. That has been a great joy. I quote some testimonies:

My name is **Jane**. As I was lying ill in a hospital bed Pastor Marijeki visited me. He spoke to me about Jesus. His words were like a light for my soul. He prayed with me and encouraged me to surrender my life to Jesus. This I did and since that day my life has been completely changed. I am so grateful to God.

**Tapiwa** is my name. I am a gold miner but above all I am HIV positive. One day I was so desperate, that I wanted to take my own life. Then someone knocked on my door and I was very surprised, that a pastor wanted to visit me. It was the first time in my life that a pastor had called. I told him my life story. A long discussion followed. He spoke to me about the love of Jesus and helped me to understand His words. So I was able to start a new life with Jesus. I now have a deep peace in my heart and I am such a happy person.

I am called **Thomas**. Football is my passion for sport. One day I was with 11 team colleagues on the way to the

football field, when a pastor joined us and started to play football with us. He spoke to us about the Bible. Little by little we understood that Jesus loves us and is ready to forgive our sins. We decided all of us to follow Jesus.

Thank you so much for all the support you give us.

*Dereck Marijeki*

**Rev. Katiyo, Mashava, Mkotosi, Gwanda, West Nicholson**

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I do enjoy visiting the churches in the various mining areas that I am connected with, such as Mkotosi, Zvishavane, Mashava, Gwanda and West Nicholson. We learn from preaching the Word of God, have prayer together and share our stories, as this encourages and strengthens us in our faith. However my heart is heavily troubled as everywhere I go I meet people with great worries, particularly as to how they are to support their families. For instance, I met an elderly woman who was really very ill but had no money to go to hospital for treatment. She also had hardly anything to eat. I really could not help her much, but I prayed to Jesus, that He might have pity on her.

In one family that I visited I found a big problem in their marriage. The husband was taking steps to divorce his wife. I talked with them for a long time. As a result with God's help they were ready to forgive each other. This reconciliation brought great joy to everyone. The family thanked me for my help, but I said to them that they should thank the Lord Jesus. It was His grace through me that had brought this forgiveness.

Many people in **Zvishavane and Mkotosi** thank you so much for the **provision of food**, that they received from you through the hands of Rev. P. Chingovo. One woman literally wept for joy as she received a large sack of maize. She said to me: „God has heard my prayer I had just eaten my last meal of maize but then I had nothing for myself nor my family left to eat. I prayed to God and one day later Rev. Chingovo came with maize.“ This response to prayer has strengthened her faith.

The building of the **church in Mkotosi** is making progress. As a result of your support we are again able to make many bricks. We are so grateful to you for your great help.

With our grateful thanks.

*Elija Katiyo*

**Rev. Kelvin Chipangura, Kadoma**

As I make my way on my door-to-door visits I am so clear in my heart that I am absolutely reliant on help from God. Here I meet Christians and non-Christians and I listen to them. I tell them of the Word of God and pray with them. These are all people whose daily life is filled with **great need**, that is to be found everywhere in **Kadoma**.

When I visited the hospital I found myself chatting to a man who had led a very evil life. In a violent hand to hand fight with his wife, she picked up and threw boiling oil at him. His face and body had horrendous burns. I was so moved by this but I proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ and His salvation to him. As he listened to my words he asked me to come close to him. He asked me to pray for him and said that he wanted to accept this Jesus I had preached about into his heart. On that day Jesus became his personal Redeemer. Two days later he died, but he died with Jesus. Now he is with Him in eternity.

I had a long discussion with a **Moslem** about Jesus. It was not easy. He is an old man 83 years old. He had never before in

his life visited a church. A week after our discussion this man opened his heart to the Word of God. He was very strongly rooted in his Islamic faith but God did a wonder in his life. He took Jesus as his personal Redeemer into his life. Now he is taking part in one of our house groups. I am praising God for this old man.

**Prostitution** in Kadoma is a great and growing challenge to us. I was open-air preaching in front of one of the beer halls telling people of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Three prostitutes, none of them over 20 years of age, who were listening realised that the message of Good News in Christ was speaking to them. They decided to accept Jesus into their lives. When I spoke to them afterwards they told me that poverty and daily hunger were the reasons that they had become prostitutes. I really felt so bad when I heard their words and I thank God that these young people now belong to Jesus. Praise and glory to God!

I prayed for a child, already 8 years old who was not able to walk properly. This was very difficult for the child and the family. I prayed and fasted for three days for this child. When I visited the family I went to the child's bedside, touching the child gently. Then a wonder happened. He moved his legs, stood up and could walk like a young boy. Now the boy can walk normally again. Everyone was amazed and praised God, who had done such a great miracle in the life of this boy. All is a result of God's grace.

Thank you so much for your fantastic help for the **chicken raising project**, which is being run by the widows. It is giving these ladies a great deal of financial help. They are so thankful for this project as it is giving them so much pleasure to run.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers for our work.

*Kelvin Chipangura*

Dear friends of the Mission,

We are so mightily impressed how God has opened heaven to these people in Zimbabwe, who though constantly threatened with misery and suffering, we see many are finding the Way into His Kingdom. The reports show how the doors to the various state institutions are wide open to the preaching of the Gospel and all over the place people are ready to entrust their lives to Jesus Christ.

There is a massive demand for Bibles, but there are no more available. How could we help? This drove us to prayer.

You can imagine how surprised we were when Frau Chappuis from the Missionary Society GLIFA (Good Literature For All) contacted us to offer their support in again carrying out a Bible Project for Zimbabwe. The amount of Bibles in the Shona and Ndebele languages being offered through GLIFA numbers 1000 in total. We are currently in contact with the Bible supply company in Harare. We would be grateful if you could pray for us in our negotiations for this Bible project. What a joy it would be, if in the period of Advent, the Bible, the Word of God, and surely the most valuable gift for which so many people in Zimbabwe mining areas are longing, could actually be personally put into their hands!

In our most recent prayer letter we thanked God that Tafadza Chikudo, who has spent his time of practical experience acting as assistant part-time pastor in West Nicholson und Gwanda, has in December been able to complete his theological training at Rusito Bible College. We dearly would like to request him to work with us in those two places as an Evangelist supported by the Miners Mission Switzerland, but seemingly the financial means would simply not be available, unless someone was ready to take on responsibility for covering his salary. God has however enabled friends of the Mission to step forward and pay for Tafadza Chikudo's monthly salary. This has made for much joy but at the same time we are deeply ashamed of our lack of faith, as we constantly witness how God continues to build up His Work and confirm this ministry.

We are also glad to hear that the church building in Mkotosi is proceeding. Now more bricks have been made so that the walls of the church can be completed, after which the roof construction can begin. Rev. Katiyo, the pastor responsible for the oversight of the building of the church, is so grateful for all the financial support and prayers.

Rev. Pardon Chingovo writes that he his planning again this year to hold a Christmas party and service both for orphaned children and for the poor people of the area. We pray, that this Christmas celebration, to which all those invited also receive a Christmas meal will really be blessed by God.

Rev. Chingovo has drawn up a list, in which he clearly shows which places and precisely to whom food (generally sacks of maize) has been distributed. These are the categories of people: Widows, those in real personal need, Street children, Old people.

Below a short summary:

1. Shurugwi 290 Persons
2. Zvishavane 235 Persons
3. Mashava, Mhandamabwe, Mkotosi, 480 Persons
4. Kwekwe, Rutendo, Torwood, 622 Persons
5. Kadoma, Chakari, 279 Persons
6. Gwanda, West Nicholson, 121 Persons

Total 2027 Persons

We are so grateful to Rev. Chingovo for the distribution of the food, a job he personally supervised. As you can imagine the joy on the faces and in the hearts of those receiving the food was a wonderful thing to experience.

Dear friends of the Mission, we thank you so much for your participation in the working out of the Mission's commitments in the Zimbabwe mining area and for your faithful support through prayer and gifts.

I wish you a joyful and blessed time through Advent and Christmas and God's gracious leading in the coming New Year.

*Kurt Feurer*

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