

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

Serving the Lord in Zimbabwe

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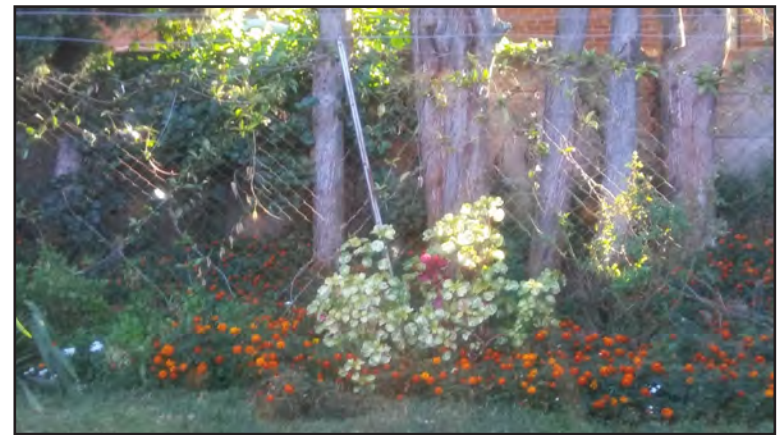


When the disciples saw Him walking on the land, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Matt 14:26-27

Greetings from overcast Harare!

Even as I write, neighboring Mozambique is being pummeled by a Cyclone predicted to reach Category 4. Zimbabwe is therefore on Cyclone watch. Although Zim is inland, almost ten years ago parts of the country were severely affected by one such cyclone. The old West Indian proverb "When your neighbor's house is on fire water yours" is therefore very apt for us in our present situation.

So why pictures of Marigolds? A reminder to us that, whatever storms we are facing in our little corner of planet earth, if we look beyond the storm we will see His beauty shining beyond, bringing us His peace and joy, dispelling fear and rekindling hope in our situations.



It is always a joy to have some of you visit us and so, we are looking forward to hosting Pastor Denzil Vaughn and his wife Lorna from one of our supporting churches in New York. They will be here from April 1st to 15th and will be doing some training in Children's Ministry with some of the churches with whom we work.

As most of you know, we work mainly with the indigenous churches in rural areas. Many of them do not have a children's ministry and those who do need help with teacher training, so we are looking forward to the Vaughn's visit and ministry. Your prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Training is scheduled for:
Mvurwi: Monday April 3rd - Friday 5th
Harare: Saturday April 6th
Gweru: Saturday April 13th

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In our April letter to you, we indicated that we would be going on a furlough from May 20 to August 30 in order to visit and report to some of our partnering Churches, individuals and families. Our plans also included visiting family members and friends and of course getting some rest.

In London we had very memorable times with Dhan's sister and his widowed brother-in-law. The time was too short to visit friends who date back to the early days of Dolly's coming to Christ so phone calls had to suffice. Then we flew to New York. The next morning, Sunday May 26th, we attended the 11 a.m. service of a Manhattan Church after which we lunched with members of their Missions Council. This gave us the opportunity to update them, get acquainted with the Church's direction during a period of transition and better understand the heart of the Missions Pastor.

A week later, we left for Florida where we were hosted by a dear couple at Homestead whose genuineness greatly encouraged us. Over dinner, we gave a report to the Missions Committee of our former Church in Miami. We were very impressed by the interest of the attendees; and were it not for the Chairperson's timely intervention, our meeting could well have continued for several hours yet. At the service the following morning, we gave a brief report to the church. It was good to be "home again" and reconnect with old friends.

By the grace of our Lord, we braved the roar and anxious rush of the 5 a.m. traffic the next day as we headed to Ocala. Harvest's Director wisely arranged for us to be accommodated by a missionary, now in his eighties, who faithfully continues to present the Scriptures by radio to a growing listenership in the US and beyond. He had been widowed less than a year before and we were the undeserving beneficiaries of his generous hospitality. What a precious time we had with him as he opened his home and heart to us. He also arranged for us to speak at his Church's Wednesday Bible Study where the participants' enthusiasm really blessed us.

The highlight of our travels so far was dinner with the Harvest Board and Staff. We were encouraged by two testimonies which were shared that evening – one by a missionary preparing to go to the field and the other by a member of the Board. They reminded us of the story of Caleb in the Old Testament who gave the minority report by which Israel was encouraged to enter the Promised Land. "Yes", we thought, "the spirit of Caleb still lives." We also sat for a videoed interview with Danny. You can watch it on the Harvest International's YouTube Channel or on their website at www.HarvestInternational.org.



Last evening, we received a voice message from a young lady in Zimbabwe whom we met almost four years ago while she was being trained for the mission field. Early in our relationship, we were struck by her love and tenderness towards the Lord and her commitment to His purposes. We took her under our wings and she became a part of our family. Then she went through a very difficult patch and seemed to have lost her spiritual fervor. On the rare occasions when she would agree to meet with us, she was superficial and distracted. Eventually we gave her some space and left her to the Lord's will; but in our hearts we struggled over her. In her voice message to us she confessed having lost her way and being distant from the Lord but that He had brought her back to Himself through a devotional that the Lord has been using in our own lives and from which we had shared with her over the years. Truly, the Lord who raises up the dead can make dry bones live again. All praise to Him!

To all of you who partner with us and other missionaries, or who otherwise participate in some way in the work of missions, we say thanks for your continued faithfulness in your service with the Lord. But no one has the vaguest idea how and when He will use your efforts and the results He will produce thereby.

***"Oh, the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out!"***



March 2019

Dear Faithful Friends,

We trust this year has begun well for you and yours and you are finding meaning and purpose in Father's will for you. Thank you so much for your faithfulness over in the years both in prayer and financial support. May He who is faithful also bountifully supply your own needs.

A dear friend and fellow missionary who serves in a remote and grossly under-developed part of the Zambezi Valley recently visited us. She is a Zimbabwean single lady trained as a nurse but, in practice, a doctor, midwife, dentist, pharmacist, counselor, etc. Couple months ago, a young boy was brought to her clinic with a terribly mangled arm. Although three-quarters of his arm had already been securely lodged between a crocodile's jaws, the reptile miraculously let him loose. A few weeks later, another lad was brought in with an arm hanging loose. He had fallen off an overturned scotch cart and was in a pretty bad way.

On both occasions, our friend looked at the injuries (the likes of which she had not seen before) and knew that they were well beyond her ability, training and experience. Silently, she confessed her weakness to the Lord as she began to clean, stitch and dress the horrible wounds; acknowledging that the Lord would have to do it, if at all. This surely opened the way for the miracles that followed. The first patient healed completely within a few weeks and the other seems to be well on the way. How much we treasure our friend's three-monthly visits to the capital for supplies -always such a fragrance of life to us.

This reminds us of what the Apostle Paul said, "To me to live is Christ" and "it is no longer I but Christ"; which lead us to remember that there are two words uttered by the

Lord over the natural man: “Nothing” and “Cannot”! The title of a book which came to our attention many years ago –“When You Come to the End of Yourself” – said the same thing to us then. Alas, how easily we forget this basic truth; a truth that will never change, regardless of how much older and experienced we are! So, we plod on, pursuing this truth as a basic principle of our lives and service by and through our Lord Christ Jesus.

You, no doubt, read the report on our mini Retreat in the December issue of Harvest Int. Quarterly. It involved sixteen participants, six of whom lived in; the others attended on a day basis. While the immediate goals were accomplished, we believe that the full extent of its significance is yet to be revealed. We really feel the need to initiate a continuing ministry with some of those with whom we worked during the past ten years. One possibility is to meet in Harare with four or five selected persons two successive days every month. But these are difficult times for the people here. So, we wait on the Lord to show us the way, assured that He would provide all that is needed to make it happen.

In the meantime, we continue our monthly weekend of ministry in the city of Gweru, our twice monthly visit to rural Mvurwi, our weekly meetings with a family, a mother and daughter, a young Zimbabwean studying in Zambia (via WAP call), and a young man who spent two years on a missions ship – enough to keep us quite busy. Despite the many challenges, each is encouraging in its own way. Please pray for these persons that the Lord would open their hearts, giving them understanding and an insatiable desire for Himself.

A Pastor and his wife from New York, longtime partners of this ministry, will be visiting this Country April 2nd thru 14th. During their visit, Mrs Vaughn will be conducting Training Seminars for teachers of children’s ministries in Mvurwi, Harare and Gweru. We urge you to join us in fervent prayer for the Instructor, each participant and all the arrangements to be made. We really believe that this is a most important and strategic ministry at this time. Please pray that God’s full purpose for these events will be realized.

We recently became aware that there had been unsolicited intrusion into our email account. As a result, it is quite possible that some of your mail to us, and ours to you, have not reached their intended destinations. If that is so, we hope you will understand and not give up on communicating. You can also reach us by What’sApp.

For the sake of our Loving Savior

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Greetings from Zimbabwe! We returned from our short, whirlwind furlough on August 30th. It was a joy to meet some of you during our visits to your local churches. Sorry we could not meet more of you. Our thanks to all of you who made us feel welcome and gave us quality time at your homes or restaurants over meals. Deep appreciation to all who hosted us, and even beat Dolly at Scrabble by all of 5 points - but hey, a win is still a win!

There were many highlights of the trip; among them our debriefing evening over dinner with members of the Harvest Board and Staff, as well as some fellow missionaries. Our time with family members were also very special. It was the first time we were visiting Dolly's home Island (Dominica) since the devastation of Hurricane Maria two years ago. Although much restorative work, both public and private, has already been completed, a great deal more is yet to be done. Many are still under tarpaulin 'roofs', mostly because of the great demand for skilled workmen at such a time. As you can imagine, the personal stories are heart-wrenching!

Our return to Zim was bitter sweet. Yes, we are happy to be back although re-settling has not been free of challenges. Some of you have expressed concern over what you read and hear in the media. Indeed, the Nation is going through several challenges, among them an awful drought. In our eleven years here, we have never seen so much brown all around as plants take a beating. All three boreholes (wells) on the property where we live have dried up. Electricity rationing continues but we do get some power from about 10.00pm until 4.00 am. During the day, we also get limited power via a solar feed from next door and a neighbor graciously supplies us with some water. Dhan left home at 4.30 this morning to join a fuel line and returned with a full tank at 8.30am, so we are good to go. Naturally, the lack of water and electricity has a ripple effect on many other areas. Then, there is the matter of the steady decline of the local currency. When we left here in late May, the US dollar was equivalent to seven local dollars. Today, it is down to the low twenties!

Today's world is filled with challenges of all kinds. At the service yesterday, the Preacher reminded us that we must set aside our fears and belly-aching and get on with what God has called us to do; that when we set forth in obedience, God by His power accomplishes His purposes in and through us. He shared how God called him, an ill-equipped, uneducated guy whose only hope was employment as a farm hand or, if he really made it, a gardener. He told us of his difficulty at school with English, the punishments he received because he could not grasp the language and how he prayed and fasted when he was called upon to deliver his first message in English. But he also testifies of experiencing the empowering of the Spirit throughout that message. Today, in his desire to be true to God's call upon his life, he sees the necessity to leave his comfort zone. Indeed, as believers, we are called to die to ourselves repeatedly that Christ might be manifested in our daily lives. Is that what our Lord means when He calls His disciples to "take up their cross daily and follow Him"?

May God grant all of us grace during these challenging times to look past our personal comforts and faithfully keep our eyes on the Lord of the Harvest. Thanks for standing with us.



April 2019

Dear Faithful Friends,

Beloved in Christ

Blessed Resurrection! Indeed, we serve a risen Savior!
More than that – He lives in us!!

We recently concluded our re-reading of Paul's letter to the Church at Rome, and what a very rich and rewarding experience this has been. Some parts we found difficult to leave; others left us breathless. An example of the latter is Paul's outpouring of praise to God in Romans 11:33-36. Having looked at God's wisdom and knowledge revealed in His great plan of salvation for Jew and Gentile alike, he infectiously exclaims, "how unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!" But then, we also noticed how Paul used most of the last chapter to send greetings to named individuals who had been "a great help to many people" and to him, and to solicit help for them also.

You, dear Friend, bring great joy to our hearts as we continually remember your quiet yet very significant part in this ministry. Indeed, with hearts full of praise to our heavenly Father, we recall your faithfulness time and again.

A lot has happened since our last letter. First, couple weeks before the Children's Ministry training, our trainer called to say that her husband had been hospitalized. Praise God, he is responding well to treatment and we look forward to his complete healing. We appreciate your prayers for the event and ask that you continue to pray for healing and for the training which we hope can be held around September. Many people registered and we pray for their sustained interest.

Then, on the weekend of March 16th, a powerful cyclone forecast to strike Madagascar changed course and struck Mozambique and some adjacent parts of Zimbabwe. The damage and loss are indescribable. In Mozambique, the coastal city of Beira was all but completely destroyed. This seaport also served Zim (which is completely land-locked). Two bridges and some of the main highways leading to Zim were destroyed. Not being accustomed to cyclones hitting these areas, the people were largely unprepared, resulting in over 1,200 deaths. It is reported that several persons in Zim were taken by crocodile-infested flood waters and carried downstream to Mozambique where unfortunately no one could identify the bodies of those who survived the crocodiles. The World Bank has estimated the loss caused by the cyclone at \$2 billion!

The grounds and some of the buildings of a Harare church immediately became a center for collecting, sorting and loading relief supplies into containers and trucks, scores of which have already been dispatched. This effort has been a joy to behold and we praise God for such response from a nation that is again experiencing great economic challenges.

These past couple years have been somewhat more difficult than previous ones. Our Director has encouraged us to go on furlough and we welcome it! So we will be focusing on visiting and reporting to partnering churches and individuals, spending time with family members, and rest. Here are some highlights of our itinerary:

- Monday, May 20th - Leave Harare for London
- Saturday, May 25th - Leave London for New York and other US States
- Friday, July 5th - Leave Fort Lauderdale for the Caribbean
- Monday, August 26th - Leave Grenada for New York
- Wednesday, Aug. 28th- Leave New York for Harare (via London)
- Friday, August 30th - Return to Harare

We are really looking forward to seeing some of you when we visit your Church and share our report.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, appear unto you in great measure.

For the sake of our Loving Savior

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“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon His shoulder.” (Is. 9:6)

Blessed Christmas to you and your household. May this time of the year be especially meaningful to all of us as we celebrate the birth of our Heavenly Father’s Gift to us – His son Jesus, the Messiah!

It certainly seems like most nations in our world today are facing crises similar to and in some cases worse than what Israel was experiencing 2000 years ago when our Lord was born. The world needed a Savior then and desperately needs One now. Many remain blinded to that fact; so let us continue to pray that our Lord by His Spirit would remove the veil from their eyes and tenderize their hearts towards Him, Who is their only hope.

The Lord has used many to pray us through and encourage our hearts during 2019. He has also sent several into our lives, who themselves needed to be encouraged. This year we saw the passing of some of our dear friends and fellow believers among whom was a couple who died three months apart. There was also what felt like an exodus from Zim of families and individuals whom we had grown to love and whose fellowship we enjoyed. Many are moving away because of the need to provide for and raise their families in a more stable environment. It is sad to see the country lose so many of its skilled workforce.

We thank God for the individuals, couples and groups we have worked with this year. It was a joy to see some of them from as far as Zambia and Gweru join us in celebrating Dhan’s 75th birthday in October.

Our monthly weekend ministry with OIC in Gweru continues to be a blessing, but getting fuel for the four hour trip there and back is now quite a challenge and always the subject of much prayer. We have never had to cancel an appointment because of the fuel shortages though. God always comes through for us as He did last Friday evening. After only three hours of waiting in line we had a full tank so we could keep our ministry appointment the next morning an hour out of Harare. Some of our friends waited over 24 hours and did not get any!

We had our “Christmas” in May to August when we spent time with many of you in England, NY, Florida, Texas and the Caribbean. What beautiful and refreshing times of fellowship we had. There are some of you whom we were unable to see this trip but we look forward to doing so when the Lord makes it possible in the future.

Spending time with our children and their families was extra-special. We trust that you will similarly enjoy your families this Christmas.

This year, you continued to be faithful friends in your partnering with us. It has been a particularly challenging year for us, and perhaps for you too; but the Lord saw us through, didn’t He? His abundant grace is simply wonderful; and many times He used you to demonstrate that by being a source of great encouragement and blessing.

May you and yours have a great and fulfilling New Year. God’s abundant blessings always.





August 2019

Dear Partnering Friends,

Greetings from Dominica, ravaged by hurricane Maria two years ago, now seems to be well on the way to recovery. There is still much to be done – many damaged houses at a standstill for lack of available builders, and public buildings and infrastructure to be restored or constructed. But, praise the Lord, this hurricane season has been mild so far and the forecast is for this to continue. Indeed, our heavenly Father is 'plenteous in mercy'!

Our daughter and her family here are well. We are truly thankful to God that their roof has been fixed and for keeping them in these challenging times.

Here is a summary of our activities since we left Zimbabwe in late May. A brief stay-over in London and we were on our way to New York. After our appointments there, our next stop was Florida where we had engagements in Miami, Ocala and Lake Placid. From there we visited our daughter in Texas where we were able to get some much-needed rest.

On July 5th, we flew to Trinidad to begin the Caribbean leg of our furlough trip. We duly completed our appointments in Trinidad and were next scheduled to fly to Dominica, Dolly's birthplace but Dhan's only brother Nehru arrived in Trinidad from Grenada for urgent medical treatment. He has been a diabetic for well over thirty years and had earlier been hospitalized in Grenada where he was diagnosed as having serious complications involving some of his internal organs. Consequently, we re-organized our schedule so that we could be there for family.

We travelled to Dominica on the 28th July and are scheduled to return to Grenada on August 17th where we hope to touch bases with some individuals and churches before our return trip on the 26th via New York and London, arriving in Zimbabwe on the 30th.

Our ministry in Grenada, which is always one of the highlights of our visit there, was severely affected as a result of this hiccup in our travel schedule. But we are certain that the Lord wanted us, (and Dhan in particular), to spend time with his brother and family and we are very grateful to Him that we were able to do so.

Please join us as we:

- Praise the Lord for the significant improvement in Nehru's health and for keeping us well during this trip;
- Praise Him for the good presentations we have had with the various Churches and their Missions personnel and for their warm reception and hospitality;
- Pray for Nehru's continued improvement and for our health;
- Pray for the remaining appointments we have in Grenada;
- Pray for our return trip to Grenada on August 17th and for a proper balance of personal and ministry engagements;
- Pray also for our return trip to Zimbabwe.

The economic situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate rapidly. Inflation, though not in the trillion percentage mark of 2008/9, is in a frightening upward spiral with the resultant price increases in every area. The situation is increasingly extremely difficult for most people. Power supply is now limited to, at best, the hours of 10 pm to 4 am daily and even basic supplies and fuel are scarce. Please continue to pray.

Thanks for your ministry to and with us. We are privileged to serve with you.

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



November 2019

Dear Partnering Friends,

God's Word instructs us to give thanks in everything because this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus. Our Island Grenada declared October 25th Thanksgiving Day, marking the arrival of US and Caribbean peace-keeping forces in 1983 and the restoration of Democracy. But it has long ceased to be a day of giving thanks. Perhaps it is the same elsewhere too. Admittedly, giving thanks is easier some times than at others even for us His children. But it is a habit that we who know Him must allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate deep in our hearts.

There is hardly a place on earth today that is not experiencing upheaval of one kind or another. In the past, some have automatically looked for 'greener pastures' elsewhere, but this is often now an exercise in futility. Although thousands continue to flee their homeland hoping for something better, many perish en route or end up in detention centers or in virtual slave pens when they arrive. These horror stories abound! Here, where the Lord has sent us to serve, is not immune; nor is yours, for that matter. Perhaps you have been following our news, although it hardly tells the full or real story. The electricity situation is deteriorating so rapidly that Dhan is this week building an outdoor wood-burning fireside – wood is cheaper than gas and it is foolhardy to wait for electricity, whether day or night. State-run health services are not an option and private suppliers have multiplied their charges in order to cope with rising inflation – reportedly, now second only to Venezuela. The lines at the gas pumps are still very long and we sometimes wait for three hours to be served. For many people, bread is now a luxury item. A month or so ago, this commodity was snatched up as soon as they arrived. Now, the shelves are all full.

Are we moaning? We hope not. Rather, we are learning to give thanks in all of these circumstances. For one thing, there is yet much for which to ought to express our gratitude. Thank God, we have never had to cancel or postpone a ministry trip for want of fuel. Nor have we ever gone hungry or thirsty or been unable to pay a bill. Our rains have now begun although they are late. From today, we expect to see many planting maize and other staples in whatever land might seem available to them. Yes, our Heavenly Father is faithful and there is much, much to thank Him for. While some are leaving for other lands, most people here have nowhere else to go to.

As we pondered this situation some months ago, we came to the conclusion that, given the magnitude of this Country's plight and that the whole world is in chaos, the only hope for the people of this land is not a change of politics and economics, but real spiritual transformation by coming into a true and dynamic relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. It is only then we able to have the Divine perspective on all that is happening and to find meaning and have hope nonetheless. And we are not necessarily talking about 'end times'; we are talking about everyday living, now. Sadly, we are not seeing that kind of turning to the Lord, even though many continue to be numbered among the 'churched' that meet regularly.

Yes, we do have much for which to be deeply grateful to the Lord. He has given us His Son, not only as a sacrifice for our wrongdoing, but He has also given us His life that we do not have to 'try' to please the Father, but He lives out His life in and through us. He is our life, our perspective, our hope.

Dear Friend, you have a place in our hearts that words can hardly describe. It is through your love for the Lord and your sacrifice that we are kept on the field. We owe you a debt of gratitude. Through the Lord, you supply us with reason enough to develop a thankful spirit in everything. Thank you, Lord; thank you Friend. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

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