



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

Serving Our Father in

ZIMBABWE



HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2009

May you be blessed with a newness of life that can only come from a deeper realization of "Christ in me, the hope of glory"

As we look at the events of the past year, many of us would agree with Charles Dickens for truly, "they were the best of times and they were worst of times." Perhaps most of us would not like to relive 2008, yet at the same time, we can testify to God's glory for the way He intervened in those situations and how, by His grace, we conquered.

It is with this mindset that we have entered 2009. "And we **know** that in **ALL** things, God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28 (NIV).

Christmas Day marked 6 months since our arrival here. The challenges have been many and there are no signs of an early let up. Yet, the very situations which we could easily do without are exactly what God has been using both in our personal lives and ministry to make us more dependent on Him. "On Him we have set our hope.... as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many." (2 Cor. 1:9 - 11).

The Lord continues to open doors. Dhan is presently preparing a number of engagements later this month including a Men's Retreat the weekend of the 23rd, as well as weekend seminars throughout February in Chin-hoyi (appx. 2 hours from Harare). Our weekly sessions with the young men at Renewal Church and Leadership Training at CRC Ministries resume later this month. We also resume our weekly trips to Banket next week.

Zimbabwe is unique in many ways. The authorities and people here are very respectful of Christianity. Prayer is allowed in schools and where there are no textbooks, the Bible is being used to teach from. One year ago, a Christian school in Harare was allowed to take over the running of a government school which was experiencing economic difficulties. That school and the community are flourishing.

We are truly a minority here! There are absolutely no foreign missionaries to fellowship with. But thank God we have met many Pastors and Leaders and have made ourselves accountable to a Pastor.

Please pray with us for improved power, telephone and online communication this year, as well as for those upcoming engagements. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we learn to cope and to trust the Lord. Keeping in touch from here is difficult. When we get online it sometimes takes several hours to send out an email and often it does not reach its destination. Snail mail is problematical and telephones, both local and international are the test of one's faith .

Be assured of our prayers for you and our thankfulness to God for your faithful partnership despite your own personal challenges.

God's blessings,
Dhan & Dolly



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February 2009

*Oh love that wilt not let me go, I raise my flickering torch to Thee, I give Thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be."*

Dear Friends,

In my personal devotions this morning, I took a more in-depth look at Ecclesiastics 1. When I started this book a couple of days ago, I couldn't help but see the writer's deep depression. Life as he knew it was meaningless. He had everything - position, power, every conceivable material acquisition, was highly respected among his peers, maybe even envied by his enemies. Yet, his life was empty, purposeless. He was without hope!

Many today lack this hope which can only come through a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Without Hope, life indeed is meaningless - just a chore, a daily grind, a constant struggle. Rich and poor, young and old, educated and uneducated, we all need Hope.

If the writer had not been so blinded, he would have seen the wonder of God's loving and bountiful provision through creation; that the whole of creation is for the Lord's pleasure and for us to explore, discover and enjoy. He would have found comfort, reassurance, and stability in God's constancy and faithfulness. He would have been overwhelmed with a heart of thanksgiving and praise to God. And instead of seeing life here as an end in itself, he would have seen it as merely a down payment of what is to come. This is our hope.

Also, in our family devotions this morning, Dhan and I continued our study of Luke 8. In verses 22 - 25, we saw Jesus peacefully sleeping while a storm was raging! At His rebuke the strong winds and raging waters subsided and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" He asked His terrified disciples. Obviously, His peace in the midst of a severe storm came from being secure in His Father's love (1 John 4:18).

Kingdoms are crumbling around us. Nations are experiencing economic, social and political upheavals unsurpassed in our time. Personal fortunes, pensions, hard-earned savings gone, all of which highlight the need for the Good News of Jesus Christ who is our Peace and only Hope to be shared with a hurting, confused world with great urgency.

No doubt, you are facing your own personal challenges. May you find comfort in His word and by His presence to stand. We are praying for you.

Thank you for your financial gift which helps us remain here where He has called us to serve. May He bless you for your faithfulness and in the ministry to which He has called you. May He keep you healthy and meet you at the point of your need, abounding in the work of the Lord.

Rest in His peace and look forward with hope that cannot be dimmed or diluted by adversity.

God's blessings, Dhan & Dolly

Prayer Requests



- Teaching about missions is breaking new ground in many cases. Please pray that God would cause believers/Churches to be released from their traditions/traditional teaching and that their hearts would be opened to see our glorious Lord and His purposes
- Please pray for the people of Zimbabwe - another 12 zeros have been knocked off the dollar (22 in 6 months) and while it will be easier to carry cash around for a while, it certainly would mean a further increase in basic commodities; although the US \$ is being widely used, it is subjected to excessive inflation as well
- Please pray for the secular leadership of this country - it is reported that a workable
- agreement for governing the country has been reached to be implemented later this month. Pray that God would give wisdom as they work together to rebuild this nation
- February: Pray for us throughout this month as we travel to Chinhoyi for teaching seminars at Vineyard Fellowship (Saturdays & Sundays, returning to Harare on Mondays)
- Pray for Olivia, a domestic worker, widow and mother of 6 whose 15 year old was
- impregnated by her uncle. Olivia's mother abandoned her in early childhood, her husband died 10 years ago when her youngest was a toddler. She has no family support. Her employers have shown her great kindness over the years but they too are a bit overwhelmed with their own problems
- Pray for the believers at Binga and the Global Life Ministries Church family. Their Senior Pastor died of Cholera this past weekend
- Pray that the food, health, education and environmental situation here would improve quickly



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



Zimbabwe

Today marks the first year of our ministry here. It has been quite an eventful year and an unparalleled education.

God has taught us so much! He has stretched us, He has shown us His love at the times when we needed Him most; He has opened doors beyond our wildest dreams and helped us maintain our focus.

The challenges have been many and some very painful BUT GOD has been soooooo good!

In Mark 1:37, Jesus' disciples exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." And in John 17:4, He says to the Father, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." What a testimony! The needs around us are so great that one could easily get absorbed in them and forget why the Lord brought us here.

Talking of needs, we continue to marvel at the Zimbabwean's ability to survive. It is amazing at how quickly they can "make a plan". So the sprinkler goes bad – no sweat - just punch a few holes in an empty plastic bottle attach it to the end of the hose, turn on the tap and your problem is solved!

Bicycles and pick-up trucks are highly treasured here. You just have no idea how much can be carried on a bicycle!

One of our many blessings is the privilege of being able to join in worship at various church denominations. We continue to be simply amazed at the blending of the Zimbabwean voices in song. We are always very disappointed when those voices are drowned out by loud music.



We thank God for the freedom of worship here and the respect which secular authorities have for the Church and her leaders. The Word of God is preached openly on national TV and on radio stations.

The Lord has also blessed us with accommodations on a farm when we are ministering in the Banket and Chinoyhi areas. It is such a joy to watch things grow and to enjoy fresh vegetables, eggs and poultry from the farm.

Like most of our Zim friends, we are rejoicing in the fact that we no longer have long lines outside the banks, at the food stores or at petrol stations. Thank God, since the US dollar and the South African rand have become legal tender here, we are able to buy most basic items, although things are certainly a lot more costly than when we used the Zim dollar. The plus side is that we do not have to deal with the uncertainty of high inflation rates.



When we first came here, we were gun shy about buying anything. We soon learned that we had to spend out all that we had as soon as it reached our hands otherwise it would quickly (in a day or so!) lose most of its buying power. I wish I could say we soon became very fast learners! It is not that easy to unlearn what you have practiced for over 60 years!

The change in currency has its negative side. A number of our young friends who would normally have found it easy to get into university are now at home and unable to raise the \$400 a term they need for fees. This amount does not sound much for a student in other parts of the world but here it is a huge sum of money.

We are happy to report that the Lord continues to keep us well. We still walk as often as we can.

We thank God for your partnership with us and pray for you daily. May we all reflect His light so that glory may be brought to His name.



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

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April 2009

Dear Friend & Partner in Ministry

We recently began Paul's letter to the Philippians at our home Bible Study. In verse 3, he writes, *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...."*. We noted that he ended Colossians, our previous study, by mentioning several persons many of whom we never hear about elsewhere. He describes them as *"a faithful minister and fellow servant"*, *"fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and a comfort to me."*, etc. They are unseen, low-profile people, but always on the job. As important as Paul's work was, he recognized and acknowledged that he was never alone. Always, there were others sent by the Lord to labor with him, at his side or further away; no doubt, performing various tasks to facilitate his work.

This is just the way we feel about you. You are not just a name on our mailing list; you are an essential and very important part of our team. Hardly a day goes by that we do not appreciate this reality. This is particularly important as we have not been able to keep in contact with you as we would have liked. Not only has internet access been impossible (plus, frustrating), but so too the phone service. Forget snail mail; October mail arrived in January. This may be very difficult for you to understand. What is more, since February or so, use of the local currency has virtually ceased and the US \$ or SA Rand has been legal tender. This has resulted in a sharp increase in all prices to unimaginable heights. Our January phone bill, for example, was over \$900 US, even though we could hardly use it to make calls or for dial-up. Thank God, some prices are dropping and goods and services are becoming more readily available.

Lately, we received an email from one of you who wrote, *"We're praying for you and your work. Don't lose your focus. The Lord has a plan for you and He knows how to accomplish it through you, no matter the circumstances"*. You cannot imagine how encouraged we were by that simple statement. We said, *"Yes, Lord, we're not alone. Thanks for our team"*. We recently made a major and sacrificial investment (almost \$4000) to enable us to stay in better internet contact. Our Easter email in celebration of our Savior's resurrection marked a new era, we hope.

Dhan was asked a few weeks ago to become a member of the local board of OM (formerly Operation Mobilization) now being reconstituted here. We have known this organization for many years and assisted them whenever their ship Logos was coming into Grenada. One of our regrets here has been the lack of vision of OM and YWAM, both equipping organizations. We have cleared this with Harvest's Director. We see no conflict in our involvement. In fact, we believe it would enhance our individual efforts as OM already has the infrastructure for training those whom we believe the Lord will raise up for His work.

We concluded our five weekends training with Vineyard Church in Chinoyi and are now doing an Evangelism/Discipleship program with CTR Ministries in Harare. We've also been invited to accompany a Pastor friend to Gweru (4 hours away) for a monthly meeting with 30-35 pastors whom he is mentoring. This begins on April 25, and Dhan will continue during May/June while the Pastor is in the US.

Almost daily, we're getting a better understanding of why the Lord sent us here. Although we pray for it, ultimately, our hope is not in the improvement of the world situation – be it economic or otherwise – but in the continued reign of our Sovereign Lord who is accomplishing His purposes. Like the apostle Paul, we pray that *"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"* (Col. 1:6).

God's blessings. Dhan & Dolly



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July 2009

Dear Friends,

June 25th marked the first anniversary of our arrival here as missionaries. So much has happened during this time. We've experienced record-breaking, twelve digit inflation, the closure of many businesses and scarcity of goods and services, formation of the inclusive government, the virtual abandonment of the local currency and legalization of the use of the US \$ and SA rand, the re-opening of many businesses and improved availability of goods and services but at exaggerated prices, etc. We've received an extension of our temporary residence permits but discovered that it is an annual \$500 affair. Today, what was once one of the cheapest places in the world to live in has become one of the most expensive. But there is still much to be seen and enjoyed and learned in this beautiful and amazing land.

As some of you have commented, we have been kept very busy – for which we praise God. We have had great opportunities to meet many wonderful people – pastors, church and para-church leaders, missionary candidates and other members of the Body. We cannot say too often how gracious and welcoming people have been to us.

You'll recall that, during our 2007 visit, it was clear to us that, although the church here had grown considerably in faith, they were generally not missions-minded at all. This has proven to be very true across the wide spectrum of churches. We've developed a seven module Missions Mobilization program with the objective of "equipping the Church leadership for mobilizing believers for intentional participation in world missions". We've run the entire program at one church and they have now embarked on church planting in another area. We've started it in another church and we're now using it with a group of about fifty pastors in Gweru. Yesterday, we started teaching it at a local Bible School. Sadly, the 19 students included only one church leader. We've also used a shortened version with groups of pastors/leaders at Banket and Chinoyhi. In keeping with our ministry objectives, we've taken the opportunity, whenever possible, to promote the global aspect of the Gospel and to help churches look beyond their local and national borders to the wider world.



We have now come to the conclusion that the problem is deeper than the absence of missionary fervor; it is a lack of basic discipleship. Many churches do not have a discipling program but focus on the more sensational, glamorous and spectacular aspects of ministry, often seeking to meet the needs of those with "itching ears" for their favorite topics. Not surprisingly, such efforts usually lack solid biblical content and are aimed at stirring the audiences emotionally. Yet, we are convinced that God is uniquely preparing His Church in Africa for a great move of the Spirit as He reaches, in this eleventh hour, into the areas of the world that have never heard the gospel or have no evangelical witness. This continent may never be known as bastions of democracy, good governance, equitable distribution of resources or good health care. But the Lord of the harvest will give them a significant role in taking the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world.

Although the need is widespread, we obviously cannot touch every part of this Country. We trust the Lord, therefore, to send us to those whom He will strategically place in our path so we can pour ourselves into them. Ours is a vision that the Church in Zimbabwe must catch if she is to be faithful to the Lord. But her people must ultimately be the ones to keep the flame going. Perhaps our task is to be limited to igniting a spark at strategic points. With this in mind, then, we look forward to the next year with a two pronged approach – continuing to use our present material with pastors/leaders, and developing a discipleship program aimed at reaching emerging leaders.

Thank you, dear Friend, for responding to the Lord by being a part of our team this past year. Your faithfulness is always a great source of encouragement. We always thank God for you and pray that He will meet your own needs. Here, you learn the reality of walking by faith, one day (no more!) at a time. Each of us is called to follow our Lord with our bodies yielded as living sacrifices. May you daily find great joy in doing this. Although we probably serve nearer the frontlines than you do, your role is no less vital. Thanks for your love for the Lord and your partnership with us.

God's blessings. Dhan & Dolly



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

Zimbabwe



July 28, 2009

Dear Friends

We hope you are doing well and enjoying your relationship with your heavenly Father who loves you very much. Every day is a fresh reminder to us and new reason to rejoice in "the riches of His grace that He lavished on us in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:7-8). Indeed, we are beneficiaries of His largesse which He pours out on us His children.

It is truly a pleasure to write to you with an update on our ministry here. You will remember last month, on the first anniversary of our arrival here, we shared that the Lord had led us into a two-pronged approach - one aimed at pastors/leaders with whom we would share the entire seven modules of our training program, and the other targeting younger people (future leaders) in the churches as part of a discipling program. During the following three days, a number of very significant things happened. On the day after our letter, we had a follow-up meeting with a pastor who mentors a group of about fifty pastors here in Harare. He showed them our program and they are very excited about it. They want us to meet with them over a weekend retreat to share it and we've since received confirmation of the dates - Friday July 31st through Sunday August 2nd - fifteen teaching hours in all. There is also the possibility of taking the material to another group of pastors/leaders in the southern city of Bulawayo (six hours drive away) later in the year.

The next day, Dhan met with Pastor Ricky of Greystone Park who has been a wonderful friend to us; a man with a true missionary heart. Dhan likes to meet with him monthly when he's available to 'bounce' ideas off him - much like he used to do with a certain other pastor friend in Miami not so long ago. Ricky was excited to see him and said that the visit was providential as he had lost our phone number. He was leaving at the end of that week for England and wanted Dhan to preach for the next three Sundays - on missions. He really wants his church to become serious about missions. When Dhan mentioned the discipleship program for future leaders, Ricky asked him whether he was serious as that had been on his heart for some time. He wants Dhan to develop a program for use during schools' long vacation beginning in a month's time. We have just completed this preaching assignment which turned out to be absolutely amazing. Ricky was also present on the last day. Dhan reports that the Lord gave him great freedom to preach. The messages were very well received and many indicated that the Lord had spoken to them. We are hoping for great fruit there.

A group of pastors in Banket are also asking for our help. That, we may schedule in September. We are extremely excited about all of these developments. Not only are they sure to keep us busy - we're certainly not on a vacation here - but they serve to confirm what the Lord had said to us as we evaluated our first year. Isn't the Lord just absolutely wonderful? The bigger issue, of course, is the confirmation of our original vision for this country. We are certain that God will use this country in a very significant way to reach other people with His Good News. We are certain too that this is where He wants us to be at this time.

Our Wednesday evening classes at Renewal Bible School continue until August 12th. On Saturday the 25th, we returned to Gweru for another session with the pastors there. Our last session is scheduled for the end of August. We are very encouraged by what the Lord is doing and for the fire, though yet only a flickering spark, which the Lord is lighting here. In due course, we will fade away and His people here will run with the vision. This is our hope; this is what we believe the Lord is doing. And we are so blessed to be part of it.

This has been a particularly long and harsh winter (at least, by Zimbabwe's standards), made worse by the fact that buildings are not heated. But we are kept warm by the undiluted love of our heavenly Father, the comforting and encouraging fellowship of loved ones and the unquenched knowledge of the Lord's pleasure in all that He does.

Many of you responded to our last mailing by sending a gift to our mission office. We are deeply grateful to you and praise God every day for your partnership with us. We know we are especially blessed by your fellowship in the gospel.

As you pray:

1. Give thanks for God's favor upon our lives
2. Give thanks with us for the response to this ministry - among pastors and others at Chinoyi, Gweru, Banket, Renewal Fellowship, and elsewhere; for the pulpit ministry at Greystone Park
3. Give thanks for the measure of health we are enjoying, for the way the Lord has been caring for us and supplying our needs
4. Pray for God's grace upon us as we continue at Renewal Fellowship and Gweru, and for this weekend's retreat, and that Dhan, in particular, will minister in the power of the Holy Spirit
5. Pray for wisdom as we schedule future requests - we believe we ought to give priority to the specific mission that we have been sent here to do i.e. 'mobilizing and equipping the church's leadership for preparing believers for intentional participation in world missions'.

In Christ,

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

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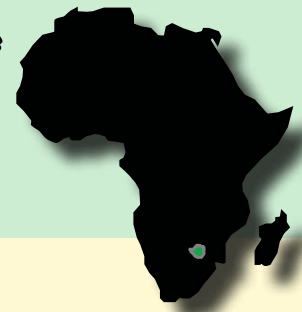
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Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



Zimbabwe



November 2009

Dear Friends,

We recently began studying Revelation (the least-read part of the Bible?) for our morning devotions and what a joy it has been. We noted the frequency and intensity of worship, and the fervency and selflessness of the worshippers. But equally stirring is the plight of the ungodly - those who do not worship the One who is the beginning and the end. We were struck afresh by the certainty of the coming judgment and that everything takes place according to God's sovereign plan and purpose, so that when the precisely-ordained moment arrives, no one and nothing can cause it to be postponed or diverted. We read,

for example, that men would call out to the mountains and rocks to fall on them so they would be hidden from the face of the Lord and His wrath (6:16). In 9:6, when faced with torture by locusts sent by God, men seek death but would not find it.



Dhan teaching a class at Renewal Center, Harare

This is scary stuff indeed. But while it awakens in us a fresh appreciation for the Lord's salvation, it leads us to a greater sense of urgency in reaching the lost. The Lord is constantly reminding us of why we are in this part of the world. Although we greatly miss our loved ones in the west, we are driven to get on with the work that He has assigned to us here.

There are already so many significant and interesting things that are happening. We see, for example, a greater interest in churches and believers working together "with one mind for the faith of the gospel". We find, also, an increasing awareness among churches of the need and commitment to take the gospel to every people group in this nation and continent. There are leadership changes and mergers among Christian organizations. More leaders

are becoming sensitive to the need to have the Church mobilized for missions. This, in turn, is exposing the urgent need to help churches develop Bible-based discipleship ministries. Yes, there is an awful lot of work to be done here but it sure seems like the Lord is setting the stage for something really great; not temporal but truly eternal.



Seminar in Gweru



Worship time at a seminar in Harare

We are greatly encouraged by these developments and are moving along the same track. We praise God that He has shown us these things and are deeply grateful to Him for the privilege of being part of what is happening here.



Kids taking their offering to the altar

Many of you labor to make this mission possible and we give God thanks for every aspect of your partnership with us – whether through prayer, financial support or performing tasks on our behalf at great personal sacrifice. God is using your partnership with us to bless many others also. And so, we never cease to thank Him for you and your faithfulness. We pray for you often and always make mention of you at our seminars.

On October 25th, Grenada celebrated its thanksgiving and as we recounted our pre and post “intervention” experiences, we could not help but marvel at God’s goodness and how He has used those difficult times to prepare us for our present posting.

We wish you, our dear friends in the U.S, Happy Thanksgiving. We have fond memories of sharing Thanksgiving dinners with some of you. Thank you for grafting us into your family. .



Seminar in Gweru



Dhan’s 65th Birthday

*May God’s blessing abound towards you and yours,
and may you daily grow in the consciousness of His unsolicited,
undiluted, unconditional love for you.*

In Christ,

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

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