



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee Zimbabwe



Take time to smell the roses.

When at home in Harare, we are often working towards finishing projects while the power is on or before we leave for ministry outside Harare and so we often fail to stop and enjoy the beautiful sunsets, moonlit nights, sunrises or the many other beautiful things that God has provided for our enjoyment.

Last week in Gweru, we were privileged to conduct seminars in two different locations some 20km apart. People were open, the interaction was great and we remain excited at what the Lord is doing both among the City pastors and in the township of Mkoba. As is typical of this life, there were some challenges too. But we thank God that even in those situations we could see His hand.

*“This is my Father’s world; He shines in all that’s fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.”*

Two seminars back to back is hard work and so we were thankful to God for providing free of charge to us, a guest house at Antelope Park where guests boast of ‘walking with the lions’.

It was a joy to just enjoy nature –the vegetation, animals etc - at the end of a tiring day. On evenings, we would sit on the porch and watch the impala grazing in the distance. At night we would hear the lions marking their turf and on mornings we would watch the hornbill greet us by pecking at the glass windows or incurring Dhan’s wrath as it tried to make breakfast of our windscreen wipers! The added bonus was the fleeting visits of the waterbuck and kudu.

As I reflected on creation and the beauty around us, it hit me afresh that many tourists travel to other countries mainly to enjoy God’s handiwork. It is as we enjoy the sunset, marvel at the view from a mountaintop or just lie on the lawn and enjoy the movement of the clouds that the tensions of the day are peeled off and God’s peace envelops our souls.

A recent visit to the doctor revealed that I am hypertensive and taking meds of any kind is not one of my favorite things. While in Gweru, our stay at Antelope Park helped me de-stress. Pray with me that I will be disciplined enough to take time to *smell the roses!*





Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

Zimbabwe



January 2010

Dear Friends,

Perhaps it was the frequent power cuts (worst we've had since arriving here), or the low voltage whenever we have power, but so many churches this past Christmas focused on Jesus Christ as the Light of the world. It was a fresh reminder to us that we do live in a dark and fallen world that seems bent on inventing new ways of portraying and promoting that darkness and of getting rid of the light altogether. But, Praise God, the darkness can never overcome the light even though it has been trying its best to do so ever since (John 1:5). In fact, we are assured that it is the light that overcomes the darkness. God's Word tells us that and history bears it out too.

We hope you had a very meaningful Christmas time and pray that 2010 would be a year of growth in your knowledge of the Lord and of His will for you. We are now reading over Romans and have been greatly encouraged by what the Lord has to say to us. Life is full of challenges that seem to grow bigger with each passing year. It is so wonderful to know the Lord and to have a sense of purpose that transcends the hassles of each day.

During the past three months, we shared our time between ministry engagements and helping to finish the cottage next to Dolly's sister's home where we have been for the past nineteen months. Although we enjoyed our time and enjoyed every comfort and benefit as part of the family, we longed for some more flexibility and independence, not to mention being able to unpack our things in storage since our arrival. Our ministry commitments prevent a swift move but, thank God, we are now in the process. Words cannot describe how great Dhan felt to have the freedom of his own study as he prepared for our Gweru seminar earlier this month.

As we open boxes with items we have not seen since May 2008, we are moved to two responses. We marvel at how well the Lord has kept them (only one mug suffered a chip) as they travelled by trailer, ship, crane, train, forklift, truck and human hands and then in storage. Truly, the Lord who cares for the sparrow also undertakes for every detail of our lives. But fond memories of friends in Miami who helped us pack, move and load the trailer flood our minds. We've dismissed the idea that you were glad to see us go. So we give God thanks for every one of you, for your gallant efforts then and your commitment to the cause of Christ. How often we recall you and your labor of love. You are all very precious to us.

High on our agenda for 2010 is our continued monthly visits to Gweru. From February 1, we'll start with a second group of churches there and spend three days with each group. We'll begin with our Missions Mobilization program which covers the areas of the authority of Scripture; the purpose, form, growth and leadership of the church; the Kingdom of God and the Church's response to God's commission. We trust the Lord to show participants the broad sweep of God's plan that they might catch the vision and get involved in it. This inevitably leads us into discipleship training which we have already started with our first group there. Many churches are not discipleship oriented and have nothing in place towards this end. Yet, we continue to be convinced that the

Lord has a special place for the Church in Africa in the accomplishment of the Great Commission. So we see discipleship as an urgent need without which they cannot understand missions nor be involved in any meaningful way.

In addition, we expect to be partnering with churches in Harare and other cities in this ministry. There is much to be done here and we want to be faithful in responding to the opportunities the Lord opens up for us. That is why the completion of the cottage was so important to us. This year promises to be a very busy one. We expect that there would be challenges all along the way and for this we request your prayers.

Please join us in praying for:

1. Political and economic stability
2. Continued freedom of worship
3. Good rainfall and a good year's harvest
4. A rich harvest of spirituality among churches
5. Growing awareness of churches of the Lord's plan for the world and their part in it.

Thank you for your love and support.

In Christ,

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

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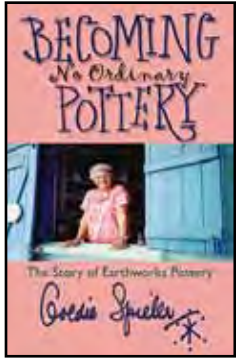


Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

Zimbabwe



God has used a number of His servants in the discipleship process in my life. One of those is a very dear British lady, Shirley Harbour, whose smile was as infectious as her love for the Lord and His word. Through her, I developed a love for the scriptures as together we studied God's word in my early Christian days in Watford, England. It was then that Jeremiah's experience in the potter's house (Jer. 18:2-4) became very meaningful to me. In fact, I even entertained thoughts of becoming a potter!



We recently received an autographed copy of a book, "Becoming No Ordinary Potter" from our friend and sister in the Lord, Goldie. A completed Jew, born in Canada and now a Barbadian citizen whose heart is torn between her two homes, Barbados and Israel!

The book is autobiographical. The pottery pieces that she has created reflect her love of color, nature, architecture, her painting, needlepoint skills and more. Those of us who know her work can recognize it anywhere.



Similarly, our heavenly Father, the Master Potter, uses all our experiences, even the seemingly terrible ones, to create the tapestry of our lives and to fashion us into vessels through which His glory can be revealed. Eph. 2:10 reminds us we are God's workmanship (work of art) created in Christ Jesus unto good works...

Looking back at our own lives, we see how He has used our background and every aspect of our lives to prepare us for ministry here in Zimbabwe. We continue to marvel at His networking and how He has placed people strategically so He can accomplish His purposes in and through us.

Much of our ministry here takes us into the "high density" areas where we work with pastors and leaders who daily face conditions that those of us in the west cannot imagine living in.

Our western culture and our compassionate hearts cry out, demanding that we roll up our sleeves and meet some of those needs. Wisdom (we believe, godly) restrains us. He has used us in the past to bless certain individuals and no doubt He will continue do so as He sees fit, but we are increasingly conscious of the fact that our so-called help can easily hinder the Master Potter's work in the lives of these individuals.

As we have mentioned before, the faces of missions and missionaries are fast changing.

Compared to the western missionary, it costs little to keep us on the field and it will cost much less to keep the Zimbabwean believer whom God has been uniquely preparing over the years of hyper-inflation, economic and social hardships, etc, etc.

This past week, a pastor invited to his home to pray with his family. God had blessed them with a home and he wanted us to join him in giving thanks. His home is a simple, incomplete, two-roomed house, yet he was so full of praise to God for this blessing! After we had prayed with him, we learnt that he had a house guest, a church-planter, who had been conducting open air meetings in the front yard at night.

It is difficult not to shed a tear or two when we pray for some of these pastors, their living conditions and family needs. Yet they have such a spirit of thankfulness. It is just a marvel to see what God is doing in their hearts and lives.

Please pray for them and for us as we work together, with you, for the expansion of His kingdom.



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



Zimbabwe

April 2010

Dear Ministry Partners,

At the end of our first scheduled seminar in Gweru two weeks ago, we drove to Bulawayo to meet our friends, Gordon & Marilyn Woolard, who had arrived the preceding day to assist the Presbyterian Church there for the next six months. This was a special treat. Though MTW missionaries, they have been attached during the past five years to Ministries In Action with whom we served until 2008. It was a rare pleasure and blessing to reminisce, catch up on friends (especially as Gordon had only recently been to Grenada), and share our experiences and our vision for this country of paradoxes on this amazing continent. We believe that their presence here at this time is no mere accident but part of the Lord's wonderful purposes.



Our first three days in Gweru were with a group of sixteen Baptist leaders. Last month, we started with them on missions and have now begun a series on discipleship as a logical follow-up. The plan is to continue for the next several months, although we are aware that this subject can hardly be taught only in a classroom. It is such a pleasure working with this group. The senior Pastor, Pieter Albasini ("Albie"), has a real heart for the people. He is very keen and attentive and it is not unusual for him to share with us, midway in the seminar, changes he proposes to make, e.g. introducing a teaching session before Sunday worship. Our second group in Mkoba, Gweru with whom we began last April, is in need of a new venue and we were not able to meet with them this time.



From what we have seen, few churches have Sunday School, discipleship or other forms of formal teaching programs and depend almost exclusively on preaching. You will hardly find a more religious (not Christian) people anywhere in the world. And because the Church is held in high esteem, starting a church is the easiest thing. Consequently, there is an abundance of small, independent churches. People readily respond to the gospel or just about any other message that is preached, especially if it is from the Old Testament. The same quality that renders them willing to listen to genuine servants of God, also makes them easy prey to the JW's, Mormons, and loads of indigenous religions and others parading under the name "Christian".

At the same time, we continue to be convinced that God brought us here to mobilize His people for world missions because He will 'choose the foolish things of the world to confound the wise ...' (1 Cor. 1:27ff). In past letters, we mentioned significant things happening as the Lord prepares His Church for a very meaningful role in reaching the unreached people groups in Africa and beyond. We also have a deep and growing sense of urgency in this mission. Granted, for some, this sounds like foolishness, nonsense, illogical. But in the Lord's agenda, it makes perfect sense.

So we are not discouraged or frustrated. Rather, we press on with renewed determination, knowing that our Lord has the entire plan and all resources at His disposal and will continue to deploy His forces strategically as He wages war on the forces of evil that are, at this very moment, raging and breathing out fire even on the Lord's people. We write this letter not merely to give you information that you can keep abreast of what we are up to and to feed your prayers, but also to encourage your heart knowing that these are very difficult times for many who see the future as very bleak. The Lord is in control and He is our hope.

You continue to bless us by your faithfulness to the Lord and this ministry. Your efforts count far, far more than you will ever know this side of eternity.



Prayer Requests

As you pray, please remember:

- Pastor Albie and others as they implement the changes which they feel led to; for courage to persevere despite opposition and even a loss of funding
- A convenient venue for the Mkoba group and a new coordinator
- Prospective groups in Kwe Kwe and Redcliffe areas (3 hours away)
- The many pastors in Harare who want us to work with them but are finding it difficult to schedule
- Our weekly Bible studies here in Harare

Above all, please join us in praising God for His love and favor towards us, for health and His continued provision.

In Christ,

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

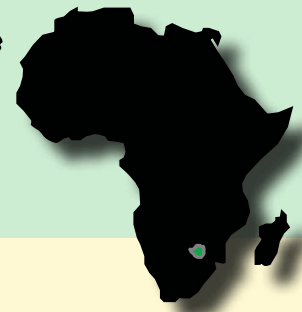
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Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



Zimbabwe

June 2010

Dear Friends,

We recently watched the movie “Candle in the Night” and were moved to tears at the severe hardships suffered by William Carey, the “Father of Modern Missions”, and his family. Though he often questioned whether he had really heard God’s voice calling him to India, he persevered against all odds. The contribution God used him to make to the work of the gospel in the sub-continent, indeed the world, is a matter of history.

In another couple weeks, we will be completing two years of ministry here. Compared to Carey, our experience has been a ‘piece of cake’. Yes, we had a ten-week saga with renewing our annual work/residence permits but, praise the Lord, they have been granted. We live in a beautiful country. However, the contrasts and difficulties - culturally, economically, socially, politically, etc - threaten to undo us at times. But we thank God that the two of us have always been united in our understanding of God’s leading. He has always made His will known to us independently of each other, giving us certainty in our mission and a singleness of purpose.

The boat taking Carey to India was over three months on the high seas. Those were not the days of telephone, internet, messenger or skype; even ‘snail mail’ was a rarity. It does not appear that they had much, if any, contact with relatives or friends back in England.

In contrast, we are so blessed. Sure, we miss family and friends. But hardly our email goes out before we receive a response from some of you. Despite the economic woes, and even the new challenges which have surfaced since the US dollar became legal tender here, the Lord continues to provide for us through your faithfulness in giving. We also know that you pray for us so we try our best to keep you informed of what we are up to. Some of our emails bounce back so please let us have your updated email addresses. Between our letters sent via the post office, we also e-mail updates. If you have not been receiving them, it may be that we don’t have your e-mail address. Please let us know.

Our ministry is at a very interesting point. Every month, we spend one week in Gweru and Mkoba with two groups of pastors/leaders. Next week, we will also be in Chegutu for three days for the start of monthly seminars with a group of over fifty. There is also a church 45 minutes from Harare with whom we work. Soon more groups in other rural parts (some we’ve never been to before) will be scheduled. Pastors we now work alongside tell us we will be very busy in the near future. This will mean even less time at home in Harare. Many pastors are quickly recognizing the need to have good discipleship programs and they need help – fast. We believe the Lord wants to recruit more workers to join in this ministry.



*Dhan meeting with
Pastor Farair Mwarumba*

This morning, we attended a service where a young woman, who has been raising support and being trained for the foreign mission field for the past two years, was presented to her church as their first missionary. We've known her almost as long as we've been here and have been meeting with her weekly since then. She leaves later this year to work in an African Muslim nation. There are others to follow. Without a doubt, the Lord is preparing this country for a great move of the Spirit worldwide.

We recently received an invitation from a partnering Church in the US to attend their annual Missions Conference in October. The theme – “Eyes of Africa”!! What a privilege to be involved in this work at this time. What a great blessing to be partnered by you.

Thank you, dear Friend, for your unfailing support for this ministry. May our heavenly Father, who will be no man's debtor, provide all of your needs and daily assure you of His great love for you and yours. As you pray, please remember our many engagements, the pastors whom we work alongside, our proposed trip in September/October and our family.

Your co-laborers,

Dhan and Dolly Lalsee
Harare, Zimbabwe
Africa



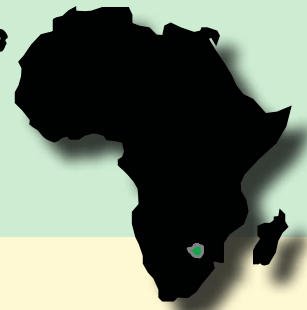
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Zimbabwe

August 2010

Dear Friends

We have just completed three amazing seminars – at Mkoba, Gweru and Chegutu. In each case, the attendance is now down to a hard core of participants whom we sense are really committed and are desirous of growing in the Lord. Although the numbers are disappointing (considering the initial response), we are NOT discouraged. Some of the attendees have expressed the hope that we would not give up on them and we are happy to assure them that we are with them for the long haul. We find too that smaller classes facilitate group discussion and interaction and we are better able to build meaningful relationships with them. What we found particularly encouraging was the participants' grasp of the material which was not apparent earlier. We truly praise God for that.



Speaking thru an interpreter at a school building in Chegutu

In just a few days, we leave Zimbabwe for seven weeks – August 21 to October 13. Although the "Eyes of Africa" Missions Conference in NY is the main reason for our trip, we are taking the opportunity to visit you our treasured partners, family and friends in the US and Caribbean, not knowing when we will be that way again. Unfortunately, we will not be able to visit everyone but we are looking forward to seeing several of you. In fact, we are really excited.

We know it will be difficult to leave you when the time comes but this will be balanced by the sheer joy of returning to our ministry here. Soon after our return, we resume a full slate of appointments. We have new groups desiring to get started with us. A third one in Gweru, with over 100 pastors, is due to be launched on December 10 and 11; others (in Redcliffe, Masvingo, Chitunguza and Beitbridge on the South African border) must wait until 2011, in the will of the Lord. Please pray for the existing groups, that they would be faithful in studying the material and that the Lord will continue to reveal Himself to them and to maintain that vital tension in their walk with Him.



Cooking lunch on the school grounds after the church service

We are also preparing to host a team of 20 persons from Jamaica, November 18 to December 4. They will be working in Dziveresekwa (Dz) pouring the floor of a new church building and helping with laying the brick walls. They will also have school and open-air ministry. Please pray that the Lord will provide their travel funds and for the logistical arrangements to be made for their visit. And please also ask our Father to raise up more workers to help with the work here. Indeed, the laborers are very few but the harvest is truly great!

We have a 'million' things to put in place before we leave, including one preaching engagement and a few appointments with pastors. Oh, how we need the Lord's grace upon us. Thanks for joining us at the mercy seat. See you soon, we hope! Grace and peace to you.

In Christ,
Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

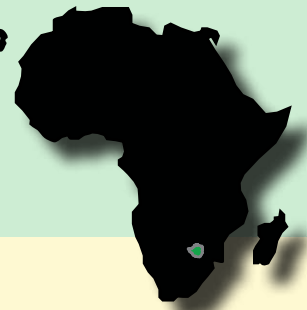
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Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



Zimbabwe

November 2010

"This is the day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Dear Friends,

Greetings from beautiful Zimbabwe where the exotic jacaranda have yielded to the flamboyant and frangipani, blooming in their splendor! How we wish we could be as excited over our power supply, phone and internet services!

It is two months since our return to Zimbabwe after our whirlwind trip to the US and Caribbean via London. It was a most hectic schedule with very limited time between appointments, but we are so thankful to God for the privilege of speaking to so many churches, seeing family and several of you, as well as fellow laborers. We deeply regret that we were not able to see all of you, or even chat on the phone, but we trust the Lord to make it happen when He next opens a window of opportunity to travel to your side of the world.

We are also very thankful to our heavenly Father and to all of you whom He used to make our trip a reality and for the joy it brought us. Thank you also for your gracious hospitality and the multiplicity of ways you demonstrated the love of Christ to us. The Missions Conference in New York, the primary purpose of our visit, was a tremendous blessing. Among other things, the Lord used it to encourage us, validate our ministry and challenge us afresh.

Our return to Zimbabwe was marked by a 22 hour power cut! Two days later, we left for Mkoba and Gweru to hold 2 three day seminars. Since then, we have conducted four more seminars, spent several hours on the road traveling between Gweru, Mkoba, Redcliffe, Chegutu and Harare, prepared materials for upcoming seminars, and met with pastors to schedule ministry for next year.

All of this, together with an accumulation of tiredness, account for your not hearing from us before now. But we assure you, though, we are otherwise doing well.

We look forward to a change of pace in December, and a two or three day break in January to recharge our batteries before commencing our 2011 schedule. Next year promises to be challenging, and no less demanding. Since we will be spending two weeks per month in or near Gweru, we are looking for a small cottage or flat in that area.

We praise God for:

- keeping the different groups while we were away
- the two Timothies from the Chegutu group who have begun to pass on what they have been taught
- keeping us healthy and safe on the roads (many accidents here)
- for our mechanic and the suspension-replacement job he did on our car at a discounted price

Please pray for:

- a spirit of wisdom and revelation (Eph. 1:17) for us as we study and prepare materials for seminars, and for participants as they study
- for suitable accommodation in the Gweru area
- for more Timothies!

In Christ,

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

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