



ZIMBABWE MISSIONS

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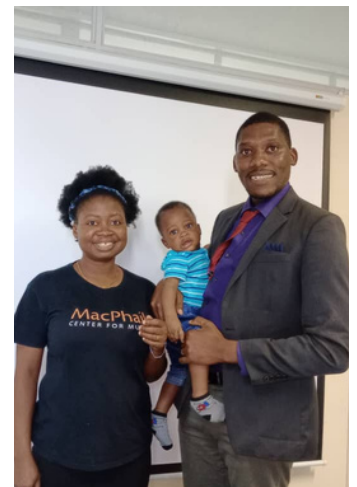
The Ministry At Mbembesi Church of Christ



The Lord's work at Mbembesi is continuing, albeit slowly, but we have seen a lot of progress, especially in these past months. Some of the challenges we have faced include low attendance at both our Sunday services as well as at our feedings for the children in the community. Another obstacle we have faced has been with the local village leaders. Despite these and other challenges, we have seen God turn the negatives into positives. We have sat down as a team to evaluate and identify actions we need to take to keep planting and watering in the Mbembesi village. Some of the items we have implemented include more member-home-visitations and door-to-door evangelism. We have also taken advantage of the foot traffic on church grounds due to the well we have onsite. Dube and Dzuwanani have been making it a point to go meet community members by the well, and as a result, the church has since been seeing more visitors making an appearance at church services. Similarly, this has helped boost the number of children at our feedings as well. Although we have faced challenges along the way, we remain optimistic about the future of Mbembesi. What has been encouraging is seeing seven people thus far this year put on Jesus our Savior in baptism,

Additional Team Members

Meet Gerald Dzuwanani, a Zimbabwean native who pursued his passion for Bible studies at the Mutare School of Preaching. He was later given the opportunity to expand his knowledge in Nigeria at the School of Biblical Studies in Jos. While studying there, he met his wife Cynthia, who is originally from Nigeria. Both of them graduated with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Christian Religion in May 2019. Gerald also holds a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Great Zimbabwe University. Prior to joining the Zimbabwe Missions family in 2023, they served at the Chivhu Church of Christ since 2020. In 2022, they were blessed with a son named Kieth, who was born on the 22nd of April.



Low Enrollment Forces Temporary Closure of School: A Chance to Evaluate Strategies and Explore Opportunities



We were thrilled to reopen our school this year, but unfortunately, enrollment numbers were lower than expected. As a result, we had to make the difficult decision to temporarily close the school. However, this setback has given us an opportunity to evaluate our marketing and recruitment strategies. We know that this Christian education is needed in the Bulwayo community, as evidenced by the feedback from former students. Nevertheless, cultural attitudes toward the importance and benefits of Christian education are a challenge.



Currently, we operate as a part-time school, offering classes in two-week intervals every six weeks, and do not provide accommodation as we operate the school at our Zimbabwe Missions offices. Some students have cited the lack of accommodations as a reason not to enroll, while others find it difficult to take time off work for 12 weeks a year. Although our school fees are competitively affordable at \$100 per class (excluding government fees), raising funds for schooling can be challenging in Zimbabwe's harsh economic climate.



We are actively exploring various avenues to make our school more attractive and convince more people of the importance of Christian education. We remain optimistic about the future of ASBM, and we believe it will play a pivotal role in the Lord's work in Zimbabwe, even in getting the church to be self-funding and self-sustaining.



Our team humbly requests your prayers as we plan for the 2024 school year.

Boosting Enrollment for Our School: Recent Efforts and Future Plans

As previously mentioned, our school has been temporarily closed due to low enrollment numbers. However, our team has come together to brainstorm ideas and initiatives to increase awareness of our institution. One strategy we've employed is hosting workshops at our offices and promoting our school to attendees. We've already hosted two successful workshops – one in May for youths and another in June for men – with 41 and 16 attendees, respectively. We have another planned for July for women. We were proud that in both workshops the guest speakers were former students from the first class of ASBM.

In addition to workshops, we've also taken our message to various church events in Bulawayo, including the Big Sunday event and the Southern African International Lectureship 2023 held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. At both events, we had a booth set up and gathered the names of interested potential students. We plan to continue attending churchwide lectureships and events and also visit congregations directly to meet with prospective students one-on-one.

Furthermore, we're reaching out to individuals and congregations who may be willing to provide housing for students who live far from the school. We are prayerfully preparing for next year's school year and ask for your support and prayers as we petition for this school before the Lord.



Update on This Year's Mission Trips



We've had a busy year with two missions already completed! In March and April, Katie Mpofu, along with her daughter and mother, embarked on the first mission trip. The second trip was in June, with William Glover and his brother Luke. Despite the Mpofus being stranded in the USA, both teams were a huge morale boost for our Zimbabwean team. Katie played a small role in supporting ASBM's marketing and advertising initiatives during the 2023 Southern African International Lectureships, held at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo. She also assisted the team with some office work. On the other trip, William and Luke proved to be valuable assets, assisting with construction at the Mbembesi Church of Christ by building a chicken coop and helping with pavilion construction. We would love to host you too in Zimbabwe. Reach out to book your trip.

Over 700 Students Fed

In an effort to spread the gospel through good deeds, we teamed up with the Mbembesi Church of Christ to provide meals to students at Cameron Primary School in Mbembesi. Through their time, funds, resources and energy, the members of Mbembesi demonstrated their commitment to evangelizing their community. We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to this significant and impactful mission effort.



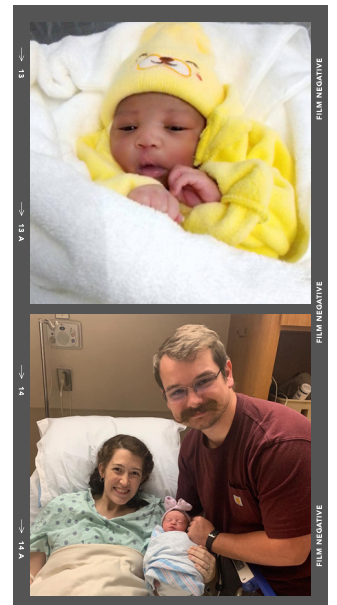
Recapping Our Experience at the Freed-Hardeman University Lectureships and Missions Group Retreat

In February, we had the pleasure of attending the FHU lectureships. This event provided a fantastic opportunity to connect with potential supporters for our work, as well as engage with students who may be interested in participating in mission trips to Zimbabwe. Recently, Nkosi and Katie were invited to the FHU Missions Group Retreat in Mississippi, which lasted for an entire weekend in April. The theme of the retreat was "Ambassadors for Christ," derived from 2 Corinthians 5:20. During the event, they were able to interact with a group of missions-oriented students and share their experiences and advice for those considering a future in mission work.



CELEBRATING NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEAMMATES' FAMILIES

Our Zimbabwe Missions team is expanding! We are thrilled to announce that two of our teammates recently welcomed healthy baby girls. In April, the Dube family welcomed Kezia (top right), and the Glover family welcomed Loraine (bottom right). We are overjoyed for these families and look forward to watching their little ones grow in the faith. Let us come together and offer prayers of gratitude for our fellow teammates.



Mbembesi Church of Christ Construction Progress Update

We are thrilled to announce that the construction of the Mbembesi Church of Christ is well underway. Our latest addition, the pavilion, is almost complete, replacing the makeshift tent where we used to worship. The church's sign has also been installed, adding to the completed structures like the standalone baptistry, kitchen, chicken coop, and bathrooms. The remaining structure to be built is a two-roomed multipurpose building.

In addition to the building efforts, the church members have started a garden. The garden is meant to complement the chicken coop in contributing to the feeding ministry and other church activities like fellowship meals. We are grateful for the hardworking members of the Mbembesi community who have stepped up time and again to participate in all these building and construction projects. To the right and below are pictures of the members working tirelessly in the Lord's kingdom. Please keep the Mbembesi Church of Christ in your prayers as we continue to grow and progress.





ZIMBABWE



Eagerly sharing Jesus through faith and works!

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