

May 2009

Dear Friends,

I arrived in the United States in mid-April and my time here has flown by. It has been a wonderful and overwhelming experience. I have met new friends as well as connecting with many long-time supporters. I can't begin to tell you how blessed, double-blessed and triple-blessed I have been.

I did want to share a few highlights. It is my goal to travel to at least one other state when I come here, as I have supporters spread from coast to coast. This trip I visited friends in Tampa, Florida and was introduced to a wonderful congregation there, First Baptist Church College Hill. While in the Denver area, I was introduced to two new groups/congregations (Castle Pines and Arvada) and was blessed to overflowing by all. Christ Church Denver, my church home in the States, also put on a drive for donations and we had a terrific turnout. Boxes will be coming for quite awhile, I expect! Thanks to all of you who made these wonderful donations. And finally, I was given the gift of over 100 hand-tailored dresses and outfits for the children of Zimbabwe. A big thank-you to Marcel Antoinette for this much-needed and much-appreciated gift. Folks from all over the area have contributed children's underwear so each recipient will receive new undies as well as a new outfit. The children will be so excited and so appreciative. I can hardly wait to get these home, as the weather is turning colder and there is much need for clothing.

Our concern has been raising enough funding to continue the support of the ministries in Zimbabwe as well as the new ministry and distribution center in Francistown, Botswana. We have been encouraged by the early numbers and ask you to pray that God will continue to provide so we can continue to minister to the people of Zimbabwe wherever we find them.

As many of you know, the past year has been wrought with personal difficulties. The scare of the interrogation of one of my guests by the secret police, the subsequent move to Botswana, the ongoing slow responsiveness of the Botswana government, and the intrusive robbery had all left me somewhat drained and in need of the healing touch of God and his people. This trip has provided many opportunities for this healing to occur and I am thankful for each and every one of them.

I again ask you to continue your prayers. The situation in Zim is still volatile and desperate. As winter approaches and with resources still very limited, it will be a difficult and deadly season for many. I continue to wait for permission to enter the refugee camps. Please pray that God will make clear whether this is a direction I should continue to pursue or not. I also need discernment concerning the possibility of counseling with children in crisis in Francistown. As always please pray for protection of all of the ZRF staff, our comings and goings and for safe arrival and transport of all donations and supplies.

The outpouring of love, supplies, encouragement and sacrifice of time and treasure has been astounding. I am gob-smacked and deeply humbled by how the Lord has been and continues to be working through all of you. I return home, recharged and ready to tackle the work ahead. My heartfelt and grateful thanks to you all.

In Christ's love,

Delene