



Figure 1: Delivery of nutritious herbs and plants at St Francis Wellness Garden, Shurugwi

Transvaal, Zimbabwe & Botswana Association (TZABA) Easter 2022

EASTER GREETINGS FROM ALL THE TZABA COMMITTEE

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From the Chairman, Carl Garner

An Easter Message

"You will hear of wars, and rumours of wars, .. nations shall rise against nations, there will be earthquakes..and famines in sundry places, and pestilences,... they shall lay hands upon you and persecute you.." These words from the Gospels (Lk 21.8ff) sound so much like a description of what has been happening in the last few years – Terrorist attacks, Covid worldwide, drought and famine and floods in various places, attacks on people just for being Christians in certain countries, and barbaric acts of war.

Similarly, the words of Jesus to his followers in the 1st century are words to his followers in all centuries, they are words to us now: "Be not disheartened, I have overcome the world..." (Jn 16:33) Human malice, ignorance, stupidity, hostility and general sinfulness came to a head in the passion and death of our Lord on the cross, but this was not the end of the story. He had experienced mortal pain and death, and the spiritual onslaught of evil. But those who thought that they had got rid of him for good were the ones to be disappointed: For God raised him transformed from the dead and glorified him.

Darkness will not prevail. The light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (Jn 1.5). Jesus' promise to those who have faith in him to be with them for ever (Mtth 28.20), is true now, as is his the promise of the Holy Spirit with its comfort strength and guidance, and forgiveness for the penitent. The Gospel is for the whole world. The promises are for all believers. The troubles too are well nigh universal. And so we in TZABA continue in prayer and in the degree of support we are able to give to the Anglican Church in the Capricorn belt of Africa, for its witness to Jesus in word and deed. For "It is true! The Lord has risen" (Lk 24:33). Alleluia."

Masvingo Province

The Diocese has adopted the passage from 1 Samuel 7: "Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it **Ebenezer** (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the LORD has helped us!" Our vision is to strive to fulfill all the five Marks of Mission in all that we do as a Church. A vision needs a visionary, and in this case the Anglican Diocese of Masvingo is very grateful to the visionary leadership of the Lord Bishop Godfrey Tawonezwi for us to be where we are now and celebrate, "Ebenezer!"

The Water Health and Sanitation Project at **St. Peter's Beitbridge** installed a borehole. The initial borehole which was drilled up to 45 metres was further deepened with an extra 50 metres, cased and had all installations done including the solar panels and solar powered submersible pump.



Figure 2: The Water Tank for St Peters Beitbridge

The Development Office made visits to several **Wellness Groups** in the Diocese, sharing with them the message of hope and resilience during COVID 19.

The Diocese has crop and animal farming projects at **Daramombe Mission Farm**. A Caretaker's house was built up to ring beam level and only roofing and plumbing work is outstanding. A geophysical borehole survey was done and thereafter drilling of a 70m well/ borehole was done in October last and installation of 2x500ltr water tanks, 2 water tank stands, solar pump, solar panels and all plumbing work was done in November 2021. The water reticulation facilities are meant to water fast growing vegetables and crops for sale at the farm, especially during the dry season. A water pump is expected to be procured in order to augment water for other crops and vegetables through flood irrigation.



Figure 3: Installation of water facilities at Daramombe Mission Farm

The pen-fattening stalls for the 9 cattle meant for beef production are being re-done. In partnership with Diocese of Fond du Lac (USA), we look forward to procure dairy cows and start dairy production within the Mission. Our key market for the milk is Daramombe High School and the surrounding community.

Matabeleland Province

The **Mothers Union Sewing Project** is a community based project to train, equip and commercialise the sewing of church uniforms. These include clergy dress, MU uniforms and other Guilds uniforms. Altar linen is also part of the output.

The project provides benefit for young mothers who are not gainfully employed elsewhere due to the many economic challenges facing the country, and it also helps to make the Mum a financially self-sustaining entity.

Central Province

A number of projects are underway in the Diocese, some of which TZABA is supporting. **Habern Park** is expanding as a centre for demonstration of environmental management and smart agriculture. They have constructed a palisade fence for the training hall, set up beehives, solar water pumping, additional accommodation and rabbitry.

The Diocese have also managed to employ a second worker for the Centre who once went through some Agricultural training at an institution in the country.

The curriculum is being developed and does have practical bias.

We looking forward to link the centre to Midlands State University and Kaguvi Agricultural Training centre as well as Maso Climate Smart Agriculture Centre .



Figure 4: Habern Park installation for solar pumping

The **Tecla Chikakai Chicken Project** has now been on the go for over 2 years. It is providing excellent data and experience in the development of such a project, and is continuing to support families.



Figure 5: Brooding chickens

Manicaland Province

TZABA have sent out funds to help build a rectory at All Saints Church in Zimunya. The Church has been in existence since the early 70s where people used to worship in their homes and were visited by the Priests from the Parishes in town. It continued like that for many years until the early 90s when the people started to think of having a Church building for worship.

Since the Establishment of the Church in the early 90s Zimbabwe has been struggling economically with prices of commodities beyond the reach of many hence it has been difficult for the community to fully fund the construction works at the Church but with the little they had they managed to have a Church building, cottage and a stand. It clearly shows a great commitment on their part.

The economic situation worsened 10 years later with hyperinflation causing the people not to afford anything but just to worship God and those years from 2000 to date they have been struggling even to contribute monthly assessments to the Diocese. Covid 19 that came in December 2019 made everything worse. The lockdowns introduced by many nations to fight Covid 19 affected the Church financially because

many of the members are entrepreneurs who were forced to close business for several months. Weekly collections were brought to zero and the Church could not afford to do any project. This year alone Churches have been closed from January to March and then June to September.

When they open again for worship the Government has been limiting the numbers of people to between 50 and 100 making it difficult for meaningful contributions from the members. All Saints Zimunya was equally affected despite their many efforts to do construction under very difficult economic environment.



Figure 6: All Saints Zimunya Rectory at ring beam level

TZABA is pleased to be able to contribute towards this project.

Diocese of Botswana

COVID IMPACT & EXPERIENCES

With the Covid pandemic and the government instituted regulations churches limited number of church services and people in attendance. Participation in churches and organisations dropped affecting revenues significantly. That birthed online church services, prayer groups and meetings via online or social media.

In 2022 there are no limits to numbers of service and of people allowed to attend if sanitizing and social distancing are maintained. The church is alive again. Groups including Anglican Men's Fellowship, Anglican Women's Fellowship, Guilds, Mothers Union, Sunday School, and Youth are now meeting in person.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Diocese of Botswana was born on 24th June 1972, that is, 50 years ago this year, on the feast of St. John the Baptist. The golden jubilee is being celebrated with thanksgiving events throughout the year and Diocese. There will be branded attire, sponsored walks, choral music, beauty and talent contests cumulating with the main event from 30th September to 3rd October in Gaborone.

In early 1990s Diocese of Botswana had 13 priests, the majority of whom were expatriates. In 2012 we had 18 priests, 8 of whom were expatriates. Today in 2022 we boast of 27 priests, 14 of whom are Botswana trained at St Augustine Theological School (SATS) in the past 10 years. That number will go up to 21 trained clergy before the end of 2022. On 27th February 2022 eight men were ordained into the Diaconate.

The first major event was graduation for 35 students, male and female, from SATS on 26th February 2022. The event also congratulated and celebrated SATS on its 10th anniversary and accreditation as an educational institution with the relevant authorities.

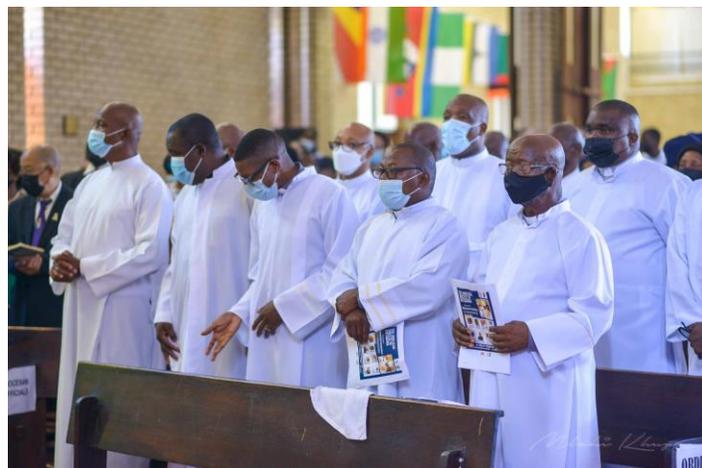


Figure 7: Ordination Service

GROUNDBREAKINGS & CHURCH DEDICATIONS

Congregations have plans to grow and to that goal Bishop Metlhayotlthe Beleme has done ground breakings at Bobonong, and Letlhakane / Orapa. St. Simon of Cyrene Church plan to dedicate their new building in May.



Figure 8: Dedication of a new church at Bobonong

Medical Orphan Projects

MOP (as it is known) continues to support Anglican caring centres in Zimbabwe & Botswana. They include Holy Cross Hospice in Botswana, Bonda Childrens Home, Kunzwana Women's Association, St. Patricks Clinic Gweru, the Avondale Centre, Mabvuku, and Daramombe Clinic Masvingo.

At **Kubatana Clinic** we supported a special Christmas celebration for the children. They have further plans for the installation of solar pumping system as there is no running water in the clinic. The Clinic staff have to fetch water and use it from the bucket, which is challenging particularly in managing Covid.

PARTNERS is published by TZABA to disseminate information and promote FELLOWSHIP between those interested in its association with THIRTEEN Dioceses of the Anglican Church in Africa's Capricorn Belt. It also records the charitable work undertaken by TZABA in support of those Dioceses.

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