



Figure 1: Mr Sibanda (HIV and Aids Coordinator in sorghum field at Cyrene Farm)

# Transvaal, Zimbabwe & Botswana Association (TZABA) Easter 2021

EASTER GREETINGS FROM ALL THE TZABA COMMITTEE

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## From Canon Carl Garner, Chairman

After six years as editor of 'Partners', Heather Sinclair stood down a year or so ago, and Sandy Elsworth has picked up the baton. I would like to express our gratitude to Heather, and to welcome Sandy as editor of the new virtual version of Partners.

A magazine or newsletter like this is a key way of keeping us informed about, and interested in, what is happening in the dioceses with which we are concerned. It also provides information about the projects and activities our grants have supported, which all helps to shape and inform our prayers.

So welcome to this new incarnation of Partners, and let us pray "God bless Africa, guard her children, guide her leaders, and give her peace, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen."

## From the Editor

Thank you to Central Province, Masvingo and Matebeleland Dioceses who have provided reports for us to include in this issue.

It is so valuable, and important, for us in the UK to hear how the Dioceses are managing in these challenging times. We can be very isolated here, particularly due to the reduced travelling opportunities.

It has been a very strange and challenging year for all our Partner Dioceses across the sub-continent, and we in TZABA would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the amazing work you are doing in the country.

## Harare Diocese

Bishop Farai in Harare Diocese says: "Covid is wreaking havoc now across Zimbabwe. There are those who have been abandoned by the lockdown measures. There are no safety nets for the poor and the marginalized of society. They are left to scrape a living by selling small wares on the streets.

Crops are now ready for harvest, and we are grateful for the rains. But heavy rains are causing damage.

Many people are afraid to come to church again, because of Covid. We have had one priest who had died, as well as many parishioners, leading to trauma.

**Shearly Cripps Orphanage.** With great rejoicing the sisters are back to look after the orphans. They are working hard to restore the vegetable gardens and bring the orphanage to order. We have recently been able to send them a large cheque due to your generosity. Thank You.

**Pax House** which generated many funds for the Diocese also needs a facelift in order to remake it into a viable business proposition and of course that costs money! So any little bit together will bring in a lot!"

## Masvingo Province

When Covid hit our shores in March this year & when the first lockdown measures were announced by the Zimbabwean government then; it was clear that we were in for an unprecedented year, characterized with lots of uncertainty, unpredictability, doubt and fear. However, as we come to the end of 2020, we are deeply grateful to God for He has faithfully seen us through it all.

Serving alongside our Diocesan Partners, we were able to accomplish a lot of work. As we begin to emerge on what hopefully is the other side of the pandemic, we can only pause in awe, as we reminisce on His strong hand of protection.

The **Zimbabwe Council of Churches conference** focused particularly on Gender Based Violence (GBV). This was in the context of family, and the caring, protecting and supporting roles of all members, especially the males.

**Hope International** provided baking pans and flour to a number of different groups, as well items for vegetable growing and chicken farming. The selection criteria for these groups and individuals were based on what the Savings Group Ministry and Hope International call 'PASSION' (Prayer, Allegiance, Service, Stewardship, Innovation, Optimism and Nurturing), especially during the Covid related lockdowns.



**Figure 2: Cooking and other equipment provided**

The **Mothers Union** has been active in many areas. To mention just two activities: They are involved in the building of a maternity wing for St Bernards Mission Clinic in Buhera. In addition, they have mobilized resources to assist at the **Daramombe Maternity** home.

Dry land **crop farming** is continuing at the Transfiguration Chidzikwe Skills Training Centre. Water facilities at St Michael Makonese were commissioned by the Bishop.

Assistance has been provided in the **Cyclone Idai response** in partnership with Hope International.

The Diocese expresses its appreciation of TZABA and their support of the mission work.

## Matabeleland Province

The climate in this part of the country is erratic and low rainfall. Food security is therefore an existential issue that affects the communities especially in rural Matabeleland. In order to serve meaningfully in our context, part of the Diocesan vision is inspired by the third and fifth marks of Anglican mission – to respond to human need by loving service and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth, and to care for the environment, respectively.

We have therefore, embraced environmental issues and loving service to the communities by developing the concept of **Sustainable Food Security** in our Diocese. Some of the food security strategies include training communities in the need to shift towards the farming of small grain crops such as sorghum and millet.

Currently we have partnered with the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) in a pilot project in the Ntabazinduna area of Matabeleland Diocese. Among other things the villagers are trained in

sustainable farming approaches in dry areas and receive help in farming seeds and tillage.

Some of the food security projects that we are running are not under partnership such as the Cyrene Farm piggery project

**Figure 3: A sow and piglets at Cyrene Farm**



The farm, however, has a fair share of challenges, including inadequate water resources, illegal farm settlers, obsolete dip tank to mention just a few.

We are developing partnerships to address the water resource challenges, which include sinking additional boreholes and using solar panels and pumps as an alternative to electric water pumps.

Small altar linens are sold through **Matabeleland Church Linens** to support the work of the Mothers Union in Matabeleland. If anyone is interested, please contact [matabelelandlinens@gmail.com](mailto:matabelelandlinens@gmail.com)

## Central Province

The impact of Covid reported on church attendance in the Midlands has been far less in the rural areas in comparison with the urban centres. But it has had a great effect on livelihoods and food security in all areas.

A particular project in which TZABA have been involved is in the provision of **chicken farming** equipment. The Diocese has provided useful guidance and coordination in the delivery of funds and operational support for a project. It is hoped that this will become a useful Example project of how poultry farming can be sustainably delivered.

## Manicaland Province

TZABA have sent out funds to help build a rectory at All Saints Church in Zimunya.

## 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

Figure 4: Commissioning the water tank at St Michaels



Figure 5: Blessing the Chicken Coop

### From Ven. Linel Whatley, Vice-Chairman

Greetings to you all in the name of our risen Lord.

I'm writing to wish you all a blessed Easter. Here in the UK we are still in lockdown and not quite sure what we will be allowed or not allowed to do by Easter Sunday. I guess that it must have felt a bit like that to those disciples on that first Easter morning. Lots of uncertainty about the future and the feeling that so many of their assumptions about life had been shaken by the events of Holy Week, as ours have been by the pandemic.

However, through all the events of the past year, with many Christians known to us sadly included in the death toll from Covid, what I have noticed is that **hope** sets Christians apart from those who grieve without hope. I understand how it can be difficult to keep the resurrection at the forefront when death threatens our communities and those we love, but the Covid pandemic is reminding all of us that life is fragile, uncertain and too short. Along with the rest of creation, Christians should cry out with agonising groans as we wait for an end to the suffering that this plague has brought. We mourn with all who have lost loved ones during the past year.

We grieve, but with hope, for the Easter message of resurrection is not reserved for a single Sunday in the year, but is new every morning because Jesus is risen from the dead!

Join us on Easter Sunday as we proclaim together, even as we are scattered around the world, what is at the heart of our Christian faith:

"Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!"

Our love and prayers.

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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Figure 6: Productive well and vegetable garden