



THE RICHES TO ZIMBABWE

OCTOBER 2023

Dear Brethren,

Greetings from Zimbabwe! We praise the Lord for His faithfulness in facilitating our return to the country. The last week and a half has been a whirlwind. I flew to Texas for a missions conference on the 16th of this month where I was in three churches in three days. I flew back home early Thursday morning where we made our final preparations to come to Zimbabwe. We had a wonderful service at Cornerstone (our home church) just before leaving on Monday morning. We left Nashville at 7:30 P.M. Monday and arrived in Harare Zimbabwe on Wednesday at 4:00 A.M. (CST Time). After approximately twenty-five hours of flight time, we were all exhausted. Three of our children developed sickness right before we left so after thirty-two hours of travel time Elisha became significantly ill once we arrived. Thankfully he is on the mend and getting back to himself. We arrived in Harare where we made it through immigration without any issue and found all of our bags in place except one. We made it through customs claims surprisingly easy, they put us right through without having to pay any duty on our goods.

Bro. Cadenhead retrieved us from the airport where we proceeded to immigration to claim our TEP (Temporary Employment Permit). We had to obtain a temporary visa to enter the country and then go to immigration to claim the permit we were awarded back in August. It took immigration about an hour and a half to process everything. I was told later that that is not the normal procedure. People normally take their passports and leave them for approximately a week to be processed through the system. We praise the Lord for the favor He showed us. With the permit sticker in our passports, we were able to proceed to the place where we are importing our vehicles to finish up the paperwork to get them shipped to us. After about four hours of riding, we arrived in the Mutare to find that the power was out. Unknown to us, our landlord had installed a solar system in our apartment for the lights. It may sound small but it was a big blessing to find that we had lights rather than darkness upon our arrival. We cannot thank the Lord enough for how He has worked on our behalf and the many graces He has shown us in our journey to Zimbabwe. Thank you for praying.

Deputation ended on a good note. We want to thank all of you for your prayers and financial support. God's people were good to us on deputation. Christianity as a whole is in a mess right now but praise the Lord, some saved people are still concerned with getting the gospel to the world, we praise the Lord for you. We were in 136 churches and drove approximately 70,000 miles in 15 months without one single vehicle issue. Praise the Lord!

Please continue to pray for us as we get settled in. I hope to find my place in the ministries going on here in Mutare quickly and to help develop more. I have had a place called Dangumvura on my heart for about two years and the Lord has placed a man in Cornerstone Bible Baptist Church here in Mutare who has had this same place on his heart. Please be in prayer with us as we begin to evangelize this area. There are many open doors here in Zimbabwe, more than we can walk through. Please pray with us that the Lord will guide us through the specific ones that He wants.

We cannot put into words how thankful we are for your fellowship in the gospel. I think of what Paul told the church at Corinth that they were "labourers together". We could not labour in Zimbabwe without your labour back home. We truly are labourers together, striving TOGETHER for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27). We pray for all of you, please continue to pray for us brethren.

Your Missionaries to Zimbabwe,
The Rich Family (Hebrews 12:2)

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