ZIMBABWE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT MINISTERIES
August, 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

We pray this letter finds you well. Thank you for your faithful prayers, encouragement, and financial support. Your partnership makes it possible for us to continue sharing the gospel and strengthening churches here in Zimbabwe. We are grateful for the opportunity to update you on what the Lord has been doing over the past several months.

As we write, Zimbabwe is nearing the end of winter. This has been one of the coldest winters we have experienced in several years, and we are certainly looking forward to the warmer days ahead.

Gospel Outreach and Ministry

God has blessed us with many opportunities to proclaim His Word this year.

During Easter, we held our annual Youth Conference, which concluded with a community-wide anti-drug campaign in the city of Zvishavane. Hundreds of people watched as our young people marched through the city, creating opportunities to share the gospel and encourage families to stand against drug abuse.

Earlier this year, we also conducted a three-day revival meeting at Mashoko that resulted in 41 baptisms. In addition, our ZCDM preachers have reported many more baptisms in their areas of work, bringing the total to 71 baptisms between January and July 2026. We praise God for every life that has been transformed through the saving message of Christ.

New Churches Being Planted

One of our greatest joys this year has been seeing the Lord open doors for new congregations. With Donson leading the effort, we planted a new home church at Jerera Growth Point in May. The congregation began with seven people and has already grown to twelve.

Through Brightman's leadership, another church was planted at Gwindingwi in Nyika Growth Point. Beginning with ten people, this new congregation is currently meeting in a classroom at the local high school.

We are also researching the possibility of planting another church at Village 6 in the resettlement area. Please pray that God will provide the wisdom and resources needed as we explore this opportunity.

Equipping Leaders and Future Preachers

Investing in future church leaders continues to be an important part of our ministry. Earlier this year, Bible college student Taku Mushaya completed a six-week internship with us. Together we visited homes throughout the villages, giving him valuable hands-on ministry experience. He also learned firsthand some of the realities of rural ministry - including missing one service because of a vehicle breakdown and another because floodwaters made a river impassable.

We also held a Young Preachers' Club Camp at Dandawa High School in Mashonaland West Province. Young men from several schools gathered for preaching, Bible study, fellowship, and activities designed to encourage them as they consider serving Christ through ministry.

Strengthening Churches

Our Provincial Men's Fellowship and Preaching Summit were both well attended and spiritually refreshing. We thank God for the encouragement and renewed commitment among our church leaders.

Our preachers also participated in Christian Schools Bible competitions by preaching, judging, and officiating Bible Quiz, Memory Verse, Bible Drill, and drama events for both primary and secondary schools. Many students participated, and we pray that the Scriptures they studied will continue to bear fruit in their lives.

Ministry in the Community

Several members of our team attended a training workshop hosted by the Christian Community Police Network. The training focused on how churches can partner with law enforcement to help prevent crime through biblical teaching and positive community influence. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve our communities in another meaningful way.

I was also honored to serve as Master of Ceremonies at the dedication of the Mothers' Waiting Shelters at Maranda Mission Clinic in Mwenezi District and at the opening of the new Rushangarumwe Mission Clinic in Chivi District. Hundreds of villagers attended these events, giving us the privilege of sharing God's Word as part of both celebrations.

Fellowship and Refreshment

At the beginning of June, more than seventy ministers and their wives attended our annual retreat. It was a wonderful opportunity for rest, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. We especially enjoyed seeing the waterfalls and taking a boat cruise on the Zambezi River, where we spotted hippos and crocodiles. Although the journey included three vehicle breakdowns because of poor road conditions, we are thankful that everyone travelled safely and returned home refreshed.

Looking Ahead

We are now preparing for our Annual Convention of Christian Churches later this month. The theme is "Raising the Standard" from Isaiah 59:19.

Please pray for our planning committee, the speakers, the churches that will attend, and for many lives to be strengthened through this important gathering.

Current Ministry Needs

Please pray with us regarding two transportation challenges that are limiting our ministry.

Our fellowship gym outreach has been suspended for nearly three months because the vehicle used to transport the equipment requires major repairs. In addition, one of our motorcycles has been out of service following an accident. Reliable transportation remains essential for reaching villages and supporting church-planting efforts.

We are also praying for funds to purchase a keyboard that will serve our worship and evangelistic ministries.

Praise the Lord With Us

Two new churches planted.
Seventy-one people baptized between January and July 2026.
Successful youth conference, revival meetings, leadership events, and ministry conferences.
Continued opportunities to share the gospel in schools, communities, and public events.

Prayer Requests

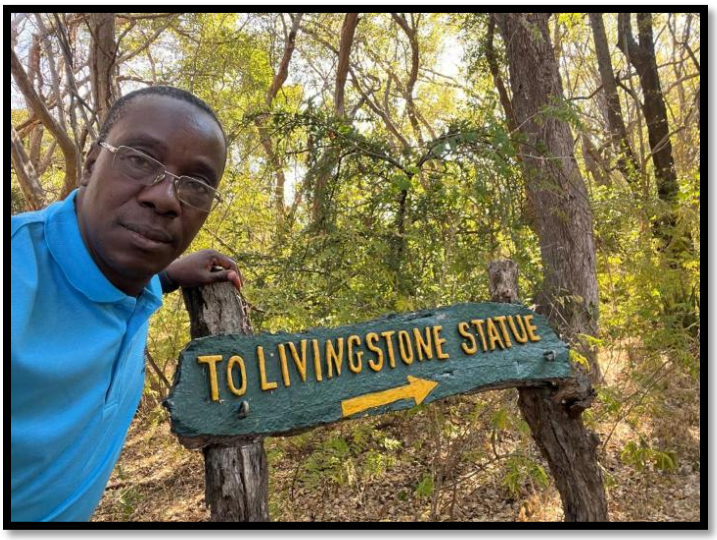
- Wisdom and God's blessing as we prepare for the National Convention of the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ.
- Repairs for our ministry vehicle and damaged motorcycle.
- Provision for a keyboard for ministry.
- Resources for future church planting, especially at Village 6.
- Continued spiritual growth for our new congregations and all those who were recently baptized.

Thank you again for standing with us through your prayers, encouragement, and generous support. We are continually reminded that this ministry is a partnership, and we thank God for each of you.

May the Lord richly bless you as we continue together to make Christ known.

In Christ,

Stephen Chikwati
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DRUG - FREE YOUTH


2026
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STANDING FIRM
SHIFTING CULTURE
CORINTHIANS 16:13


CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Acts 2:42
"They devoted themselves to..."
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