

Fr. Tim's Newsletter, August 2022

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Dear Friends and Family

Since I sent out my last newsletter in January 2022 so much has happened on the world stage. I had mentioned in that newsletter that there was the threat of a coming war between Russia and Ukraine, with China threatening Taiwan in the eastern hemisphere. Well, whilst China is holding off for now a full scale war between Russia and Ukraine kicked off on 24th February. It was planned by Russia as a 3-day war, but we are now six months down the line and there seems no end in sight, with huge losses on both sides. Certainly the world is in a very unstable state, with other countries also poised to get in on the action, such as Iran and Israel and North Korea to name a few.

Where will things go from here? I am not a prophet, but on the other hand Christ did say that we should look for the signs of the times. What we see happening in the world can help to show us how God is reacting to our behaviour. We are told that war is a result of sin. We are all sinners, in fact, but perhaps these days more than at any other time in history much of mankind is turning its back on God. God, however, is not happy when we turn our backs on him. Yet he is not a vindictive God; he is a loving God who wants to 'bend over backwards' as it were to forgive us, by bringing us back to him. Thus he may send us localised or national or even global chastisements. The dictionary explains that the word 'chastisement' means to punish, but not to punish out of anger but rather out of love. In other words, a loving father might discipline a naughty child, not to revenge himself but rather to encourage that child to correct his behaviour by repenting and coming back to the loving arms of its ever forgiving father.

Although only God knows the future he does send messengers from time to time to warn us of looming catastrophes should we not repent. In the Bible we read of this many times. The people of Sodom were warned to repent but they refused and were destroyed; the people of Nineveh were also warned and they repented, thus God spared their city. After the Bible was completed that did not mean that God thus stopped sending his messengers from time to time. At this point in history I think it is important to note that some heavenly predictions have been made recently in the Ukraine, which seem to predict, not only a Third World War, but that the war will start in Ukraine. I quote from the second edition of "The Fuzz Factor" by Dr Jimmy Clair, published by Kolbe Ltd, in 2016 in Ireland, pages 158-161. On May 12th-13th 1914, just two weeks before the outbreak of World War I, Mary appeared to twenty two farm workers at Hrushiv, in the Ukraine. She warned them that war was about to break out, but she also warned that Russia was about to become a godless country (remember that Russia became a communist country in 1917), "...that the Ukraine would suffer terribly, and would have to endure three major wars, but afterwards would be free." On 26th April 1987, exactly 12 months to the day after the Chernoble nuclear disaster (Chernoble is also in the Ukraine) Mary again appeared in the same village to a young 12 year old girl, Marina Kizyn, while she was on her way to school, at the moment when she was passing a locked church. The apparitions continued for several weeks and up to 100,000 people came to witness the young seer and to hear the messages that Mary was giving this girl. Amongst the messages were, "*Ukraine was the first country to acknowledge me as Queen and I have received her under my care. Work for God, for without this there is no happiness, and no one will gain the kingdom of God.*" Again, towards the end of the apparitions, Mary said, "*The conversion of Russia will come through you and the blood of the martyrs. The time is coming when this nation will attain its statehood. You are dear and precious to me. If there is not a return of Christianity to Russia, there will be a third world war, and the whole world faces ruin.*" I note now the danger of the largest nuclear atomic power station in Europe, at Zaporhizhzhia, is being damaged by the conflict and may end up going the way of Chernoble.

For the last two and a half years we have suffered with the Covid 19 pandemic, complete with the economic hardships that have come with the shutdowns. Now with the war in Ukraine the economic hardships have got worse in many parts of the world, including Zimbabwe. Fuel prices have almost doubled and basic commodities, such as bread and maize, are now in short supply. But God is good, and please God all these tribulations will eventually come to an end and the world will enjoy peace.

At the mission, when we have funds, we are buying grain in bulk to try to help alleviate the local shortages of maize. Thank God that we happen to own some trucks.

One challenge we have at the mission is an erratic supply of electricity. Many of the power line pylons are poorly put, so every time there is a storm or heavy winds inevitably one of them falls over and we then have a black-out even for up to a day or two. Hence we have had to go more 'green' by investing in modern technology energy saving fridges and freezers. With the help of a private donor we have also put up solar panels on the roof of the mission, which enables us to get solar power for most of our electrical needs from our daily ration of sunshine. Earlier we managed to drill our own borehole, which can get power also from solar.

On the building side progress was made with the various building projects. Our recently finished dam at Katete spilt in early January 2022 (1), ensuring it would supply water for the whole of the next dry season. Our new dam at Lubanda is now complete. Photo (2) shows it on the way and photo (3) shows it finished on 22nd July, so we hope it will fill in the coming rainy season. At Tshongokwe Hospital our builders have been busy erecting the latest building, the hospital kitchen (4), with progress being seen on photo(5). On 25th May 2022 I was photographed by the new teacher's cottage that we have been building at the local secondary school, Neshaya (6). It will house 4 teachers. On 9th July our new Bishop, Raphael Ncube, went to Cross Dete to declare it is now the new mission of St. Francis of Assisi (7). We started building a new 4-bedroomed priests' house there earlier this year. A photo taken on 15th July (8) shows progress on the second double classroom block for Katete Secondary school. This project is kindly sponsored by a former classmate of mine.

On the side of church activities we had 5 young men ordained to be deacons on 19th February (9). As I write this 3 of them were ordained priests on 30th July 2022 at St. Ignatius Cathedral. The other two should be ordained soon. We have a young parishioner, Memory Muleya, preparing to be a sister. She is shown on photo No. (10), pictured with her brother and mother. On 20th March about 50 of our men at the mission gathered for a day of renewal (11). They belong to an association called St. Joseph's. On 12th April I photographed Peter Dube (12), who is a cripple from once having polio. He is helping organise elderly men and women who need cataract operations. It is a lengthy process and some of the patients have come already being blind. But thanks be to God and our donors about 20 people have got back their eyesight in the last two years. It is an ongoing project, since Peter is become well known for the work he is doing. The operations are done at St. Luke's Hospital, about 150 Km from our mission. On 19th June I took a photo (13), showing some of the 30 or so girls who lodge with us at the mission during the school term. They were displaying the chicken eggs that come from our mission project.

Every year we priests have an annual retreat and I managed to get a photo this time (14). Finally, there is a big event happening in our mission area these days. The government is building a big new power station in nearby Hwange and they are installing a 45 Km long pipeline to pump water from the nearby Zambezi River to supply the new cooling tower. The pipe is 1,0m in diameter. Photo (15) shows a crane offloading some of the pipes.

Children & Families in Need in Zimbabwe, (CFNZ), the charity which supports me to run the Mission and some of the building projects, has a request – due to inflation and the increase in building work we are doing, it is becoming increasingly challenging to support all the efforts being made by our mission. The details are on Sue's Annual report attached.

If you are already helping financially that is much appreciated. If anyone wishes to start helping or to increase the help they already give, please contact my twin sister Sue Jennings (lead trustee for CFNZ), at jenningsue@gmail.com or print off the Standing Order form and Gift Aid form below.

The latest Annual reports can be viewed on our website-
www.childrenandfamiliesinneedinzimbabwe.weebly.com

In the meantime I wish you all God's blessing.

I wish also to thank all those who are helping or who have helped our mission.

Fr Tim