



THE RAINBOW BEACON

July 2, 2008

Volume 40 Issue 27

UPDATE FROM ZIMBABWE—JUNE 2008

Introduction

When the apostle Paul said in II Timothy 4:2 that we must "preach the Word in season and out of season", little did we know that we would preach the Word even when it seemed inconvenient to do so. Zimbabwe has been in the headline stories during newscasts world wide because of political harassment, beatings, killings and vote cheating. Even so, the Lord has provided us with the opportunity of preaching the Gospel unhindered. We are happy that during the month in review, five souls obeyed the Gospel and were baptized, two at Madlulani, two at Chesa and one at Njube. We give all glory to God!

WBS Office

In June, we only visited two congregations towards the end of the month because our truck was still being repaired and widespread political instability was rampant in the rural areas. We concentrated on studying with our students in the city in their different homes and assisting those who came to the Office. Sixteen students visited the Office in June. We sent out a total of 61 Bible Lessons and baptized one WBS student. Our net caught a big fish last year when we baptized an army commander. This time around we have enrolled several soldiers guarding a government radio station in Bulawayo. We hope many of them will turn their hearts to the Lord.

World Radio Program

This is what one of the soldiers wrote to the program: "While guarding these premises on Sunday evening, I listened to your program: More Than Conquerors. I enjoyed the real truth about our lives which was clearly taught from the scriptures. Since you advertised the Free World Bible School Courses in your program, I wish therefore to study the Bible through Correspondence studies. If there is anything needed for me to be enrolled, please let me know." We give all glory to God for providing us with such a wonderful tool to

reach out to many listeners with the Gospel country wide.

Drip Irrigation

We never expected the political situation to deteriorate so bad towards the re-run of the Zimbabwe presidential election. Political command centers were established in almost all rural areas. These were no go areas for outsiders until the end of the election. This was a political ploy to force villagers to vote for the incumbent president. We thus failed to take the pictures we promised in our previous report. Lord willing, we will get many this month since elections are now over. Please watch our next report!!

Gifts

We got gifts of books from Voice of International Truth, English Bibles, WBS badges, and WBS Courses from Von Prah from Daingerfiled congregation in Texas. As we always say, our greatest need is that of our students. Therefore, we appreciate very much these gifts.

Motivation

Thank you so much to all who wrote and motivated us to continue preaching regardless of the economic and political hardships currently prevailing in our country. A loaf of bread now costs Z\$10 billion. A candy costs Z\$2billion each. Incredible but true!

The Lord is keeping us alive!!! Many families though can no longer afford three or two basic meals a day. If the government does not lift its ban on NGOs, then many families will starve.

Conclusion

Please continue to pray for us, the Lord's work here and our country. Sometimes we never understand why certain things are happening this way. Its mind boggling but we shall continue to work for the Lord and preach the Word "in season and out of season." II Tim. 4:2.

In His service, Velaphi

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TEN MEN BAPTIZED AT THE ECDC!

Exciting things continue to happen at the Etowah County Detention Center! Several months ago, ECDC authorities requested Rainbow's deacon over the jail ministry, **Tony Cleveland**, to initiate classes in another unit at the jail. Since Rainbow teaching resources were strapped for men to teach this class, Tony approached **Johnny Moore** at the **Central Church of Christ** to see if Central would take the responsibility for the class. Central was already sharing a class with East Gadsden at the ECDC and taking the Lord's supper with Rainbow to the jail each Sunday. Johnny talked to the elders and others at Central and came up with four men who agreed to teach, Johnny, **Bob Statom**, **Gary Pruitt** and **Walter Sivils**. The "first fruits" of this new class came to fruition this past week with the



Bob Statom



Johnny Moore

baptisms of three men from the class. Bob and Johnny are pictured above, but we do not have photos of Gary and Walter.

In addition to these three babes in Christ, an Hispanic student taught by **Carlos Perez** from Iglesia de Cristo at Collinsville and six men taught by Tony Cleveland, **Berry Shirley**, **Jimmy Large** and **Ray Cox** were immersed into Christ by Tony, a total of ten baptisms! This brings the total from Rainbow's prison/jail/correspondence ministries year to date to **77 baptisms**.

Tony has several other tentative teaching opportunities working at the ECDC. There is a good possibility we will have classes at the new Work Release Center being built in the western part of the county. We are also hopeful of hearing soon about our classes proposed for the Federal Correctional Institution at Talladega.

We need men and women willing to teach classes at the ECDC and in other places. We also need teachers for correspondence ministry. If you are willing to help with either of these, see Tony Cleveland or Ray Cox. The fields are indeed "white unto harvest"!

Dearest Friends,

The girls and I wanted to personally thank you for taking care of Kerry and Aaron while they were away from us. It was hard for us with them being away for so long. We found comfort in knowing that the church at Rainbow Drive was watching over our boys and praying for us as well.

We appreciate all those who took the time to prepare meals for them, took them out to eat, and just gave them a hand when needed. We appreciate the care packages the Ladies Bible Class sent home with them. The girls enjoyed the cookies and the candy, thank you.

We also wanted to thank you for the gift of money. We appreciate individuals who contributed to this. We know that sacrifices were made in order to do this for our family.

We especially wanted to thank you for taking care of our grandmother throughout the years. We know what a blessing the church there was for her. We appreciate so much all the love that was showered upon her during her last days. We also wanted to thank you for all that you continue to do in settling her affairs.

It is with great love and appreciation that we write this to you. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done for grandmother, Kerry and Aaron. Thank You!

*With Christian Love,
Karla and the girls*

Do I Want To?

If I wanted to, I could help make this church the most wide-awake and working church in all the world.

If I wanted to, I could visit members who are sick or home-bound and find other ways of helping them.

If I wanted to, I could attend Bible classes regularly and encourage others to do the same.

If I wanted to, I could show more devotion in worship and receive much more good from the services myself.

If I wanted to, I could profit more from the sermon by not resenting the truth when it reveals some of my weaknesses.

If I wanted to, I could tell others about Christ and His church and lead them to him.

Of course, this all depends on what I want to do. I could be an honor servant of the greatest of all kings. I have the ability – if I really want to.



BLAKE'S BOX

*With all humility and gentleness,
with patience, showing tolerance for
one another in love being diligent to
preserve the unity of the Spirit in
the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:2-3

NEW ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

Three new adult Bible classes
our scheduled to begin Sunday
morning, July 6th. They are the
following:

Solving Life's Problems
(as taught in I and II Samuel)
Teacher: **Mike Bowdoin**
Place: Old fellowship room

God's Relationship with Man
(as taught in Genesis)
Teacher: **Norman Flynn**
Place: Auditorium

Marriage Enrichment
(as taught in Song of Solomon)
Teacher: **Blake Jones**
Place: Classroom in new
fellowship hall

We encourage all of our adults to
participate in one of these great
classes. The best way to know



Audrey Rose Koller,
daughter of **Ryan and Karen
Koller**, was born June 24,
2008 in Phoenix AZ. She
weighed 6 pounds 11
ounces, and is 19 inches
long. Audrey's grandparents
are Butch Jones and Cathy

Langston and her great-grandparents are Jim Smith of
Glencoe and the late Judy Smith. Karen "grew up" at
Rainbow in the Youth Group. Audrey is the niece of
Devin Jones.

Responses...

Beth Blisard responded Wednesday evening asking for
prayers from the congregation for her upcoming surgery.
Deanne Hayes, Kathy Overbey and **Virginia Lasseter**
responded to the Lord's invitation Sunday morning
requesting prayers.

Remember In Prayer...

The **Roger Vangilder** family, neighbors of PJ and Nikki
Duncan. Their house was struck by lightening during
last Friday's storm and was totally destroyed.

Betty Long fell and hurt her arm and bruised her face.
Please remember her in prayer.

Charles Bell is in Gadsden Regional Room 725 and is
not doing well at this time.

Wilson Jones is at McGuffey's Rehab Room 428
recovering from foot surgery.

Beth Blisard is now recovering at home following last
week's surgery.

Joyce Flynn will have surgery at the Kirklin Clinic in
Birmingham on Tuesday, July 8th.

Perry Hathcock is in need of our prayers at this time.

Bernie Cranford is now at home recovering from heart
surgery.

Bobby Golden is in need of our prayers as he is going
through a tough time.

Rita Bowdoin is suffering from terrible migraines. She is
currently working with a headache specialist.

Sarah Simmons, mother of Gene & Doug Brown, is not
doing well at this time.

**Catherine Bowen, Paige Buckner, Kim Clay, Carol Golden,
Mitch Dover, Betty Campbell, Jennifer Davis, Kathleen
Honeycutt, Gene Mayhall Sr., Ruth Mayhall, Arlie Neal,
Redda Norton, Don Parker, Ron Patterson, Max Pruett,
Jerry Reeves, and Berry Shirley.**

Shut In Members: Martha Austin, Leona Chance, Sarah
Foote, Gurnie Foote, James Gardner, Dot Greenhaw,
Vennie Guyton, Betty Jones, Butch Jones, Cathy
Langston, Hassie Moon, and Inez Quarles.

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Gadsden, AL 35901
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ELDERS

Mike Bowdoin 442-0389
John Bowling 442-6608
Eugene Brown 547-1673
Norman Flynn 413-1688
Craig King 442-1630
David Wallace 546-0642
John Wallace 442-5887

MINISTERS

Norman Flynn 413-1688
Blake Jones 442-0988

DEACONS

Jeff Birchmore 547-3718
Tony Cleveland 538-5295
Wayne Gobble 613-3500
Steve Lorren 442-8192
Chris Mickle 413-1038
Tim Parker 442-4877
Bruce Phillips 549-1236

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Worship Hour 10:30 A.M.
Worship Hour 5:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday morning Ladies
Bible Class will resume
meeting in the Fall.

OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESSES

rbowcoc@bellsouth.net
tracyedmonson@bellsouth.net
raycox1927@bellsouth.net

BUILDING LOCKUP FOR JULY

Polk King / Ray Harris

CONTACT ELDER FOR JULY

John Bowling - 481-0599

INTERNET LINKS

Church Website: www.rainbow-coc.org
Beacon Online: www.rainbowbeacon.org
Joint Worship: www.jointworship.info
Zimbabwe Info: www.zimbabwe-report.info

RAINBOW RECORD

SUNDAY MORNING	325
BIBLE STUDY	n/a
SUNDAY EVENING	n/a
MIDWEEK STUDY	141
LOCAL BAPTISMS	9
OTHER RESPONSES	13
WBS/JAIL BAPTISMS	77
ZIMBABWE BAPTISMS	109
INDIA BAPTISMS	905
CONTRIBUTION	5,771

MEMORIES

10 YEARS AGO: A

“sendoff” fellowship meal was given for the Ruffin family as they prepared to move to Montgomery.

15 YEARS AGO: Rainbow welcomes the Darwin Campbell family.

30 YEARS AGO: A baby shower was given for Julie Lorren in the old fellowship room.

SERVANTS

SUNDAY, July 6, 2008

Welcome Blake Jones
Scripture Reader Jeremy Lorren
Opening Prayer Mike Bowdoin
Closing Prayer Larry Naler

MCGUFFEY CLASS: Group No. 3
Leader: Wayne Gobble

WEDNESDAY, July 9, 2008

Announcements John Wallace
Prayer Roy Harris

SERVE THE FAMILY

Eugene Brown, Presiding
Corbin Parker Will Stroup
Kevin Gobble Collin Jarbo
Tyler Daniel Jeremy Krienke
Chad Kinsey Alex Wallen

USHERS:

Larry Naler Allen Krienke
Mike Simmons Shawn Williams

GREETERS: Gary & Beth Udaka

SUNDAY AM COMMUNION CUP PICKUP:
Chris Daniel Family

NURSERIES:

BABY: A.M. Karen Krienke
P.M. Sulynn Carlton
TODDLER: A.M. Debby Rode
P.M. Kylee Carlton

COMMUNION PREPARATION: Mike & Nita Simmons

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

We had another super week as our Rainbow WBS teachers taught 334 people the gospel of Christ! This means that, on average, our teachers taught 48 people a day! 16 Rainbow teachers taught last week and these are the names and number of people each taught:

Bobby/Carol Golden	5
Alan Gentry	3
Betty Long	9
Tony/Jane Cleveland	34
Ray Cox	36
Tina Quarles	16
Joyce Flynn	21
Eugene/Barbara Brown	111
Jan Hamrick	18
Craig King	1
Claire Walker	1
Betty Hale	12
Kathy Overbey	67