

ZIMBABWE MISSIONS

THE CHURCH AT GRACE POINT MISSIONS - FEBRUARY 21, 2012

The Lord's Work In Zimbabwe

By Mike Varner

I received the assignment to be the International Dean for Zimbabwe for Covington Theological Seminary in November of 2009. I had cried out to the Lord Jesus, asking Him to show me the work He had for me...and He answered ten days later.

It is our conviction at Covington that God begins to change the heart and values of any nation on earth through pastors!

Covington's motto is "Training Leaders, Impacting Eternity". Our desire in training leaders is to obey the biblical mandate to make disciples in all nations of Jesus Christ! (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)

Jesus said to a religious but lost generation: "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me." (John 5:39) continued on page 2



Mike teaching the word to pastors in Africa.



We impact eternity when we open God's eternal word and bring people to a living and dynamic encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory. He is seeking to transform us into His image and likeness! Our instrument in this endeavor is the perfect word of the Living God!

The Apostle Paul wrote under Divine Inspiration: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17) The Scriptures also teach us: "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons..." (I Timothy 4:1)


The ONLY safeguard against falling away and being deceived as Paul describes is to equip God's

ZIMBABWE QUICK FACTS



✦ With its tropical climate, Zimbabwe borders the countries of Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, and South Africa.

✦ With an area of 150,872 square miles, Zimbabwe is slightly larger than the state of Montana.



sheep for the work of the ministry through the preaching, teaching, and modeling of the word of God! It is written: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15) I have found the people in Zimbabwe to be friendly, loving, and hospitable. Most of all

they are truly hungry for God's word, and it is a blessing to receive an opportunity to obey my Lord Jesus and feed His sheep!

This truly is my passion, whether at home or abroad - "...looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus..." (Titus 2:13)

REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE: DEMOGRAPHICS

62% of Zimbabweans attend Christian churches. The largest Christian churches are Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Methodist. However like most former European colonies, Christianity is often mixed with enduring traditional beliefs. Besides Christianity, ancestral worship is the most practiced non-Christian religion which involves ancestor worship and spiritual intercession.



Zimbabwe (officially the Republic of Zimbabwe) is a landlocked country located in the southern part of the African continent, between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers.

Population: 12,619,600

Languages: English (official), Shona, Sindebele (Ndebele)

Capital: Harare (1.606M)

Malnourished Rate: 45%

AIDS Rate (2007): 14.3%

HIV/AIDS Infected: 1.2M

Life Expectancy: 52 years

Children Born/Woman: 3.61

Unemployment Rate: 24.9%