

August 6, 2004

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Ministry Update

No Pictures

You may notice that this Update has no pictures. The reason is that when I stopped at the bank in Bulawayo, on a recent trip, two thieves broke into the back of my truck by forcing open the locked door and stealing my suitcase. My suitcase had my digital camera, electric razor, heart and blood medicines and all my socks and shorts. God all me to practice praying for my enemies! (I must confess that was not my first response. Hopefully, it was righter anger.) The violent armed robberies in Bulawayo have steadily increased in recent months causing a great deal of fear.

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Nine Days In The Bush

Once again seeing an unpolluted sky with stars blazing was a soul refreshing experience. I was able to visit the different village churches in Zimbabwe and the Ngwezi churches in Zambia (those that we worked with in the 1990s. Our last trip there was in 1999.). I had a wonderful time with all the churches sharing a message concerning the foundation of our authority in Christ. In Zambia, I taught a condensed series on Natural Church Development. The stop was 50 miles off the nearest paved road at Siabuwa. They were conducting their first district conference. 200 people were in attendance. It was exciting to see how organized the district had become and how serious they were taking their leadership of the churches. They have planted one new church this year and plan to plant two in the next few months. PTL!!

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Disciplined And Humbled

When I passed through Bulawayo, the Lord reminded me that He was sovereign and that everything that happens comes through His direct or permissive will. I was confronted with the fact that at times I was rejecting His discipline had to "go around the mountain again" because I refused to learn what He wanted to teach me. After an hour of confessing and reading Hebrews 12, I truly felt renewed in mind and spirit. If you have not read Hebrews 12 as a devotional exercise, I encourage you to read it slowly and let the concepts challenge your attitudes about troubles. God is in the business of refining us to look like Him and that takes FIRE. The problem is that we rarely have the HEAT!

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French Translations

Scott is actively working on translating all our discipling material into French. This is a time consuming task. Later we will have to start on Portuguese!

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Janelle's Mother

Janelle has been in Chicago during July, seeing the kids and granddaughters. Her mother, who is 91, took a sudden turn and Janelle rushed to Grand Junction to be with her mother and her sisters. The prognosis is for a continued deterioration. Janelle will return to Johannesburg on the 10th and I will be there to greet her with flowers!

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