

POLITICAL UNREST CONTINUES

As Zimbabwe prepares for national elections in two months, the country continues in its economic and political freefall.

- Currency exchange is \$2,500,000 Zim to \$1.00 US.
- Food, supplies, fuel and basic utilities diminish in quantity and dramatically increase in price.
- Unemployment is at 75% throughout the country.

It is estimated that there is only one medical professional (doctor and/or nurse) per 100,000+ people. It is much worse in the rural areas. Thus, available medical treatment for AID's and other terminal illnesses is in critical short supply.

Within the last few weeks a planned military coup led by several leading Zimbabwe army leaders was uncovered, and several men were arrested. This week the government is purging its military units, attempting to "weed out its opposition." According to a Mugabe government spokesman, aircraft were posed to bomb President Mugabe's home at the time the plot was uncovered.

This level of open dissatisfaction with the Mugabe government gives the president an excuse to severely crack down on all of his opposition prior to the upcoming March election. Thus, the current feeling is that he will once again survive the election, one way or another.

BULAWAYO ORPHAN PROGRAM UPDATE

The food distribution system is working once again -- the broken vehicle used to distribute food to the orphans in Bulawayo has been fully repaired, and the expense paid for.

The estimated cost per month to provide food on an ongoing basis for the 165 orphans is \$1,000.00 US. Read on to find out how you can help.

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ENCOURAGES ORPHANS

As reported in December, several girls from Creekside Christian School in grades 6, 7, and 8 prepared encouraging and "chatty" letters with photos of themselves for the Bulawayo orphans who are approximately their same age. The letters are now on their way to Bulawayo via Janelle Avery, who returned to South Africa the first week of January.

2008 SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP TO FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND MINISTRY ASSESSMENT

Team Members George Bragg, Larry Broughton, Steve Phillips, and Robert Reese are planning to visit Zimbabwe again this summer during the last two weeks of June.

The purpose of the trip is to:

- Teach, lead discussions and provide spiritual support to church leaders attending the annual one-week Zimbabwe Christian Fellowship Bible School.
- Visit the Bulawayo orphans program and other local Christian programs to assess progress and determine new ways, if any, Creekside may help.
- Meet with Christian leaders (business, government and other) in Bulawayo to assess the status of the local Christian community.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Pray for each team member as he prepares to go and while he is in Zimbabwe.
2. Financially support Creekside's Zimbabwe Orphans Program - \$1,000 per month; cost of local transportation and food for Zimbabwe church leaders to attend the 2008 June Bible School - \$1500 total; and 2008 team members' expenses - \$3800 each. Simply make checks payable to Creekside Christian Fellowship and indicate in the memo section either "Zim Orphans" or "Zim Fund."
3. Attend fundraisers – dates TBD.

If you do not wish to receive these

updates, please send email to:
marycliff@cox.net .