

IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE, BUT IT DOES

In the last few days Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe signed a new law that hands over majority ownership of all businesses to "indigenous" Zimbabweans. This new law forces foreign- and white-owned companies operating in the country to surrender at least 51% control of their operations to blacks. There is no indication that the locals will have to pay anything for the company stock.

This move came only weeks before general elections. Mugabe clearly hopes to defeat his opposition by promising to give his friends and supporters the majority ownership in all foreign and local white owned businesses throughout the country.

You can imagine how angry foreign and white businesses in the country are with this latest assault on them by Mugabe. With the country nearing complete economic and political collapse, the latest move will only speed up the process. Mugabe friends and supporters are being encouraged to vote for him one more time, and as a reward, receive their personal share of the stock of those foreign and white owned companies still functioning in the country.

With this type of thinking and past leadership by Mugabe and his party, it is no surprise that once-prosperous Zimbabwe now is on the verge of total collapse. **Please pray for the opposition leaders, the people of Zimbabwe, and the upcoming election on Saturday March 29th.**

BULAWAYO ORPHANS UPDATE

Janelle Avery, missionary in South Africa, recently visited the Bulawayo orphans program. Despite the challenges faced by the children, she was pleased to see that food and other necessities we helped secure were being provided to the children and their caregivers. The vehicle that required repairing a month ago seems to be working, so each child can be visited on a regular basis. Janelle also noted that the group administrating the orphans program in Bulawayo could use a computer to help keep track of the program. We will be looking into the possibility of securing a small laptop for this purpose.

JAMESON MAHLANGU

Jameson is one the senior Zimbabwe Christian Fellowship (ZCF) leaders and a favorite among those of us who have visited Zimbabwe. He is an older man with great energy, and he has the most contagious smile you will ever see. During the last Zimbabwe mission trip, our team stayed in his village and enjoyed the hospitality of the entire village.

Recently, two of the huts in the village, including Jameson's home, were destroyed by fire. Jameson and his family lost almost everything they owned. He was burned and spent several days in the hospital following the fire. We understand that he has recovered from his injuries, but his family is still attempting to recover from the loss. We're planning to contribute several hundred dollars to aid them in this recovery effort, during the upcoming Bible School. If anyone would like to contribute to this cause, please write "Jameson's Village" in the memo section of your check written to CCF.

ZIMBABWE MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Dates: June 19-July 2, 2008

Team Members: George Bragg, Larry Broughton, Steve Phillips, and Robert Reese

The airline tickets have been purchased, and the in-country arrangements for the Zim 2008 Mission Team are now in place. George, Larry, and Steve will join Robert in Zimbabwe and spend approximately 10 days in the country. Most of the time, team members will be participating in the annual weeklong Pastors and ZCF Church Leaders Bible School.

In addition, the team will worship with several local churches in Bulawayo, visit the Bulawayo Orphans program and meet with leaders from other churches, businesses, and education and community programs. They will assess the current situation in the country to determine how we might expand our Creekside Zimbabwe Mission support. **Please be praying now for George, Larry, Steve, and Robert as they prepare for the trip.**

If you do not wish to receive these updates, please contact: marycliff@cox.net.