

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10: 24-25

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Hope in the Dust

How a Tractor and the Gospel Are Plowing a Path to Redemption in Rural Zimbabwe

A Nation in Distress

The dry wind sweeps across Zimbabwe's parched soil, carrying with it the scent of dust and despair. For the common man in Zimbabwe, daily life is not just hard—it is a battle for survival. Food is scarce. Clean water is a luxury. And dignity is stripped away by a government whose policies too often trample the poor. The rural population suffers in silence, enduring the grinding weight of poverty, hunger, and neglect.

In the villages, children can be seen with distended bellies, their eyes sunken with the effects of malnutrition. Mothers walk miles under the blistering sun just to fetch murky water for their families. Men, once farmers and providers, now stand idle, their tools rusting and their fields barren. The oppressive political regime, often described as authoritarian and corrupt, continues to favor the elite while dismissing the cries of the marginalized.

In many communities, memories



Dry land unused with no means to farm and water. It can be turned to lush green crops with needed equipment and water.



The continual need for food distracts and defeats.

of better times have faded. Inflation has destroyed the economy more than once. Even basic commodities like bread and



Village people looking for hope and help.

cooking oil have become symbols of hardship. People wake to the smell of burning wood, not from home-cooked meals, but from

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scavenged fires trying to boil whatever meager rations were found the day before.

Yet the physical hardship is only part of the story. Emotionally, spiritually, and mentally, many Zimbabweans feel abandoned. Their cries have gone unheard for years. Their land, rich in potential, lies fallow, and their hope has become as dry as the cracked riverbeds that run through their villages.

A Tractor, A Vision, A Redeemer

But in the midst of this hardship, hope is stirring. A vision rooted in **biblical compassion** is taking shape—a farming project that not only addresses physical needs but also sows seeds of spiritual renewal.

At the heart of this effort is Daniel and Cozmore, local leaders working alongside ITMI's Charl van Wyk and a team of believers who want to bring **both sustenance and the gospel** to the people of Zimbabwe. Their goal? To provide a quality tractor, possibly something like a **Massey Ferguson 50HP tractor** and essential attachments that will enable Cozmore and the ministry to grow food, employ laborers, and ultimately transform villages from the inside out.

"We initially raised funds for a small tractor," Charl shares, "but God stirred the hearts of our partners, and we are now pursuing a stronger, more capable machine. We currently have \$8,800 of the \$12,000 needed." The team is guided by expert advice, selecting the right size and model that can handle both the current need and future expansion. The Massey Ferguson is not only practical but reliable and easy to maintain.

A church in Virginia has come alongside this vision. Their plan to complete their own fundraising campaign by Easter represents more than financial support—it symbolizes **resurrection, renewal, and provision**. The delay until April is a challenge, but it is also a time for faith to deepen and prayers to rise.

Beyond the tractor, the team hopes to install a **one-hectare drip irrigation system**. With a water tank, elevated

stand, and installation materials, the \$2,500 system will allow year-round farming, freeing the community from total dependence on Zimbabwe's unreliable seasonal rains.

"We want to meet immediate hunger needs," Charl explains, "but more than that, we want to break the cultural norm of despair. With tools and truth, we can lift people out of hopelessness."



Cozmore and Laizah and the "Little Queen" say "Thank You."

A Harvest of Transformation

What happens when a community receives food, water, and hope in Jesus' name?

Spiritually, hearts once hardened by survival will be softened by truth. Bible studies and church gatherings will sprout alongside rows of tomatoes and maize. As Isaiah 58:10 reminds us, "If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness."

Mentally, men and women will regain purpose. Dignity will return to those

raised in communities of purpose and prayer.

Physically, bellies will be filled, water will be clean, and jobs will be available. This is no quick fix—it is a long-term investment in the healing of a people. This part of the project may begin with a tractor, but it ends with transformation.

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done," says Proverbs 19:17. This is not just charity—this is kingdom work.

To all who have given and are praying, thank you. To those considering involvement, know this: your support plants more than seeds in the soil—it plants hope and truth in hearts.

And that hope and truth? It is the beginning of something eternal.



A smile and joy can be experienced in Zimbabwe when Jesus fills the soul and good food fills the stomach. Cozmore and his family model that Jesus is what is truly needed.



Food distributions are a frequent and needed occurrence. But there is not enough food to meet the needs of the community.

Democratic Republic of Congo - DRC

Bravery Amidst Darkness:

The Story of Pastor Oscar Wakandwa and Pastor Ron Krontz

In the heart of Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, an unfolding humanitarian tragedy is gripping the lives of countless innocent people, particularly Christians. Imagine gathering for worship, seeking comfort and peace, only to face unimaginable horror.

This was the stark reality in February 2025 when 70 Christians were brutally abducted from Mayba village. Tragically, their lives ended in a church in Kasanga, North Kivu, where they were found beheaded—a horrific act attributed to the Islamist group, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

DRC pastor Oscar Wakandwa and American Pastor Ron Krontz bravely journeyed toward this rebel-infested area, driven by compassion and faith, only to be forced back to the capital city of Kinshasa due to transportation issues, logistical challenges, security barriers, and a serious health crisis.

Oscar became gravely ill, initially diagnosed with typhoid fever. However, it later emerged that he probably had been deliberately poisoned—an unsettling act often motivated by jealousy and envy in regions overcome by darkness, reflecting John 10:10: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Charl van Wyk urgently requested prayers for Oscar, highlighting his dire condition and hospitalization. Ron, left alone at their hotel in Kinshasa, described the situation as considerably worse than before, with an exploding population from people fleeing villages and palpable fear, violence, and anger in the air.

Oscar's health rapidly deteriorated, and he was ultimately transferred to



Oscar Wakandwa and Pastor Ron Krontz ready to preach the word in season and out of season.



Depiction of many families fleeing from untold villages...with no where to go.

Donate DRC Church Support



intensive care in Lubumbashi, experiencing severe sickness and vomiting of blood. Doctors began preparing to evacuate him to Istanbul for advanced specialized medical treatment.

Ron, deeply impacted emotionally, shared how Oscar's absence created a profound void within the church and ministry team, emphasizing Oscar's integral role in their shared ministry.

Ron's resilience was evident as he took on additional preaching responsibilities despite his emotional distress. As his health began an upward swing, Oscar later sent an encouraging message to supporters, stating that "God has locked the mouth of the lion who wanted to eat me up" and confirming his improved condition. However, he continued to experience intermittent sharp internal chest pains.

The devastation extends beyond these brave individuals to countless families who now have no food, resources, or employment. Imagine the emptiness, fear, and devastation of a mother or widow whose home is violently invaded by rebels demanding money and food.

Families have fled their homes, seeking refuge in what they believe to be safer

places, hoping that being among other believers might deter attackers. Tragically, even these "safe places" prove dangerous. Returning home, many find their houses looted of all valuables and many times destroyed.

The church should not and cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering and resilience of these communities and courageous individuals like Oscar and Ron. Their bravery and perseverance demand our urgent attention and intervention. We must stand united, amplifying their voices, advocating for peace, and continuing our prayers and support for their well-being and safety.

ITMI's Charl van Wyk has graciously agreed to oversee there in Africa the management and accountability of any funds we send in order to help and care for the new class of widows and orphans that now have nothing.

Any amount will help the DRC church care for their people and provide hope in the midst of this unforeseen attempt to crush the church and God's people in the DRC.

Let's trust the Lord to take our "few fish and loaves" and feed the thousands. May they see and experience the love of God as we stand with them in prayer and sacrificial support. Pray for the over



worked DRC church leaders to have wisdom, truth and grace for the newly broken and destitute body of Christ as they learn to trust and submit to "...His Kingdom come and His will be done."

Pray that the God of comfort will envelope each hurting soul and whisper "...I will never leave you nor forsake you."

- Charl van Wyk, Ron Krontz, Steve Evers

FOR PRAISE

1. India - David and Taru Kumar - God's blessing David and Walter's rural pastor training in how to engage and reach Muslims for Christ.
2. DR Congo - Pastor Oscar's continued healing and ultimate protection.
3. South Africa - Charl van Wyk - Ongoing discipleship and training of the youth in the Stone Hill settlement.
4. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Continued impact of the Polish Bible Translation Project in the hearts and lives of Polish speaking world.
5. ITMI - God's continued blessings and provision allowing us to accomplish more Kingdom work as the needs grow day by day.

FOR PRAYER

1. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Continued provision and wisdom through challenges of ministry in the country of Poland.
2. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk - Provision for a much needed water borehole to enlarge the Kingdom sharing truth in difficult times.
3. DRC - Charl van Wyk - Provision of prayer/financial support as they seek to meet real physical and spiritual needs of DRC refugees.
4. All ITMI - wisdom, guidance, integrity and clarity for our partners making weighty decisions around the world.
5. ITMI USA - Staff health and staff help. As God grows ITMI we need additional co-laborers in His Kingdom work.



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