



# A LAMENT FOR ZIMBABWE

# "GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS..."

The nation is grieving and there are very few who have not lost friends, family, employment, the means to support themselves – or even hope itself.

The nation weeps and laments all that has been lost and the suffering now impacting almost every household.

There is also widespread anger at the corrupt and inept government responsible for the chaos - tempered by fear of the security forces who have eyes and ears everywhere.

The Pastor of one Bulawayo church, preaching on the laments of the Bible, found himself overwhelmed by an out-pouring of personal and corporate grief from the congregation.

Perhaps we can identify with **Nehemiah** hearing of the desperate plight of the people of Jerusalem:

*"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven ..."* (Nehemiah 1/4)

Let us pray with, and for, our sisters and brothers in Christ that they may be assured of God's sovereignty and never-failing love.

Weeping in response to tragedy is natural and easy while lamenting – the kind that is Biblical, honest and redemptive – is not.

Many are uncomfortable with the painful honesty, but the lament can be a prayer – the cry of a hurting, confused, pain-filled and yet still believing heart.

For the believer the lament may be a path to praise and a transition from pain to promise, as we find in the pivotal centre of the Book of Lamentations (3/22-23)

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"*

We invite your prayers for

- Christian leaders guiding their flock from hopeless despair to trusting obedience in the Lord, as they seek his deliverance.
- Our partners in the Bulawayo team who oversee the relief feeding and pastoral care, especially of those brutally evicted from their homes.

And thank you for your partnership in prayer.

