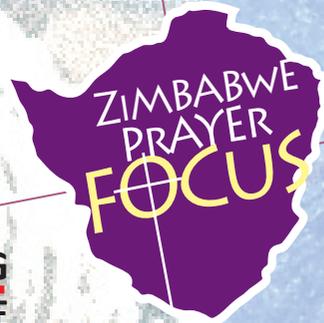


“Like sheep without a shepherd”



THERE IS NO MISTAKING THE SIGNS OF COLLAPSE IN THE MAN-MADE DISASTER THAT IS ZIMBABWE TODAY

- The suffering touches every aspect of daily life. Transparency International Zimbabwe reports that 57 per cent of women surveyed said they had been forced to offer sexual favours in exchange for jobs, medical care and even school placements for their children.
- Doctors and teachers in government institutions are fleeing the country to find work. People are dying from lack of access to even the most basic healthcare.
- Malnutrition is widespread and people of all ages are dying.
- People dying slowly of hunger are seldom shown on news channels, so this may be called a silent genocide.

Amid the chaos and confusion the truth starkly revealed is that the nation's self-appointed leaders have totally failed the people. They are like the failed leaders of Israel whom Ezekiel rebuked as predatory shepherds:

“Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves !” (Ezekiel 34/2)

Jesus had compassion on the confused, forgotten people of his day whom he saw to be “like sheep without a shepherd” (Mark 6/34)

In contrast to the religious leaders who were only taking care of themselves and the “hired hands” who would desert the flock at the first sign of danger, “the good shepherd” would lay down his life for the sheep. (John 10/15)

Let us then pray for the “under shepherds” who share Jesus’ compassion for a people in desperate need, and have responded to his call to serve.

Those called to this work face huge challenges and must put themselves at some risk as they purchase, transport and distribute the relief food to those close to starvation – all as a part of their faithful proclamation of the Gospel.

Time and again, they say how much they are encouraged and strengthened by your prayers.

So let us re-dedicate ourselves to this vital ministry of prayer, interceding for our own amazing ZVSF team, along with all who are working tirelessly for justice and peace in Zimbabwe. In every obstacle, challenge and danger they face, may they know the wisdom, courage and enabling grace of the Lord.

And bless you, dear friend, for your partnership in this work of the Kingdom.



“I am the good shepherd”