

A brief Zimbabwe, Africa report from Joe Greer

June 2017

Elias Chikozho

It was a pleasure to spend time with Elias Chikozho at the classes we held in Masvingo, Zimbabwe.

He has a perpetual smile that just defines his demeanor.

Elias is well thought of by brethren.



Elias Chikozho and Joe Greer

Can you find Elias? 😊

- Our classes were near Masvingo.
- 33 preachers attended.



Elias works over a large area.

- He is still working with 14 churches.

- He delivers food relief to these churches.

- He bikes as far as 60 km (37 miles) to preach.

- (Elias lives in Gongwe)





I had a good opportunity to sit and talk with him at some length about his work and family.

- Elias continues to impress me in character.
- He is humble and hard working and is held in high regard by other brethren.
- He and Rapofadzo have a son and daughter and have taken in another orphan. (already raised 3)

Challenges –

- Picture of corn that was growing well in December *but the rains stopped and the Beit-bridge area had zero harvest.*
- Some other parts of Zimbabwe had great yields.

A field where Elias and brethren were growing mealie-meal (corn) before rains stopped.



Challenges –

Just a couple of things to be thinking about.



- Transportation

- Elias could be more effective in his work if he had a bakkie.
- Transport by biking and 'taxi' limits where he can be in a timely manner.
- When he delivers food relief \$480 of the money sent is to pay delivery.
- A good used bakkie is about \$5-6000.

Challenges –

Just a couple of things to be thinking about.



- Water supply

- A very interesting thing happened.

- Elias just purchased a ‘borehole’ (well) from a neighbor for 3 cows.

- It appears to be a strong well that he could irrigate crops from.

- He is planning to talk to the village chief to see if he can be given more land. With irrigation brethren in his village could grow crops there.

Challenges –

Just a couple of things to be thinking about.



- Water supply

- The need with this borehole is a means to pump enough water to irrigate.
- A solar pump with a raised storage tank is about \$4,000.
- *A bakkie and borehole improvements represent a lot of money.*
- *I mention these things because different ones have asked about long-term needs.*



Elias asked me to give you, “*greetings.*”

- He said thank-you *several times* for the support you send.
- He said he could not do his work without your help.
- He has a way of saying it like, “you are doing a good thing to me.” 😊