

# Ebenezer Ministries

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Chairman: Rod Caldwell  
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Dear Friends and Family,

Looking back, 2013 has been a busy, stretching, and yet fruitful year for us, and both Susan and I are conscious of God's goodness on our lives. Our family has grown with four new grandkids, God has healed Eleanor's brain, Susan is feeling better health-wise, our marriage is healthier, and dad continues to maintain independence and good health. All in all, we are



experiencing a gratifying season of life. Words like *trust*, *listen*, *kingdom* and *deeper* have preoccupied my spiritual horizons in 2013. Contemplating about 2014, terms like *action*, *favor*, and *abundance* are coming to mind, and I'm wondering what other sorts of "God-themes" are in the works up ahead for us. That God invites us to co-author 2014 and beyond - and will in fact tip his cards to us if we ask - is a fascinating idea to consider. Studying/teaching on hearing God and going deeper with him this year has also been personally rewarding for me, and I'm enjoying the current Monday night School of Prayer prep/work.

Our September Zim trip was productive and meaningful for both the team members and people/places we visited. *Grace* and *hope* were the twin themes we spoke and prayed wherever we went.

The GSO kids thoroughly enjoyed the picnic day at Mazvikadei Dam and receiving letters and gifts from their US prayer partners. Thanks to those who helped make it happen.



National elections in July did not bring about the change many hoped for, and the general population appears increasingly discouraged and wearied. The unofficial

unemployment rate remains at 80%-90% or so, and corruption is increasingly a way of life. The current government appears intent on "indigenization" as of January 1, 2014, enacting law that every business must be at least 51% indigenous owned, and thus "legalizing" en-masse business take-over by locals. This will, of course, only deepen Zimbabwe's troubles and make fat cats even fatter. It's a tough place to live, and the younger generation continues to face a gauntlet of political and economic caused challenges in transitioning to independence and adulthood. Understandably, the GSO kids coming out of school or vocational training struggle to enter the workforce and get on their own.



GSO kids at Mupfure Vocational College



Assembly at Chinhoyi Primary School



HOL family



Elephants provide perspective



Many of you have tracked the land eviction attempts in recent months at Lasting Impressions and at the farm our hosts the Sheppards live on. While there is encouraging progress to reverse the take-over orders in both cases, neither has been legally or finally resolved to date. The ante is high, so please continue to pray. It is our private sense that as goes these two cases, so goes the nation.

Susan and I thank you for your continued support and prayer for Ebenezer Ministries and what we do, and wish God's rich blessing on you in this Christmas season. May he mess with you in good ways in 2014. Don't forget the invite to come with us to "Touch Africa to reach its people."

John and Sue Dee.