

## **But there are times that it's not always all that...**

Posted on [January 17, 2011](#) by [Laura](#)

The rains are still with us and the earth is wet. Everything is green and overgrown and keeping the lawn in check is impossible at the moment because the lawnmower is broken and so our grounds are looking very tatty indeed despite the excellent efforts of the groundskeeper!

The container containing all the donated goods and our household items is still sitting on a dockside in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. We had two choices of routing for the container and we chose for it to be routed via Beira, Mozambique due to the dockworker strikes and very long delays in Durban port. However who could have known that the Beira Port would become severely congested due to the fact the harbour is very shallow and only two ships can dock at any one time and that they had been experiencing difficult tide patterns or something and the ships were not able to dock.....oh well the long and short of it is that we still await the container but there is no way of knowing when! We are still living on borrowed furniture and kitchen utensils for which we are very grateful and we lack for nothing really except the conveniences of all our own 'stuff'. Please pray we get the container soon because the little twin tub washing machine we have borrowed has to be returned in two weeks time! We priced a twin tub the other day and it was US\$600, a decent automatic was US\$850. These were considered okay prices but for us they are excessive.

We are still not 'earning' an actual wage although we lack nothing and we are grateful to the Lord for His supply. The job I (Laura) have applied for is still awaiting Treasury approval. Sadly there is very little money to pay civil servants salaries and I suspect this is the hold-up. Even still I expect to only receive somewhere in the region of US\$100 – US\$150 per month which is the normal pay for civil servants and my position will be part time so I have no idea what I will be paid. In case you are wondering how we could consider living like this there is a scripture in the Bible, found in the Book of Matthew, chapter 6 and from verses 19 to 34 it reads:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you

need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.(NIV)

This is the Scripture that we stand on, knowing that what we need will be taken care of by our Father in Heaven.

### **The Rubbish Dump that is fast becoming the towns and cities of Zimbabwe!**

A recent newspaper report states:

The litter in Zimbabwe is an eyesore and unless the situation is awarded due attention, things will only get worse and before we know it, our country will be rated among the dirtiest in the world (if it isn't already). I truly hope that by the end of 2011 we will have made considerable strides towards

reclaiming our status as a beautiful rainbow nation that we can be proud to be associated with. Let us all come together and say an emphatic NO to littering, it begins with you and me.

We can confirm that the indiscriminate dumping of garbage is widespread and appears uncontrolled. The City of Harare is valiantly attempting to bring back garbage collections, etc., but they have inadequate resources to deal with this massive problem and the citizenry are doing little to assist.

We were told by a friend the other day when she asked school children to pick up the litter they had thrown onto their school ground she was told "my parents said this gives the grounds-keeper something to do" this effectively told the children that they have no need for social responsibility.

It is recognised that a campaign of litter education is needed and this has begun so we are hopeful that as the message goes out we will see less litter and greater social responsibility.

The garbage is providing a fertile ground for the proliferation of flies and rats and for those of you who are squeamish the ever increasing population of rats would give you a few nightmares!

### **Water, water, everywhere but not a drop to drink...well not quite!**

The City of Harare is unable to meet the entire water consumption needs to the city and people rely enormously on boreholes and in cases small self-dug wells. Where municipal water is available people are very, very careful to ensure that they boil it before drinking it however after reading the following excerpt from a local newspaper you would be forgiven for never wanting to drink tap-water EVER again!

"...the water we have been getting from the taps looks dirty and is smelly."

"If examined with the naked eye, the water sometimes looks green in colour and stains clothes when used for laundry."

### **Bwaaaaack bwaaaaack – Chicken anyone?**

Oh dear, oh dear – we were recently told that chicken import from South Africa into Zimbabwe were currently banned – the following news report is terrifying and we are grateful to the Government mechanism in Zimbabwe that once they were aware of the situation immediately responded and banned these imports in order to protect the population from such unscrupulous and dangerous practice.

‘GOVERNMENT does not have a reliable monitoring mechanism to ensure that imported food and alcoholic beverages items are safe for human consumption, exposing consumers to harmful substances, officials admitted last week.

The shocking admission followed government’s ban on the importation of chickens supplied by a South African company that has admitted selling recycled chicken to major supermarkets.’

‘Government last week banned the importation of South African chickens following reports from that country that some producers who are also supplying the Zimbabwean market were recycling expired chickens.

Reports said the chickens were thawed for 24 hours at room temperature before being treated with chlorine to reduce bacterial load and then scientifically tested to determine levels of micro-organisms. They were then injected with brine before being repackaged and sold with a new expiry date.’

Not sure about eating chicken anymore however having enjoyed a wonderful lunch with friends yesterday where chicken was on the menu our hosts told us that in Zimbabwe ‘we cook chicken until it is dead!’ Boiled, roasted and then fried! I was happy to eat it and it was delicious!

### **Guns, Anger, Sorrow!!!**

People in Zimbabwe are becoming angry about the lack of small denominations in circulation and tempers are fraying as a result: A policeman recently shot dead a taxi assistant for failing to give him the correct change.

Within recent weeks a young teenage boy shot himself with his father’s gun. The body was found in the garden and the police were informed. They told the parents not to touch the body until they got to the house – unfortunately they failed to arrive for nearly a full day and the boy’s body lay outside overnight. When the Police did manage to arrive it was covered in ants. One can scarcely imagine the pain and grief of the father as he waited for so many hours for his son’s body to be collected!

### **DON’T get sick or injured you might have to go to hospital**

We know of a young boy who recently was burned on his face and torso. His family rushed him to a private hospital who was not able to admit him as they did not have a burns unit. The lad was taken to a hospital that does have a burns unit but unfortunately they did not have space for him so he was admitted to the children’s ward. A relative of the boy was tasked with washing him and taking off the dead burned skin in a decidedly unsterile environment. This same person witnessed rats climbing in and out of the rubbish bin in the ward and had a large cockroach climb up his trousers whilst attending to the young boy.

Another young man we know personally had a plaster cast removed from his leg and the nurse cut through his skin – when he cried out she snapped at him ‘I’m only doing my job’. This young man had had surgery and the stitches were only removed after more than 14 days. Until then the wound had not ever been cleaned or re-dressed. His skin was coming away when we took off the bandage and the skin on his foot had died and came away when we cleaned the nurse-inflicted wound! When I asked a nurse about this type of wound care she said this is practice that was common 40 years ago!

As I write this I am looking out the front office window, the rain is torrential but we are so grateful for it because the humidity has been high today and I have been overheating internally all morning!

The other day whilst driving through Borrowdale we saw vendors selling bunches of our beautiful national flower the Flame Lily. Everywhere you go men are selling ‘juice’ cards which are the airtime vouchers for the various cell phone providers or electric fly swatters, windscreen wipers and any other manner of item. Along the streets ladies sit behind little pyramids of tomatoes, potatoes and other fruit and veg and men braai (bbq) mielies (maize cobs) on open fires. The combi buses (people carriers) that are known as ET’s (emergency taxi) dominate the roads and the roadsides. Their drivers have no regard for the rules of the road and the roadworthiness of the vehicles would be highly questionable but in the absence of any other public transport it is thanks to these operators that folk can travel to and fro.

I had better end off for now – the rain has gone, we got the laundry in off the line in almost enough time and I need to get on with numerous other tasks which were not tackled this morning due to certain circumstances.

Please take the time to make contact – it always good to hear from you!