

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Dear All-Weather Friends,

**THE WORLD ACCORDING TO THE WEATHER PEOPLE:** (Formerly called weatherman, sometimes called weathergirl, but political correctness has brought uncertainty to the language). Whatever you call your weather person, they all have this in common. (Hysteria) If the weather in February is mild, it is obviously probably global warming. If there are blizzards in the Dakotas; it is a Polar Event. If it rains (three or four drops) it portends the onset of a Biblical flood. Someone really needs to start an Oscar program to award weather people for their dramatic presentations (especially those "end of the world" events that we have almost every day). I have visions of some weather person wildly shouting at the camera, "We are all going to die!" Translated into "ordinary people speak," go get milk and bread and make sure you have a snow shovel; there will be flurries or maybe an inch of snow.

**Our weather people in Zimbabwe** don't get very worked up about reporting the weather. I mean, when the weather is mostly clear and sunny, what can you do to scare the daylights out of people? Oh, yeah. "We have a sunstroke alert in Beit Bridge. It is really going to be hot, dry and SUNNY for the next six months." Must be global warming. Some years ago the weather person on Zimbabwe TV showed the same radar picture every day for a month. No one noticed that it was the same picture.

**People in Zimbabwe are interested in rain:** the more, the better. Yes, it washes away bridges, makes the roads grow potholes and creates mud, but...you can't grow food without rain. Zimbabwe is prone to drought. The last two years have been very dry and the crops haven't been good. This year, and Noah would be impressed, there has been lots of rain. I've seen pictures of rivers in flood and bridges washed away. But no one said the world is coming to an end and we should all run out and buy life preservers (and milk and bread). There was even a cyclone (hurricane) that touched part of Zimbabwe last month. It brought "tons" of rain. There were floods in some areas. This is what we heard. **God is good.** He has blessed us with rain this year. We will have food. Our cattle will have food and water. Thank you God for the rain!

It is interesting the way different people observe the same event. When it rains in Zimbabwe, God gets the praise and glory. When it snows/rains/gets breezy in America, Walmart (grocery department) makes a mint on *chingwa ne mukaka*. I switched to Shona as I thought you didn't want to hear bread and milk again.

Whatever the weather (or the gender of the weatherperson), we need to remember this. Gratitude to God for his blessings is always good. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)** <sup>16</sup> Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. "

Rain or shine, we thank God,

Ben and Karen