

Petition #16:

A Prayer for Zimbabwe

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 117; Psalm 126:4-6; Jeremiah 30:17,19-22

Reflections of the Heart:

Zimbabwe is a country in crisis: an economic and social collapse is occurring in a country whose motto is “Unity, Freedom and Work” as a “dictatorial democracy” has become the law of the land, tribal warfare has killed an indeterminate number of people and sent thousands fleeing the land, and unemployment has reached an astonishing 94 percent. Let us pray to the Father that Zimbabwe be ruled by leaders who put the needs of the people over their own ambitions; that a stable financial system be established in order to re-build the country’s infrastructure; and that foreign citizens will pay heed to God’s call to love their neighbors as they love themselves.

Scriptural Prayer:

O Lord, You are our God. We extol and praise Your Name; You are faithful and true. You are an eternal Rock in whom we find refuge. There is no savior but You - none can deliver but You. You are the First and the Last; there is no other God besides You; no one can compare to You. You alone made all things; You stretched out the heavens and created the earth alone. Father, we thank You for hearing the cries of the righteous in Zimbabwe. Thank You for being the God who saves and delivers. Thank You for being our hope and the hope of those who are in Zimbabwe.

Triumphant Father, by faith, we confess that the citizens of Zimbabwe will put their hope and confidence in You. You are a tower of refuge to the poor and to the needy in distress. You are a refuge from the storm and a shelter from the heat. We acknowledge that Your arm is not too weak to save the people of Zimbabwe, neither is Your ear too deaf to hear their calls. It is the sins of the former and current leaders of Zimbabwe that has caused You to turn away and not listen anymore. But we proclaim that the remnant You have called in Zimbabwe, who are called by Your Name, are humbling themselves, praying and seeking Your face and turning from their wicked ways. As they do this, Father, we know that You are hearing from heaven, forgiving their sins and You shall restore the land! Eternal Lord, You direct the heart of a king like a stream of water; so we commit President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and their respective teams to You and confess that their hearts will be pliable in Your hands. You detest the use of dishonest scales so we declare that the economic infrastructure of Zimbabwe will reflect accurate weights and the people will receive livable wages. We confess that the progress the leaders made at their team building retreat will yield real, tangible improvements in the lives of the people of Zimbabwe. We declare that the leaders will write the vision for the nation plainly so that everyone involved in the process can do their part and carry the correct message to others. We confess that the leaders will remove the heavy yoke of oppression, stop pointing fingers and spreading vicious rumors. We profess that they will feed the hungry and help their citizens who are in trouble. Then the light of the nation of Zimbabwe will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around them will be as bright as noon. Lord, You said that you would then guide them continually, giving them water when they are dry and restore their strength. We confess that the citizens of Zimbabwe will rebuild the deserted ruins of their cities and they will be known as rebuilders of walls and restorers of homes. As You restore Zimbabwe, we declare that the people will praise You as their deliverer and tell how You answered when they called for Your help. We declare that once Zimbabwe returns to its former glory, the elders will tell future generations that even though it seemed that their homeland was forsaken, You the God of Jacob, restored the land and made it a pride for the ages. We declare that the sound of weeping will no longer be heard – instead sounds of rejoicing, happiness, and praise shall come from the people of Zimbabwe as they proclaim that You, the Lord, are their God.¹ Nothing is impossible for You!

Father, as the God who heals all diseases, we ask that You, Jehova Rapha, stop the outbreak of cholera that is occurring in the country by providing adequate resources to repair the water and sanitation services. Father, break the cycle of famine by providing bread to the people who are scrounging for food; send showers of blessings so that the orchards and fields of Zimbabwe will yield bumper crops. Jehovah-Jireh, as the God who provides, please stabilize the economy of Zimbabwe so that those who are working will be able to earn fair wages and provide for their families. Provide enough resources to re-open hospitals and schools throughout the country. We ask that You protect the aid workers who have traveled to the country in the hopes of providing relief to Your people and please accept their selflessness as an attempt to do what is right and just in Your eyes. For those citizens of Zimbabwe who are fleeing to South Africa in search of a better life, provide them safe passage as they cross the Limpopo River; protect them from the arrow that flies by day, the pestilence that roams in darkness, and the destruction that lays in wait at noon. Holy Spirit, inspire the people of South Africa to

help, not oppress or mistreat, those citizens from Zimbabwe who are seeking refuge. Father, we ask a special blessing over the women and children of Zimbabwe: please protect the woman and girls from bodily brutality. Abba, spread Your protection around the children who have been orphaned or abandoned to shield them from the gumagumas seeking to exploit their innocence and vulnerability in Zimbabwe and in the countries where they may seek refuge. Holy Spirit, guide the leaders of Zimbabwe in Your truth; touch and inspire them to seek peace and to rule with fairness by reminding them that all people, including leaders, will be subjected to judgment by You, O Lord, and that You show no partiality. Holy Spirit, descend upon the dissenters in Zimbabwe who are being tortured for speaking out against the country's rulers; impart wisdom upon them so that they will be able to withstand their persecution knowing that those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness have a place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Holy Spirit, we also ask that You inspire world leaders to take a more active role in restoring Zimbabwe; let foreign dignitaries become more attentive to the numerous crises that are occurring in Zimbabwe; allow foreign governments to work with Zimbabwe's leaders to negotiate and foster humane solutions that will ease the country's economic crisis; inspire religious leaders to promote prayer for the troubled country; and inspire the citizens of all foreign nations to call upon their religious and secular leaders to press for a government that will impart laws that are in accordance with Your law and Your ways.

Holy Spirit, show me how to pray for the situation in Zimbabwe:

Father, we ask You to forgive the people of Zimbabwe for their sins. Forgive those who are preying upon the poor and distressed people in the country. Forgive those citizens who have an abundance for allowing their fellow countrymen to scavenge for food. Forgive the leaders of the country for turning a blind eye to those who are in need, and for not acknowledging that their people are indeed suffering. Forgive the leaders for the dictatorial rule they have imposed upon the democratic land. Father, please forgive the citizens of foreign nations for their lack of knowledge and inattention to the plight of the people in Zimbabwe. We also ask that You forgive the people of foreign nations who are turning away refugees from Zimbabwe.

Help them to not yield to temptation, but deliver them from the evil one.

Lord, vast is Your power. You have made the Heaven and Earth by Your great might; nothing is impossible with You. The Heavens declare Your glory, sending forth Your message to the ends of the world without a word or a sound. Let all servants, great and small shall fear You; ⁱⁱ as all salvation, glory and might belong to You, ⁱⁱⁱ O Lord. Let everything that has breath praise You! ^{iv} Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Isaiah 25:1, Psalm 94:22, Isaiah 43:11, Isaiah 44:6,24, Isaiah 25:4, Isaiah 59:1-2, II Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 21:1, Proverbs 11:1, Habakkuk 2:2, Isaiah 58:9-12, Psalm 31:22, Isaiah 60:15, Isaiah 61:3, Matthew 19:26, Psalm 103:3, Nehemiah 9:15, Ezekiel 34:27, Proverbs 21:3, Psalm 91:5-6, Exodus 22:21, John 16:13, Matthew 5:10, Matthew 6:13, Jeremiah 32:17, Psalm 19:1-4, Revelation 19:1,5, Psalm 150:6

ⁱ Zechariah 13:9

ⁱⁱ Revelation 19:5

ⁱⁱⁱ Revelation 19:1

^{iv} Psalm 150:6