

ZIMBABWE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

February 21, 2008 is President Mugabe's 84th birthday. He is hosting a large sporting event in southern Zimbabwe to help support his presidential campaign for the upcoming March 29 elections. If he wins the election, this will be his 7th term as president. While he is celebrating his birthday "in style," the people of Zimbabwe are starving from lack of food, dying from AID's and suffering from the highest inflation rate (over 100,000% per year) in the history of the country.

The good news is that there now are two major candidates opposing Mugabe in the election. One of the men is a respected former finance minister under Mugabe. He has broken away from the ruling party and is reported to have a very significant following. While Mugabe is making life very difficult for all members of opposition parties, it is forecast that none of the three men will obtain 51% of the vote in the election, which will force the nation into a round-off election. At this point, there is a reasonably good chance that Mugabe will be defeated ... particularly if the election is at all fairly conducted.

MORE ABOUT ROBERT MUGABE From Larry Broughton

When "Parade Magazine" released its annual list of the World's Worst Dictators, Zim's Mugabe was named No. 6 on this year's list. When Mugabe took charge of Zimbabwe in 1980 he was seen as a symbol of a new democratic Africa. However, over the years he has destroyed its economy and forced its people into starvation. Read the full articles via the 2 links below:

<http://www.parade.com/dictators/2008/profiles/robert-mugabe.html>

http://www.parade.com/articles/editions/2008/edition_02-17-2008/Dictators2

Please pray for Zimbabwe, as it goes through its election process during the next month.

SHORT-TERM MISSION 2008 UPDATE

The team, consisting of George Bragg, Larry Broughton and Steve Phillips, will fly from Los Angeles on June 19th and return on July 2nd. While

in Zimbabwe, they will teach, preach and support the week-long ZCF Pastors and Leadership Bible School in Gwandavale and will spend several days in Bulawayo meeting with local church, business and Christian mission leaders. Of particular interest this year will be visits with the local orphan program, which many of you are supporting through your much needed prayers and donations, and an old folks farm called "The Lighthouse," which was purchased with funds from yard sales conducted many years ago by Creekside and Northside Church of Christ members. This year, there will be no time for visits to Victoria Falls, lion-walking, bungee jumping or animal watching.

ORPHAN UPDATE From Janelle Avery

The Zimbabwe school year normally begins in the middle of January of each year. But in this distressful year, with Zimbabwe in complete economic collapse and teachers fleeing the country, many of the schools did not open until the beginning of February. Now all our children are back attending school, and we are very thankful for this. However, the schools are seriously understaffed -- one high school in Bulawayo only has six teachers, and another, only four. Of course, the children's education is suffering. Please pray for the children, the teachers and our staff, as we sift through the possibilities of how we can help our children

Because of the desperate food crisis in the country, late last year we began giving each of the families food packets of basic foods stuffs -- i.e. corn meal, cooking oil and soya protein mixes. Because of this extra expense, we made an appeal to all subscribers to the AOM mailing list, and sufficient monies were given to cover the food for the next several months. As the food crisis continues, we will be making another appeal, when these funds are used. We are very grateful to every person who gave, and are continuing to give, to assist these helpless orphans.

(Editor's Note: The children of Creekside Christian School conducted a series of bake sales last month and raised \$141 for the orphan food program.)

If you do not wish to receive these updates, please contact: marycliff@cox.net.