

PRaise & PRayer

1. 68 families with children in our church AWANA club are being helped with food packs each month. There won't be food from the fields to eat until March 2025. So far the rains have not been good again this year.
2. We have been trying to raise \$3,000.00 to print 143 copies of a 3-book companion set that we are calling a Discipleship Resource Handbook. These lessons were developed over the last 20 years as we shared with pastors in the Karanda area. We will give these out to key people who might benefit from them as they lead others. So far, folk have given \$2280.00 toward this printing. We still need \$720.00. I have edited 6 different Gospel tracts as well, that we want to print for use in our Chaplain's department. This will cost another \$1000. Thanks for considering these opportunities and praying for the right people to receive them.
3. Pray for someone to join in our work here at Karanda. Over the years a number have been interested. We had asked for prayer for Tony and Joy who were considering Karanda as a place of service. Tony is struggling right now with health issues and they are now unable to pursue this course. Thanks for praying for them.

WAYS TO CONNECT:

Jon's Zimbabwe phone number (also for WhatsApp & Signal):

+263 774-685-394

Jon's email:

jon.d.christiansen@gmail.com

Regular Updates:

www.jonathan.photo

Christiansen New Year Challenge

January 2025

jon.d.christiansen@gmail.com

www.jonathan.photo



A New Year of Opportunity

Over the past 21 years we have been working as "missionaries" at the Karanda Mission Hospital here in north-east Zimbabwe. Dr. Paul and Pedrinah Thistle, Kiersten Hutchinson and ourselves are now all who remain under TEAM's umbrella, working in Zimbabwe. The Lord has many other folk from Zimbabwe that have joined Him in His Kingdom work here. He continues to orchestrate the efforts of His children, extending His love to the many that come to the hospital for physical assistance.

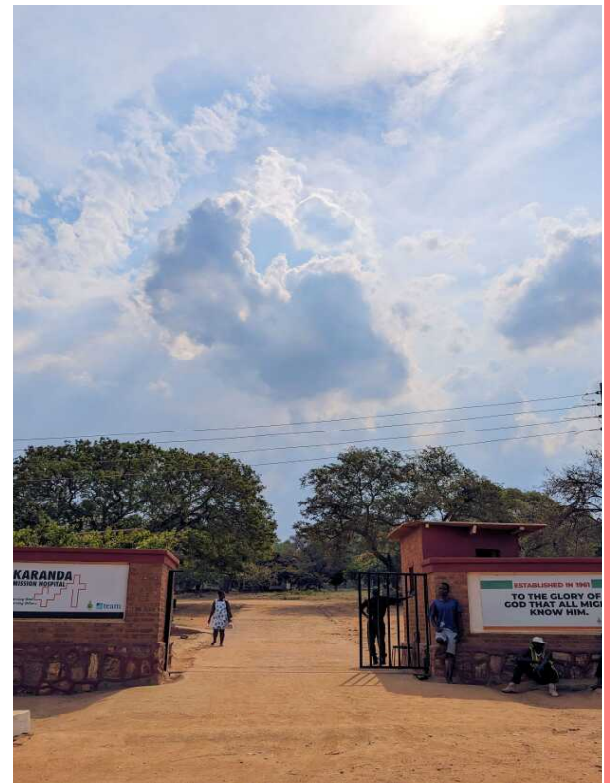
I am convinced that there is an important role for new expatriate workers at places like Karanda. It is not our job to "run" the hospital. It is our job to add our giftings and perspective to the mix, lending our shoulder to assist as we can with the big task at hand. We come from Christian communities in our home country that need to connect with others around the world. We come with different perspectives on how to face challenges. We have giftings that have been tempered by a different culture, allowing us to join the work in unique ways.

One of the ways that the Lord has used us is to model personal evangelism, which is often difficult for our Shona brothers and sisters to step into. The Shona folk all believe in the reality of the "supernatural". Most are not sure about how to begin a relationship with Jesus or the importance of that. With a prayer, a smile and some very direct words a helpful conversation can take place which most folk really appreciate.

If you know of someone who is looking for an opportunity to serve the Lord at a place like Karanda, please connect them with us!

TEAM

PO Box 1683
Carol Stream, IL 60132-1683
Our Account #: 001478
Online: <https://give.team.org/fundraiser/3232774>



Retirement Plans

We are now just 3 months from our departure from full-time work at Karanda Mission Hospital and 6 months from our retirement from TEAM. Thanks for praying for us during this time of transition. We are doing our best to leave "well"!



Jon's Report to be presented to the annual TEAM Conference , South Africa, January 2025

This will be our final TEAM conference event as a "missionary" participant. Ephesians 2:10 has been a special verse to me over the years. It has clarified our role in God's eternal purposes. It is His good work that we are privileged to participate in. Being His hands, His feet, and extending His compassion to folk He has sent us to, has been the most interesting and enjoyable part of my work. This past year has been full of "normal" business - things like providing technical support at the hospital, Karanda administration duties, and project management. These are the "bread-n-butter" of my daily activity. The Lord has gifted me and enabled me to do these things. They are part of His good work. There have also been other opportunities that He has orchestrated that we have seen Him at work - I will list these. Let's talk, if you would like to know more.

1. We have continued to participate in an ongoing relationship with the Apostolic Fellowship Church (AFC). Bishop and Mai Bishop Zongoro eagerly study the Bible and then apply what they have studied in leading and ministering to the many that are under their care. Our weekly Bible Study at their house is a place where interested folk from a number of local churches meet and grow together.
2. I have had the opportunity to monthly lead a group of local church members and area pastors in the study of God's Word at a place called Da-te. These people have appreciated this time.
3. We work with children in the Karanda area. Kathy has made significant connections through her work at Karanda's primary school. We also engage with children through our church's AWANA club and other regular activities which we engage in. This year, for the first time, children have come to us privately to talk about receiving Jesus. They have asked for their own Bible Study and a number join us by attending our other Bible Studies.
4. Over the years the Lord has led us to produce and print reproducible teaching and discipleship resources to be used in churches, AWANA, Bible Camps and at the hospital.
5. Offering ourselves to Him to use as He pleases in the morning, has resulted in many clear opportunities to talk with folk about their relationship with Jesus. We have and will continue to enjoy participating with Him in extending His love to folk around us.

Joys associated with joining Jesus in His work:

1. We get to see and experience the Lord's super-natural involvement in the lives of people around us. We have watched as many folk have been born-again and begun to grow up in the King's family.
2. We have been privileged to work at the Karanda Mission Hospital, along side of so many that love the Lord and serve Him faithfully. The hospital is a great place to minister to people in the same way that Jesus did, while He was ministering to folk as related in the Gospels.
3. We have served at Karanda during times of desperation, when very little other health care was available to folk in the country. We are stopped so often and thanked by people. That praise goes to Jesus and it reflects on the hard work of the Karanda staff.
4. We have seen Karanda and those involved there, be center stage as doors opened on some significant ministry opportunities that have affected folk in our district as well as across the country. The (informal) Karanda Bible School, AWANA now available as clubs in the primary and secondary schools, water for communities in our immediate district, and the future potential for our chaplains to be involved in training other chaplains around the country.
5. Karanda continues to be a blessing to folk that are poor and can't afford big health care costs. We have great partners - both those that are fellow believers and others that are humanitarian, that help us with expenses associated with community care, some doctors salaries, and benevolent assistance to those who cannot afford to pay. We get to extend our hand to the needy on behalf of the Lord and many interested individuals.
6. We have gotten to know so many folk, that we would never had known if we had not come to Zimbabwe.

We also have at times felt disappointment:

1. I have wondered at the gradual ministry disengagement of folk from outside of Zimbabwe. I see all of the work that yet needs to be done and also I am aware of how people from outside of the local culture have a significant role that they can play. I would love to see folk from around the world join us in God's work in Zimbabwe.
2. Maybe 40% of Zimbabweans attend some form of a church in what is loosely called, the African Independent Church movement. Most of these groups don't have the privilege of listening to clear Bible teaching. The largest group doesn't encourage their people to use the Bible.
3. We are saddened when local Christians stumble with moral challenges or interference in their walk with the Lord from cultural connections to African Traditional beliefs. I am saddened when I have stumbled and been crippled by my own crippling baggage.
4. Some ... if not many, that we talk with, don't end up embracing Jesus at the time. In saying this, we realize that this is the Lord's work - may He gather in a great harvest!
5. Some of our extended family in the USA and many of our friends there have traversed great hardship and we have not been close to help share their burden.
6. We have both grown old and a little tired. In our time in Zimbabwe, Kathy and I have personally experienced the relative shortness of life mentioned in the Bible. We know what "fading" as a flower of the field is like - we are in the middle of it!



As our years of direct influence come to an end here in Zimbabwe, there are a few financial items that we need help to clear:

1. So far about \$2280.00 of the \$3000.00 needed for the printing costs of our Discipleship Resource Handbooks have been donated. We still need about \$720.00 to complete that project. These books will be all given out to churches and folk that will use them to help others grow.
2. I have edited about 6 Gospel Tracts that will be helpful to our chaplains minister to our many patients. We will use whatever is donated for this cause, but it would be nice to have \$1000.00 - 1500.00 for this effort.
3. Before the end of February, I would like to have the AWANA square/Patient Shelter replastered and painted. This structure was dedicated in memory of my father, Phil Christiansen who loved the Shona people, gave some of the best years of his younger life to work at Karanda Mission Hospital, and who also was a driving force in the AWANA programs of a number of places. I received the quote today for this effort:

Labor Cost: \$800.00
Material Cost: \$1100.00
Total Cost: \$1900.00

4. This term, for the first time since 2006, we are short in our school fee fund. This is the last term we are going to be assisting children with fees. We still need about \$2000.00 to meet the costs of this program this term. Any remaining money will be given to the families toward their next term's costs.
5. On a personal note, we have been running a little short on our monthly support. We have some ministry fund claims to clear before we go. Thanks for helping with this.



Money for our support and ministry funds is best given through TEAM, PO Box 1683, Carol Stream, IL 60132-1683. Our TEAM account number is 001478. You can give online at <https://give.team.org/fundraiser/3232774> .
Money toward any one of the other projects above can be given through our Sending Church, African Children's Account. Send your check made out to Hunter 1st Baptist, with a designating note to Hunter 1st Baptist Church, 693 Hwy 91, Elizabethton, TN 37643. All of these funds will be directed as designated.

Over the 21 years we have been in this track, so many folk and churches have faithfully given toward the cost of keeping us out here. We are thankful to the Lord for His provision through you. Some of you have prayed for us and for the work we are involved in. Thanks for this expenditure of time before the Lord on our behalf. We don't understand why the Lord waits for our prayers, but He does. Maybe it is as simple as, we ask - we then recognize His hand as the one that provides. All glory to Him!

Thanks again,
Jon & Kathy Christiansen
Karanda Mission Hospital, Zimbabwe