

# The Christian Voice

Sunday, 21 June, 2020

*ON A WEEKEND*

**Covid-19** ▶ **489** cases | **64** recoveries | **6** deaths  
**WATCH**

## Churches Open Doors but face challenges

**C**hurches have started to slowly open throughout the country with most facing compliance challenges.

Most churches reported that while the congregation's size was maintained at 50 people per service and this led to several services being held in some of the larger churches.

"Some of the churches with large congregations in Chinhoyi had to hold several services to ensure that small numbers are maintained as per requirement but the challenge is that the majority of the churches don't have infrared thermometers," said Pastor Mapfukidze.

In Chegutu, congregates managed to bring masks but churches faced challenges of doing temperature checks, said Pastor Brian Mangweni.

According to World Health Organisation and Ministry of Health standards and requirements where people congregate there is need to do temperature checks and anyone whose temperature is above 37.5 degrees needs to be referred to Covid-19 rapid response teams.

In Hurungwe most congregations had to wait for their turns as churches only allowed fifty people per service.

In Bulawayo many churches had several services and also the congregates were strictly required to have face masks.

Some of the churches also put water and soap outside for people to wash their hands first.

Pastor KT Mpofu based in Makokoba Bulawayo also said that many churches in the city have decided to wait another week before opening to observe the situation



**Senior Rev Sarah Nyathi preaches with a face mask and shield on**

Senior Rev Sarah Nyathi of Harvest House International said that she had to preach with both her face mask and face shield.

"I had waited for this day and preached hard today but with both a face mask and a face shield," she said in her Facebook post.

In Tsholotsho churches were also able to meet after staying closed for the past three months.

"Some churches are still waiting for their head offices to give advice if they should open now," said Pastor Zikhali in Tsholotsho.

The other challenge that churches are facing besides temperature checks is resources to

disinfect the entire building before services start and afterwards.

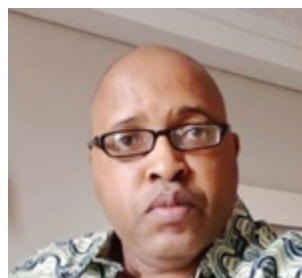
In most of the provinces, churches that opened struggled to do the disinfection process that is required before and after each service to eliminate possibilities of infections.

Churches in Hwange have largely remained closed because of lack of resources for PPEs, disinfectants and infrared thermometers.

Covid-19 cases have spiked in Zimbabwe over the past week, six people have died and 489 are positive.



## EDITORIAL STAFF



**EDITOR:**  
Rev. Useni Sibanda



**PROOFREADER:**  
Runyararo Chilenje



**SUB-EDITOR:**  
Nqobizitha Donga



**WRITER:**  
Rumbidzai Mbewe



**CORRESPONDENT:**  
Godswill Muzarabani

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Phone:** 0292 231213

**E-mail:** zcaprog@gmail.com

**Facebook:** Zimbabwe Christian Alliance

**Twitter:** @zcalliance1

**Website:** www.zimbabwechristianalliance.org.zw

# Disease which killed 9 people in Luveve identified



*Residents queue to get treatment at Luveve clinic*

**The Bulawayo City Council has identified the disease which has killed nine people in Luveve as a gastrointestinal disease but warned that it was incapacitated to handle an outbreak of another disease at a time the country is battling coronavirus.**

Nearly 1 000 people have already been treated of the disease which has diarrhoea symptoms, while nine people have died since the outbreak of the disease which residents blame on water supplied by the council.

The Mayor, Councillor Solomon Mguni, revealed that health officials have identified the illness as a gastrointestinal disease.

He revealed that so far the outbreak has been clustered in Old Luveve, New Luveve and Gwabalandia.

“At least 726 suspected cases of Gastrointestinal Disease have been seen and evaluated at Luveve Clinic this week (last week) and at least 37 seen at their homes as at 18 June 2020. At least 15 were transferred to Mpilo Central Hospital from Luveve area (including the clinic) on 16 June with the hospital reporting at least 59 people being admitted and five having died (five children and one adult) as of 16 June 2020.

Investigations on community deaths are ongoing, with at least three having been reported. Symptoms being reported include watery diarrhoea, bloody diarrhoea, fever, vomiting and abdominal cramps and pain,” said Clr Mguni.

He said four treatment stations have been set up, with mobilisation of mobile ablution facilities in progress.

“The inter-departmental investigations (health and engineering services) are ongoing with water samples from taps, storage containers and unprotected wells being collected and sent to different laboratories

for testing.

“The city continues with engagement of local leadership and community structures, council has also waived water shedding in the affected area,” he said.

“Initially most of the Luveve cases complaining of diarrhoea were not reporting to the health facility citing that they did not have money to pay for service fees at the clinic. Patients were advised to seek care immediately while issue of payments was going to be addressed using the council’s pro-poor policy or unfunded mandate framework as has always been the case in outbreak situations.

“After that campaign, the number of patients seeking services has increased. It was also observed that the affected cases were not administering the home-made sugar and salt solution as they did not have sugar or salt at times. Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) at clinics was distributed to those affected,” said Clr Mguni.

“Council has inadequate human resources to cater for two outbreaks and maintain essential services, further there is a major worry in terms of the frequency of the diarrhoea deterring patients from seeking health services early. Water shortages are also deterring messages on hand washing as there was backlash experienced from the community. The danger is that the outbreak may not be limited to Luveve only,” said Clr Mguni.

The mayor dispelled social media reports that there was an outbreak of typhoid in the city. Meanwhile, the local authority has reported that it requires US\$1 482 000 to address the problem of water contamination in the affected areas.

Source:mbaretimes.com

# The man who saw tomorrow

By Pastor Cleopas Chitapa

**M**y first public message at the beginning of this pandemic was very difficult. Sometimes the hardest thing to say when you are a principal leader, is to admit that we didn't see this coming. I shared a story of how one day, I spent many hours in my office library, pouring through hundreds of books I have collected over the years. I was curious to see if anyone had published something in the past, accurate enough to address what is currently happening in the church around the world.

Some of us are used to these goofy prophets who piece together some incoherent nonsense and suddenly scream "I prophesied about it!!" No you did not. Only one book in my collection - 'CYBER CHURCH' by Dr Patrick Dixon had insight into what was coming. I have had this book for more than 10 years and sadly I never read it. I truly never saw the need to read a book like that. Today it joins about 5 books that permanently stay on my desk. Most people in church may not have heard of Patrick Dixon, he is not famous for speaking in tongues or casting demons.

The New York Times refers to him as the "Futurist." Dr Dixon is a medical doctor by profession, a born-again Christian Minister but known more in the corporate world; the CEO of Global Change Ltd. A fanatic of technology, Dr Dixon is ranked among the top 20 most influential business thinkers alive.

He has made his millions mostly being hired by Global corporations and Fortune 500 companies, helping them to prepare for the future. Cyber Church was published in 1997; he had first been using Email just 3 years earlier. Remember the internet, even though it was first used in 1969 in the US military, but was only launched for public use in the early 90s. In those very early days, brother Dixon was seeing the future of a Cyber, web-based Church and exploring opportunities available through virtual connectivity. Recently I communicated with Dr Dixon applauding his foresight but sadly much of the technology he refers to then in 1997 has been overtaken by further inventions and is now obsolete. My children now need Google to find out what a floppy disk is, a data modem or a fax machine. Change has been so rapid in technology and each year gadgets become smarter, smaller and faster. Technology always stands on the shoulders of previous technology.

The picture of an entire tray of floppy disks now

being replaced by a tiny flash drive is fascinating.

It is arguable that the whole world started seeing rapid technological changes from 2005 than all previous generations combined. Infact 2007 will remain as the defining year of Tech evolution than any other. In that year we saw the roll out of the iPhone, the launch of Facebook, Amazon's Kindle would follow that November and the public boost of Twitter. Both YouTube and LinkedIn, which had been introduced few years earlier, would see new life in the new social media ecosystem, powered

who lately have been vigorously bashing 5G technology. The contradiction is that the same preacher is already using high speed technology in that same sermon, high definition cameras and ultra modern projectors, PRO 11 iPads and all kinds of trinkets. The reason the world is pursuing 5G technology is to drive the next level of quantum performance of our technology. Keep in mind we are moving from programmable computers to cognitive computers. Artificial intelligence, and autonomous-self driving vehicles, all depend on quick response to voice commands. The 5G technology increases response ratio by more than 400% from 4G.

The earliest form of a computer which was larger than a house, occupying three quarters of a tennis court, would consume electricity equivalent to 800 houses to run and would cost 55million dollars. Today with \$200 you buy the same computing capability in something that fits in a purse. We have travelled a long journey from mainframe computers, desktops, laptops to tablets and mobiles.

Covid-19 accelerated the future for the church. I have lately been sharing with our leaders that Covid-19 is not an interruption but a disruption. This will bring changes which even with the return of the old normal, some aspects of the new normal are here to stay. Our challenge is to adapt to the changes. The current situation FORCES us to change.

The term "DISLOCATION" is used to describe a state where the rate of change eventually exceeds the ability to adapt.

They say that it takes about 10 years to fully understand a new technology, draft

and approve legislation around it. Imagine the last time when planes were being grounded at London's Heathrow airport by drones. There were actually no laws that regulate the use of drones by that time.

As a Zimbabwean, a true story from the Zimbabwe ruins comes to mind. Everyone knows that if you visit the Historical Site, it's clear that you are not allowed to take any pictures. There are constant security people who are there to ensure no use of cameras. One day some Japanese visited the site and were disappointed that they couldn't take pictures. One of them however had a drone mounted with a camera. Chatting with security, they released the drone flying over the entire perimeter of the sacred site. The security was fascinated with the metallic insect and had no knowledge that as it was flying, it was video filming and taking the forbidden pictures.

To Page 4



by touch technology and revolutionized by mobile apps.

Today there are more than 600 million sites that can be found per Google alone, containing reference to Christianity. Imagine the volume of free Christian resources now available and the Bible having sales exceeding 5 billion as the most sold book on earth is still the most downloaded book on the web.

Change is sure, change is constant and change is unavoidable. The most profound example I have learnt on how change is on steroids in our generation, is that of the typewriter. Imagine the typewriter was invented in 1868, and remained in use till when I left my first college in 1990. That means churches, corporations, journalists and governments, all used a typewriter for communication for more than 120 years till the early 90s when word processors and PCs took over.

I have been fascinated by a number of preachers



# The man who saw tomorrow

From Page 3

Everyone was amazed when eventually the videos were published online. Technology has gone ahead of us and it is up to us to harness it for the Agenda of the Kingdom in our time.

The Cyber Church is now here while many of us are battling with its discomforts but the sooner we realize its importance the better.

So my fellow pastor, do you think the Apostle Paul ever felt the way you feel today? YES he did. WHAT THE LETTERS OF PAUL WERE IN THE 1ST CENTURY OF THE CHURCH, is what virtual services and cyber evangelism should be to you today. Imagine Paul as a man of the people –at times like at Ephesus, he would spend 2 full years with the saints- then found himself now locked up in Rome, with travel restrictions and no longer able to physically conduct bible study with brethren. PAUL HAD TO DISCIPLE THROUGH LETTERS FROM PRISON, all of the churches of Asia Minor.

The Pastor who suffers much loss today, is the Pastor who built his ministry on theatrics and showmanship- raising churches that never had substance of the word and only understood church not in their homes but in the four corners of an Edifice.

In all my years of leadership, I have never ordained anyone without reading ACTS 20:25-32 “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the Kingdom, WILL EVER SEE ME AGAIN.... now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

I believe and pray normal fellowship and association will return even with some differences, but as we tarry, the WORD can still BUILD UP the saints and guarantees their inheritance.

Every Home for Christ

# The arrows are beyond

**Bishop Ngwiza Mnkandla**



(1 Samuel 20:22.)

**T**his is a very poignant chapter that describes the parting of two covenant friends.

The phrase ‘The arrows are beyond you’ would signal the end of David’s life in Saul’s palace. The end of not only his privileged position as leading general in Saul’s army but as the king’s son in law. To us, those words are a sentence in a story but for David they were dreaded words that meant he had to immediately put as much distance between him and his father in law.

And so began David’s isolation. For Saul, David was patient zero and had to be eliminated before he could infect others in the kingdom. For David, social distancing was his only means of survival. And so before Saul could set his hound dogs on him, like a thief in the night, David stole away!. Not a chance to say goodbye to the bride he had purchased with two hundred foreskins from the Philistines. Not a moment longer with his covenant brother in law whose heart was bleeding with rage because of a father who had betrayed him.

(1 Samuel 21:1-9. 22:6-19.) As David ran for his life, little did he realise that he was asymptomatic. When he came to the priests at Nob, although he did not exhibit any symptoms, he was highly infectious! He got Goliath’s sword and the bread

but regrettably, eighty five priests and their families were infected! The devastation was massive. An entire city was wiped out! But wait a minute! Where was the virus? Not with David!! It was in Saul’s palace! It was not David who was asymptomatic but Doeg!

Doeg was part of Saul’s army and when he reported to his master, the virus was activated, killing all those he had been in touch with. Time to examine our hearts. Where have you been and what are you carrying within you? How safe is anyone around you? The arrows are beyond.

(1 Samuel 21:10-15) I heard this terrifying story of a lady who raised a python as a pet. She always had it sleep on the floor while she crawled into her bed. One day she wakes up to find it full length along her body! Didn’t think much of it until someone opened her eyes! As it grew, the python was sizing her up to see if it was now long enough to swallow her!

Whatever had possessed David to think he could hide in Gath amongst the Philistines whose leader he had killed only a short while back? A couple of thoughts here:

First like your shadow, your reputation, good or bad, follows you wherever you go! What is the women’s song about you? Women are often better judges of character when it comes to discerning motives!

Secondly....never sleep with a python! One day, you will wake up in its stomach! In my books, a snake is a snake no matter how domesticated! David was a snake to the Philistines. The feeling was mutual though. You got to keep running David. The arrows are beyond!

## Cities and Towns Update

**CHEGUTU:** Today most churches were open for services with wearing of masks and social distancing being observed. At Engen garage there was diesel and a long queue stretched for almost a kilometre. The only garage in town which had petrol was finished yesterday and they were selling at \$1 us per litre. Foodstuffs are now very expensive, some shops are no longer accepting \$2 bond notes.

**HWANGE:** Today a few churches were opened. health requirements as recommended by the World Health organization (WHO) seem to be a challenge for the churches that have not opened yet.

**KWEKWE:** Churches held their Sunday services. A few days ago most Pastors were raising concerns

on the cost of the required personal protective equipment such as sanitisers and the infra-red thermometers. However, they were grateful that they can now congregate at their respective churches.

**BEITBRIDGE:** Some of the churches were opened today. Most observed churches were disinfected twice with congregants sanitized before entering the Church building.

**CHINHOYI:** Most churches are meeting with some having multiple services. one church that was visited has 3 services that are one hour long and separated by 30 minutes. Social distancing and masking is being observed there and they have a

thermometer. But it seems disinfecting between services is an issue. Most churches are meeting without the infra-red thermometer and some churches are meeting in cell groups.

**TSHOLOTSHO:** Most churches managed to meet for the first time after 3 months. Those who did not are awaiting directive from their headquarters. Most churches who have opened have met the required health standards proclaimed by the Ministry of Health.

**HURUNGWE:** Most churches had services today most measures adhered to but the issue of numbers still a challenge especially to those with a large number of congregants.