

# JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER

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## *Shop 'Til You Drop*

We have been in for the past week and a half buying flour, sugar, oil, and other staple products that we can no longer get in. The recent price-cuts by the government have forced businesses who had purchased their goods at one price, to turn around and sell them at a loss. As a consequence, many businesses no longer stock goods, and sometimes the only way to get these things is on the black-market, which is now flourishing.

We are fortunate enough to be able to come to get our things, but unfortunately, most Zimbabweans do not have this luxury. Sadly, many people in the rural areas are suffering as a

result, not being able to get transportation to the city due to the lack of fuel.

It is not all gloom and doom, however, since we can usually get fresh vegetables. Meat is a difficulty, but I guess that makes a vegetarian's paradise. Zimbabweans are a resilient bunch with a good sense of humor. Even in the midst of all of this, people try to maintain some humor, otherwise one would probably crack. There are two grocery stores in , for the most part: TM and Spar. Many people joke that the stores are changing their names to MT and Sparse because of their empty shelves. There are many

such puns that go around adding a bit of comic relief to one's day.

What all this means for us and others who are able to travel to , is that you spend very little in for several months. Then all of a sudden, when we come south, we shop until we drop. I hate shopping. I am usually on suicide watch after day two. By day three, most of the shopping is done, but there are still these loose ends to tie up that usually result in a temporary lapse in my sanity. Needless to say, I am always glad to get back to where there is no point to shopping in the first place.

### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ◆ Government Price Controls.
- ◆ Continuing the Work at the College.
- ◆ Preaching the Word from Job.
- ◆ It's A Boy!



## *Improvements at TCZ*

### **MOVING TO MAJORS**

New improvements are being made at the college which Mat and I are excited about. One major thing happening at TCZ is a curriculum revision! This is VERY needed. Currently, students coming through TCZ are all required to take the same classes, meaning that we are training up people to be a "jack of all trades and master of none." Under the old curriculum, students have 3 terms per year and each term they have to take about 7

classes to fit in all of the courses TCZ requires! Of course they can't read, study and put in quality time for each class, so as a result many of them are doing mediocre in all their classes. Plus the old curriculum isn't really training up people specifically in their areas of interest and gifting. So the new curriculum model will look more like the "majors" systems that many other universities have. Students will be required to take the same core requirements, but then will be able to

choose which area to major in: pastoral ministry, Christian education, missions, theology, etc. With the new curriculum model, the number of classes per term will decrease and students will be able to focus in on their area of interest, instead of being forced to take classes that they aren't interested in. Mat and I are excited about this needed change and think it will improve the quality of the students that we produce here at the college.

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Zim Current Events</i>	1
<i>College Updates</i>	1-2
<i>Preaching the Word</i>	2
<i>Kayle's Pregnancy</i>	2
<i>Prayer Requests</i>	2

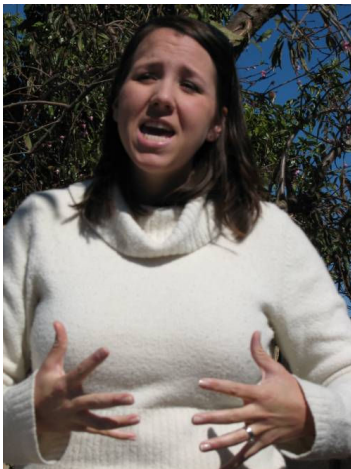
## *Improvements at TCZ (cont. from pg. 1)*

### **TCZ CHAPELS**

Our chapel services are another thing that we are improving. Kayle is partnering with another faculty member in order to bring some "life" back into our chapel services, which have become quite monotonous. Many activities like chapel, student activities, bible studies, discipleship, etc. are student run in the US, but here it doesn't work to hand

over these activities to students. The students just haven't seen them modeled well before and so they don't know how to lead them. Most of what we do has to be modeled for the students, which is what we are intentionally going to do with our chapel services next term. We hope to slowly be able to hand over the chapel services for key students to run in the future after modeling it well to them.

## *Preaching in the High-Density Suburbs*



you ever read Job?? He completely trusted God and did not sin, yet he suffered!"

In Africa, this kind of sermon is often preached to help one understand why they are suffering here in : suffering comes as a result of sinning against God or because of a lack of faith, trust or hope in God. However, this is not theologically correct! I sat in So needless to say, when asked to preach at this student's church, I knew exactly the sermon to preach!

Kayle was invited to preach at a student's church back in July. We had been to this student's church before where an elder of the church preached a message from Psalm 125:1 which says, "Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever." In this sermon he said that if you are struggling or suffering, if your life is being shaken, then you are not fully trusting in God. the congregation trying to hold myself back as my blood began to boil, thinking, "Have

I preached from Job 11:13-20 showing that Job's friends tried to comfort him by giving him the similar advice that we suffer because of something we've done wrong. His friends said if he turns away from his sin and turns towards God, then he will not suffer any longer. However, at the end of the book, we see that God upholds Job's innocence and shows that sometimes suffering has nothing to do with what we've done or haven't done. God was angered at the friends who gave the false advice that we suffer because of something we have done wrong.

## *Baby Update*



Kayle had a scan at 18 weeks where we discovered that we'll be having a boy! Kayle is now 22 weeks pregnant and is really starting to show outward signs of being pregnant. We have been having fun as the little guy has been kicking so that even Mat can feel! We await a shopping trip down to S. Africa to buy some much needed maternity clothes and baby items. A few days ago, we took a trip to Harare, the capital of , to visit with the doctor that Kayle will be delivering with. While there we got to see the hospital where she will be delivering. All in all, we feel more confident about delivering in Harare rather than delivering in Bulawayo as the doctor and hospital facilities seem better. We await the due date, which is December 4th!

## *Prayer Requests*

- Pray for the faculty of TCZ as we go through the process of revising the curriculum. This can be a very challenging process, but its importance can not be overstated.
- Pray for the people of as they struggle through the widespread shortages of fuel, flour, sugar, oil, and corn meal (the staple food here).
- Please pray for our students--that they would take their education seriously, set their hearts and minds to learning all that God has for them while they are here, and to leave TCZ changing the way they preach and teach in their churches!
- Continue to pray for Kayle and the little child growing inside her!

**As always, you can visit our website for pictures, blogs, and other more frequent updates about what is going on [www.sybergnosis.com/zimbabwe](http://www.sybergnosis.com/zimbabwe)**