

1894 Nyawunwa Street.
Section five
P.O. Kambuzuma

Dearest Elder & Sister Hall

We were really happy to receive a card and a very informative letter from you. You do not know how happy we were. To think that, just when we thought no one in the world cares for us any more, your letter arrives. Thank you so much.

Elder & Sister Hall we are okay here in Zimbabwe and we are no longer attending church in Highfield. There is another branch in Mufakose a suburb next to Kambuzuma. Even though its next to us we still have to board buses every Sunday to go to church. We do not mind the expenses though, because we know that deep inside God is there and through him we shall live.

At church, mum is now the counsellor of relief society, I, Portia Marutha, I am the President of young women and Juliet the last born is the 1st counsellor of primary schools. The three of us have formed a circle, a circle with God in the center, and we hold on to God.

Mum is no longer operating a business in Town. The building was expensive and she earned less profits, so she gave up. She tried to take up sewing at home, but something bad happened

her arm caught arthritis — and she can not move it up and down for a long time. She then took to selling crochet in South Africa. Selling back chairs, table clothes and other things, and with the little that she got we managed to go to school. My sister wrote her form 2 and I wrote my "O" level and passed. As time went on, there were too many people selling the same things, profits went down and she can not even find money to go to South Africa, as you know my father does not work.

When I passed form 4, I had to ^{go} on to form 5 and 6. I did not ^{have} money to do so, so I wrote to a couple in U.S.A, the Terrills and dear God knows how grateful I was when they said they would help me out with everything concerning schooling. So I managed to go to form 5 and every now and then they sent a cheque to school for my school needs. I wrote my "A" level and at the present moment, I am waiting for my results which will come out sometime in February.

I then went to the church president to ask him if they could help me out, if I pass, to go to University, because lately, some young Zimbabweans were sent to U.S.A. universities. I told him that I also wanted to go to a church university because the University in Zimbabwe has been having problems lately and at one point it was closed down. But to my disappointment I was told that it was impossible. Now I

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said dear God knows what I am going to do, I really so much want to help my family in years to come. I know, even if my mum and dad do not say it, in case it may hurt me, that I am their only hope of survival. How I badly wanted to attend schooling at BYU, but all my dreams were shattered. I just keep telling myself that one day God will look down at my family and something will finally go right.

Sister and Elder Hall I am really sorry about telling you such things. I think I just wrote this because it seems you are my hope, that ray of light, and you seem to be the only ones who remember and care for us.

Anywhere, we are still going to church, even though the branch is a church composed of a small congregation we still hold one, because we know that, even if we are only two, God is there. Our church has really kept us going, with the scriptures, teachings and people. We really thank God for the joy he brought to us, in the form of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Elder and Sister Hall God is there and through him we shall find joy, peace, love, hope and happiness. Even if we come to the end of the rope we shall hold on tightly. We love and care for you so much.

Yours sincerely

Portia Marutha and family



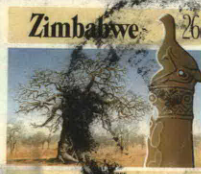
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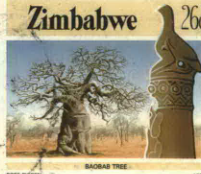
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