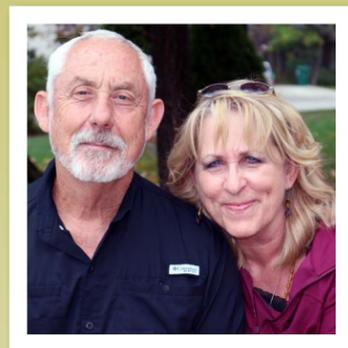
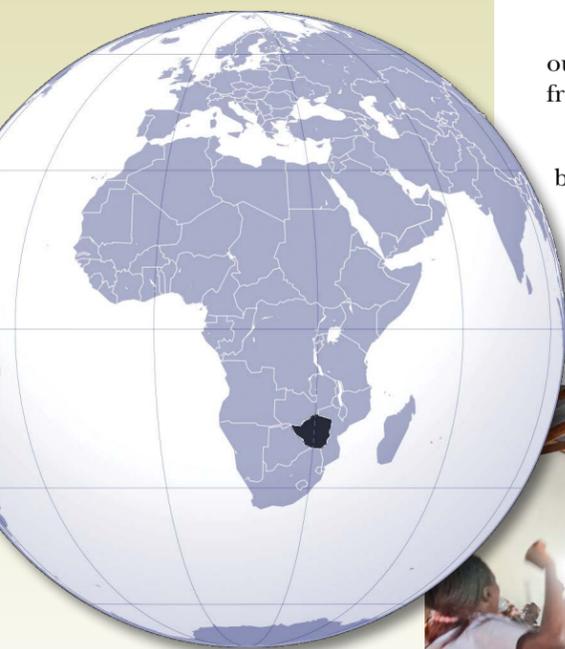


# Spreading the Gospel in Zimbabwe

Nancy Greenhaw  
COUNTRY COORDINATOR  
for ZIMBABWE



Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw minister in the United States, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, and several countries in Africa. They conduct missions, conferences, and retreats for adults and youth. They are also involved in prison ministry and work with the homeless.



# Zimbabwe

## FREEDOM FROM FALSE RELIGIONS ▶

Fr. Maxmillian brought us to St. Leo's Parish in Sadza to encourage Catholics in their faith. He chose St. Leo's because of a high incidence of traditional religions in the area. The people, even Christians, live in fear of curses and of ancestral gods, and feel they must offer libations to them so their crops will grow. The so-called Apostles, a group that used to be called witchdoctors, now controls many through their pseudo-gift of prophesy. This is nothing but communication with demonic spirits. Fr. Max really wants to break the hold these people have over his parishioners.

Fr. Max himself grew up as an albino in Africa—where witchcraft says albino body parts are powerful for cursing others. He knows manslaughter is not an unusual occurrence in some areas.

When we arrived, about one-hundred Zimbabweans had been waiting all night for our arrival. They were smiling, waving hands, and singing their native songs. Father Max encountered many challenges while organizing the conference. For instance, cows ate all of the vegetables a parishioner had planned to donate. Thankfully, God inspired someone to make another donation that provided for our needs!

Vandals had taken nearly everything from this parish, which had been abandoned for a few years. However, the community loves Fr. Max and will do anything for him. They provided us with beds, a table, chairs, utensils, and dishes.

These people are resourceful. They cooked meals on campfires, and washed dishes outside. Since the well pump was broken or missing, a small army of men filled up buckets from the source and passed them to a man perched on the water tower.

They also heated water in buckets over a campfire for showers. We used black plastic bags as shower curtains, but there was a huge gaping hole because the door wouldn't close. With all the foot traffic in the house, that bothered me the most, as there was no way to lock it. I just sang loudly and made lots of noise!

**The number of participants grew each day, until we had over 300 of the faithful attending!**

Praising the Lord



Jumping for Joy  
at St. Leo's Parish

SADZA · ZIMBABWE

## FREEDOM THROUGH PRAYER ▶

The Unbound model greatly influenced Fr. Max. He uses it in the confessional and in his prayers for the people. He hopes his troops will embrace it for themselves. While in Sadza, I taught about the Five Keys, and Lloyd taught about Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and about knowing and defending the faith.



Fr. Max provides an improvised confessional at St. Leo's.

On Fr. Max's Feast Day, we celebrated with a special Mass. The people loved every minute of it. At the end of Mass, there were a number of testimonies. One woman shared that when we were here last year, she and her husband had come for prayer. They had experienced a string of unnatural fires and car accidents. They had lived for years with no problems, but suddenly that had changed. They suffered from four fires in a matter of weeks. One destroyed their home and another destroyed a poultry project and killed 20,000 chickens. Two other fires brought them additional distress and financial woes. The woman stated she was having car accidents at least four times a week, although she had never had one before that. **When I prayed for them, we broke some curses, and the man forgave his father, who had disowned him and not spoken to him in years.**

After our prayer time, this man went to his father and asked for and received forgiveness. The father was 105! They have not experienced a car accident or fire since that time. The man was so encouraged, he ran for political office and was elected to the parliament! There were several other testimonies of healing and of how God had touched and transformed lives.

## FREEDOM IN THE TRUTH OF CHURCH TEACHINGS ▶

We spent the last half of our trip with Fr. Arnold Maringe, at St. Barnabas Church. The first thing you notice there is the slanted floor. The roof leaked, so when they poured the concrete, they did it on a slant so the water would run off quickly. This was supposed to be a temporary solution, but they have been in this makeshift structure for about three years.

We arrived on the feast of the Assumption, and women from around the diocese gathered to honor Our Lady. Fr. Maringe celebrated a special Mass for the Queen and then we spoke. Lloyd began with a great apologetics presentation about Our Lady, and the women were thrilled. They all have a great devotion to Our Lady, but didn't know how to defend their beliefs from Scripture.

I gave a talk called *Faith to the Point of Audacity*, from the teachings of St. Therese. The women really got into it, and when I spoke about building one's faith by changing one's words, we really connected. **When I told them we needed to build up our husbands with our words, and that husbands are the head of the family, but wives are the necks who turn the head, it brought the house down!** I think the fact that Lloyd and I obviously get along well, and that we have been married for fifty years, resonated with the women. A number of them gave testimonies that the talks had impacted their lives. **They said from now on, they are going to build up their husbands!**

Sister Oliva—who I met when we first came to Zimbabwe ten years ago—led the praise and worship on Sunday. She was a student in Uganda when I first met her, and now is a Franciscan nun. I never thought we would worship together again, but our Lord is a God of surprises! **She started singing and instantly got the crowd on their feet. It exploded from there.** With sweat pouring down her forehead, that sweet nun had the place rocking for Jesus! Throughout the day, we alternated between talks and worship. It was a very powerful time, but it took a little getting used to dancing on the overly slanted floor! For many, this was the first time they made an adult decision to become an intentional disciple of Christ.



"That sweet nun [Sister Oliva] had the place rocking for Jesus!"

On Monday, Lloyd spoke on apologetics and very lightly touched on the Church's reason for opposing contraception and abortion. They were very interested in this topic, as it directly affects them. The girls who rode with us on the way home after that talk asked more about contraception and abortion, and we discussed these issues the whole thirty minutes home. We also spoke to couples about statistics on contraception, abortion, overpopulation, NFP, and Theology of the Body. It was a real challenge for them, and several stood up to share their lack of trust and to ask for God's strength and courage. It was a time of breaking new ground and of leaving the results up to the Lord. Much of what we taught was new to the people.

**During our time there, I think the Lord gave them hope to overcome slaveries to sin, both big and small. I know marriages and lives were changed. We had a wonderful opportunity to preach the Gospel in places where they do not ever get speakers.✝**