

The NTC delegation continues to be amazed and inspired by southern Africa in the days following the dedication of the Alfred L. Norris Health Clinic at Africa University and the celebration of the \$500,000 in health science scholarships bearing the name of the late Bishop Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr. On Friday we returned to Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. Highlight of the day was a traditional African dinner at the home of one of the Zimbabwe families that take a leadership role in supporting and raising money for the university. We learned that their latest project is to raise funds to help students whose educations have been disrupted by the collapse of the nation's economy. The student body has lost some 400 students in the last year, and some 40 students were unable to graduate due to unpaid fees, even after AU did everything possible to try to help them raise the funds. Students fill numerous support jobs at the university, and desperate parents are bringing pigs and cows to the campus asking if the school will take them in lieu of tuition payments. We are bringing back more information on ways we can help respond to this tragic situation.

On Saturday we flew Zimbabwe Air to Victoria Falls. I was a little nervous about getting on the plane, but the flight was uneventful. The visit to Victoria Falls was truly breathtaking. The falls live up to their designation as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. We also enjoyed a sunset cruise, where we saw a crimson sun dip lower and lower through the clouds, casting its colors across sky and water. Sunday (today) included a photo safari (where we saw a jaguar - a very rare occurrence) and more crocks, hippos and elephants than we could count. The photo safari and river cruise to see more game that followed were in the neighboring country of Botswana. Tonight we dined at a place called Boma (Fire pit in the Shona language) and ate traditional foods, got a chance to play African drums and join in a traditional dance. Tomorrow we return to South Africa and start the process to travel back home. We will arrive on Wednesday afternoon.

Also, for those of you who composed the letters that are being distributed every day, know we all look forward to receiving these wonderful gifts of love and support from home. Know we are praying for you, as you are praying for us.

God bless, Joan