

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

FROM BEN FREETH, MCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IN ZIMBABWE

Dear Friends, Relations, Supporters and Colleagues

I have been reflecting deeply over the last 3 weeks as I have moved through Zimbabwe for many hundreds of kilometres on foot with a horse. The horse is called Tsedeq. It means justice and righteousness in Hebrew.

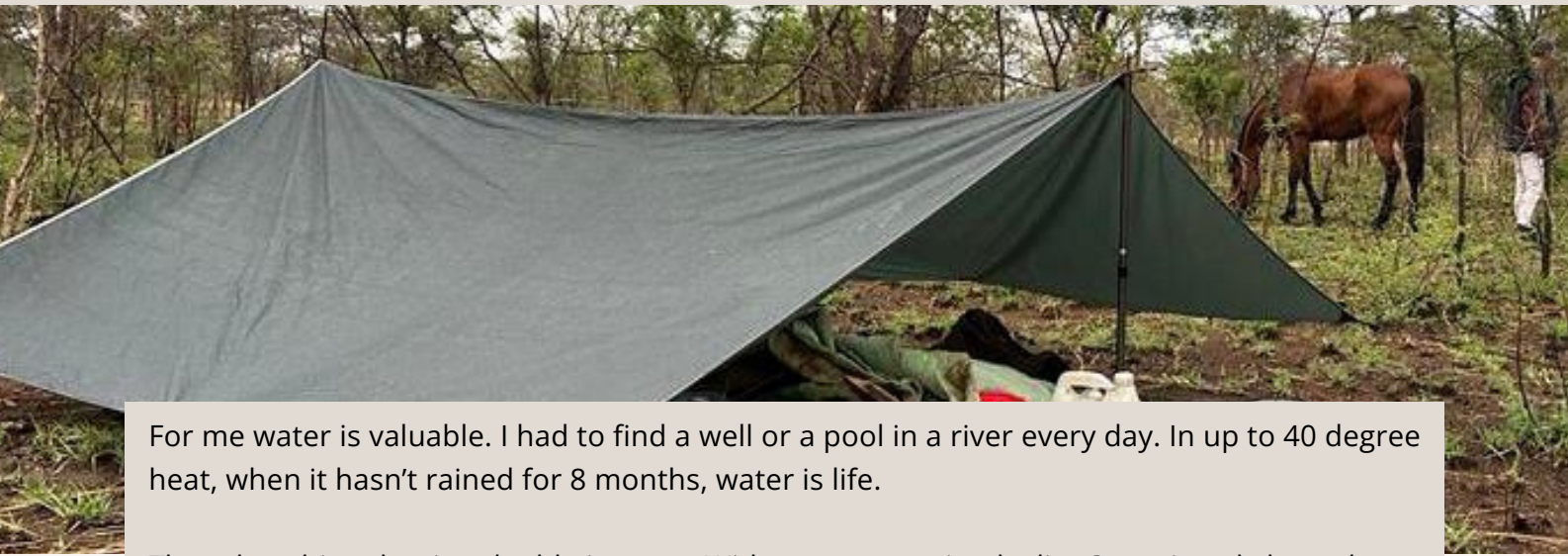
I started from Mount Carmel farm (Mike Campbell's now derelict family farm) in Chegutu on 28 November, on the 15th anniversary of the SADC Tribunal Judgment awarded in the Mike Campbell Case that sets the parameters for justice, and lays down many of the foundations for the rebuilding of Zimbabwe.

It has been a humbling and even emotional experience walking alone amongst the deeply rural Zimbabwean people through drought and hardship. Many of the cattle herders have already lost a couple of cattle, which in some cases is half their wealth. All were keen to help me find water and grazing for Tsedeq. Never once did I feel threatened.

Each day I have walked from 5 in the morning and only made camp with the last light after 7 at night.

The reflection that has been most prominent in my mind is "what is valuable?"





For me water is valuable. I had to find a well or a pool in a river every day. In up to 40 degree heat, when it hasn't rained for 8 months, water is life.

The other thing that is valuable is grass. Without grass, animals die. Grass is only brought on by rain. So I have been praying for rain.

Ultimately though, what has struck me as most valuable, is love. Between me and Tsedeq a bond of love formed. We looked after each other. When he first curled up at night next to me I felt very honoured.

When I was invited to share sadza (cooked maize meal) with a struggling villager, I knew love. When they pulled water for me from a well in a sun-parched land, I knew love. When they walked out of their way to show me a path, I knew love.

Christmas is a celebration of love. In order to satisfy "tsedeq" (justice and righteousness), our Father in Heaven sent love into the world in the form of His one and only son, Jesus.

Christmas is the celebration of the start of that gift to us. Our faith in the immense value of that amazing gift is our most valuable possession. It is like water in the desert. May we each receive that life-giving drink this Christmas time on our journey through life.

With love and thanks for all your prayers and support.

Ben

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