The placard over the village of River Plaats just 5 miles from our home should read Ichabod.

Scores of Bible studies in efforts to plant a church there show a great ignorance of the gospel. We’re not asking them for an apostolic explanation, just something that resembles the way of salvation. So we teach. God is working.

River is more remote than Mbhokota. Many houses are cut into the sides of the mountain. Midday you’ll find oodles of women gambling under shade trees and men getting hammered on traditional beer. In the photo above, I’m overlooking River Plaats nestled to the right. Mbhokota is just around the bend on the left.

This past Sunday afternoon we had about 25 adults in the River Plaats church service. A third were our own people who are coming to support the work.

**SHADRECK, MESHACH, AND A BOREHOLE**

It is rare we appeal for funds but this is vital.

Shadreck Zireva, a godly Zimbabwean pastor who graduated from our three-year Bible Institute, is in real need of a well. The droughts these days are severe, making survival in poverty-stricken Zimbabwe even more difficult. A well would allow him to plant his crops, nourish his family, and support other small business ventures.

A well costs about $4,000. With Christmas around the corner, would you consider helping Pastor Zireva? If you support us but can’t fit in Shadreck, drop us for a month and send it to him. Checks posted to our mission board with “Zireva--Well” in the memo line will go straight to his doorstep.

For more details about Shadreck, click here and here.

**UPDATE ON VISAS**

We are much obliged for prayers and concern about our visa issues. They expired weeks ago but we are allowed to stay until the results trickle in.

The only one thus far approved has been Julianna. The bright side is that if our family should have to return, at least our 11-month old will be able to stay behind.

Please pray earnestly for the work in River Plaats!

Most Cordially in Christ,

Paul and Melinda