

## Prayer Letter DIAKONIA Oktober 2024



The 2023/2024 rainfall season was characterized by late onset, prolonged dry spells, and high temperatures. This erratic rainfall affected crop and animal production. The prolonged dry spells coincided with crucial vegetative and flowering stages for staple and economic crops resulting in total crop failure. A total of 982,765 hectares out of an estimated 2,272,931 hectares of maize planted have been destroyed by the drought resulting in total crop failure. These dry conditions have resulted in a significant reduction in crop production in affected regions, with cereal production forecasted to decline by nearly 50 per cent. (© UNICEF Zambia 2024). This has led to serious shortage of the staple food, Maize with skyrocketing prices from buying a bag of 25 kilogram of maize meal at K120 to K410 equivalent to 15.7 USD which is too much for an average Zambian surviving on less than a dollar per day. Due to this situation Zambia is importing Maize from neighbouring countries. The Maize has been found to be highly contaminated with Aflatoxins which is causing serious liver damage and has claimed several lives, so far, the contaminated Maize was found in 8 Major Zambian Millers posing even a greater risk to the entire Zambians.

Zambia Faces a serious challenge of water Scarcity leading to continuous power cuts on 27th August, ZESCO Zambia's power utility announced that we won't be having electricity for 20 hours in a day. In some instances, we have no power and no water supply for two days. In some areas homes have gone without water for months. This has affected Zambia's economy that the small business owners who cannot afford other sources of power whose businesses entirely depend on electricity and water are failing to thrive. The situation is looking so gloomy that many vulnerable households are not affording three meals a day and other necessities.

In this difficult year Zambia has seen the increase of GBV cases, crime rates, child marriage and girl child school dropouts, malnutrition, huge debts and gambling among young work class, Drug and alcohol abuse and the list of challenges go on.

Looking at all these challenges we face now it took me to, 2 Chronicles 7: 12-14 which says: Then one night the LORD appeared to Solomon and said, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen

this Temple as the place for making sacrifices. <sup>13</sup> At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. <sup>14</sup> Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land". (NLT version)

### **Prayer**

Dear Lord, we come before your presence with our hearts full guilty because of the things we have done to Mother earth, which has caused a lot of calamities upon us and our children. Our actions of looting the environment have cost us so much. In our ignorance we cut trees anyhow. In our greedy we sold our Nation to people who indiscriminately extract minerals without remorse. The rich use the poor to destroy nature in the name of development to benefit the affluent. The gap between the Rich and the poor keeps widening breeding so much pain and anguish among the have nots. Lord, help us to realise that injuring the environment injures us too. Forgive us for all we have done to nature and cause us to care for creation so we can be healed. Forgive and restore us unto you Lord and we shall be saved.

**Amen.**

By: **Deaconess Mable K. Sichali**