



ZIMBABWE

CAVA Serves the Church

Liena Hoffman, manager of CAVA, reports on the success it has achieved despite political, economic, social and legal deterioration in Zimbabwe.

Christian Audio Visual Action, known as CAVA, partners with churches and other Christian organizations to enable believers to evangelize in Southern Africa. CAVA seeks to produce relevant and affordable literature and audio-visual material. Based in Harare, Zimbabwe, the ministry has ten staff members, eight of whom are involved in publishing.

Because it has been in operation for over twenty years, CAVA has just under 200 titles available. The organization reprints approximately 100 every year. It runs its own desktop publishing and print finishing operations along with audio-visual operations.

CAVA concentrates on the Shona language, but also publishes in other languages: Ndebele, Chewa, English, Portuguese and Sena.

New titles and projects

Despite the shortage of foreign exchange (resulting in almost daily increases in paper prices), CAVA has printed several books in the past few months. They include *Nyimbo*, a hymn-book in Chewa; *Nziyo*, a hymn book in Shona; and materials for the Dutch

Reformed Church. Books like these address an essential part of church life.

CAVA and the International Bible Society have just finished printing urgently needed Sunday school material in Shona. It consists of a teacher's manual, a picture book and 26 pamphlets for children. CAVA hopes to produce more course material for 7-9 year old children before the end of the year.

The IBS-CAVA partnership has produced four urgently needed booklets: *Tariroya Vasungwa*, *Kuvaka Upenyu Patsva*, *HIV Noupennyu Hune Tariro* and *Kana Basa Richinetsa*. One booklet addresses unemployment, since more than half the Zimbabwean work force is unemployed. Another presents a Christian perspective on AIDS and its impact not only on the patient but also on relatives, colleagues and friends. About 2,000 people die weekly from AIDS-related diseases in Zimbabwe.

Another AIDS title now in production, thanks to a donation from the Dutch Reformed Church General Synod Youth Committee, is a coloring and story book, *Mawuya*, to give hope in Christ to children who are HIV positive.

Through the sponsorship of Christian Literature Fund in Bloemfontein, South Africa, course materials from the Nehemiah Bible Institute are being translated into Shona and the first modules are on the printing press.

Writer development

CAVA regularly receives unsolicited manuscripts from aspiring and optimistic authors, but not one of them has produced a usable manuscript. Though Zimbabwe has a solid reading culture, it lacks an equally well-established writing culture.

CAVA and the Reformed Church of Zimbabwe, with assistance from the Christian Literature Fund, held a writer's workshop September 3-6, 2001 at the Morgenster Mission in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. Taught by Reverend Giep Louw, a retired missionary, the course helped to secure the future of literature by training new Christian writers.

Reader's opinions

One of CAVA's greatest motivations is reader response. One recently received from Alexius Nyemba, a youth in Lilongwe, Malawi, states, "I got your address [from] my friend's

book *The Precious Gift of Love*. [It is full of very good] information on marriage. Unfortunately the book is not mine. I used to borrow it. I want the book so much. Please [help me obtain it] as soon as possible."

CAVA books have also reached Zambia. Robert Zinns, a Frontline Fellowship missionary, has been ministering to the needs of Angolan refugees in Zambia using CAVA material.

CAVA's ministry operates in a steadily deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe. The common disregard for truth by political officers, the decline of economic stability, increasing poverty and breakdown of social values, are all circumstances that challenge CAVA. More than ever before, CAVA must trust in God's faithfulness and call upon His Promises as it seeks to publish His word to meet reader's needs. ♦