

## **Matthew Kuehl**

### **2025 ZEMA Annual Report**

2025 was a time of joy and transition. This is the end of my fifth year in the field, and it sure was an eventful one.

I spent all of 2024 in the U.S. on my first furlough. I deeply miss being in ministry when I'm away. So, I couldn't wait to return in early 2025 and hit the ground running. This year can be broken into three categories. First, ZEBS Gauteng and the transfer of the ministry from my father to me. Second, ZEBS and other ministries in Zimbabwe. And finally, personal updates that culminated in my engagement to the lovely young lady, Victoria Minkin.

It was an amazing year of growth for me in my work in ZEBS Gauteng. There are nine schools in the Gauteng area that, up until this year, had been run by my amazing father. That changed when he began transitioning into retirement at the beginning of this year. I took over all the paperwork and administration for all nine schools. I did this while trying to be even more hands-on in the schools than I had been in my first term. I spent my time teaching, visiting people in their homes, and preaching. There certainly was a big learning curve! As I went through the year, I dropped many balls and made many little mistakes. Let's say... there is room for growth! But as I sit here writing this, I see only the blessings of the year! The dropped balls and mistakes are small potatoes in comparison to the amazing successes and blessings that God gave the Gauteng ministry in 2025. I don't think we could have asked for a smoother transition. For instance, I took over from an amazing person who helped me in every way he could, and man, did I have a great team of fellow ZEBS teachers to work with!

This has also been an amazing year of growth and relationship-building in Zimbabwe. Let's start by talking about the two established ZEBS schools. What a year of growth! Each school started the year with good numbers and amazing students. Our larger school, Ngundu, stayed strong and full of life, with enrollment holding steady. But the smaller school, Bulawayo, saw a sudden surge in student numbers. So much so that by mid-year, it had surpassed its sister school, Ngundu, in enrollment. It was also a big year for furthering relationships thanks to the time I could spend with people one-on-one. I got to go up to a church group for Easter, spend time with bishops in their homes, and connect with people here in South Africa as they passed through for various reasons. The biggest news, though, was the opening of a brand-new school in Harare, the capital, at the end of the year. We have wanted to do this since the ministry began in 2023. God finally opened the door, and it seems really promising. The first session of the school will be in June 2026.

Finally, God has really been blessing me in my personal life in 2025. The biggest news is that He rekindled an old friendship with a lovely girl named Victoria Minkin. She had been my younger sister's college roommate. We reconnected at the beginning of the year, which led to dating, which led to my proposing about a month ago! It has been an amazing time of blessing and joy.