

CONTENTS

Prologue	i
1. The formative years	1
Church	1
Ancient roots	2
God, glory and gold	3
A farm in Africa	4
Twelve significant years	5
Taking root	6
Anglicisation	7
The Dutch Reformed Church, the Scots and the revival	7
Andrew Murray's legacy	9
British missions to the north	10
Cecil John Rhodes	11
Zambesia	11
Negotiations and conflict	12
Colonisation and conflict	14
The rinderpest	16
Family footprints	18
2. Growing up in Rhodesia	20
Childhood stories	20
The farming community	23
Living off the land	23
From Gutu to Chatsworth	24
Oom Nico	25
Early teens	27
Standing alone	28
High school	29
Post school	32
My first car	33

3. War	35
Call-up	35
No 2 Independent Company	42
4. Love in wartime	46
Call-up	48
Indefinite call-up	53
Getting married	55
5. A call and a turning tide	63
Back home	65
Political changes	67
6. The 1980s	72
Elections and a new government	72
A new call	73
A “prophet” and a word of guidance	73
Our first child’s birth	75
Dealing with depression	75
The training of the Fifth Brigade	76
Emigration	77
Living by faith	78
Combating witchcraft head-on	80
The Fifth Brigade in action	81
Revival in Masvingo (Fort Victoria)	83
Interdenominational work	85
Disheartened	86
Dissidents	87
Prosperity in Zimbabwe	88
7. The mid to late 1980s	90
Mutare (Umtali)	90
A fledgling patternmaking business	90
A foundry, and back to Gweru	92
Education in the new Zimbabwe	95

Christian education	97
Adapting to the changing economic climate	99
Our third child	100
Mission work and a high price	100
8. The 1990s	102
Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP)	102
Family crisis	102
Economic changes and new demands	104
My first book	106
A bombshell	106
Another book	107
Peace before the storm	108
A brewing storm	109
9. A storm unleashed	110
The land issue	110
Marondera	111
Ministry to farmers	112
I have lied!	112
Death threats	113
Collapsing economy	114
Prayer through hopelessness	114
Moral decline	115
Destruction	116
Losing my brother	117
New laws, communities dispersed	118
My friends are leaving	119
Mugged and robbed	120
A testimony of victory	121
Two children leave	122
10. The 2002 elections and the aftermath	124
Election results – now what? 14 March 2002	126
Violence	127
A radio broadcast	128

Land grab in Gutu	129
Packing up our family farm	130
A dream was stirring	131
A farm to lease	132
The eye	133
A call for help	134
A prophecy	135
Like gold	135
A farm of my own	136
Farming in earnest	137
Daniel	138
But God	138
Moving onto our own farm	139
If any lack wisdom	140
A “Christmas present” from government	140
Rebecca	142

11. Competing with horses **143**

A family crisis	143
Recovery and marriage	145
Another child leaves	146
2005 elections and retribution	146
Retaliation	148
Every farmer a missionary	148
Practical love	151

12. A political drought **154**

A litre of milk	154
A new law	155
The Reserve Bank	156
No food	157
Food from South Africa	157
Pods	158
The Grain Marketing Board (GMB)	159
Our money was worthless	160

Our last child leaves home – prematurely	161
Resignation	162
Alfie	162
13. A time of spiritual preparation	164
The Dutch Reformed Church, Gweru	164
Ministry to the farming community	165
A new understanding	170
Will you give everything?	172
14. Farm invasion	174
24 April, 2012	176
Intimidation	177
Meeting the “new owner”	180
A trip to South Africa	181
The media	182
The reaction	183
Back in Zimbabwe	184
An amazing turn of events	186
A strange meeting	187
Good news, and a warning	188
15. Reaching for my goal	189
A vision unfolding	189
Plans submitted again	190
16. Prison!	192
The aftermath	192
Trouble brewing	192
Imprisoned	193
A long night and a spiritual battle	195
Morning and a court case	196
Back home, and a promise	197

17. Shattered dreams	199
The dream pursued	199
Court	200
Prosecution withdraws	201
The verdict	203
Collapse	204
A sinister plot	205
Escape	206
Mandy	207
Piecing our lives together	208
Mandy goes to say goodbye	209
Bloemfontein	210
Legal advice	211
Looking for a new home	212
Back to Zimbabwe	213
Getting out quickly	214
The police again	215
Tense moments	215
18. Another “farm”	217
Bloemfontein, and a surprise waiting	217
A new “farm”	218
References	220

6. THE 1980S

Elections and a new government

Elections were held at the end of February 1980. The British government briefly considered disqualifying ZANU from participating in the elections for flagrant violation of the Lancaster House Agreement, but in the end, as became their common practice, they did nothing.

On 4 March 1980 the results were broadcast. It was just three days before my 24th birthday. I was at work at Steyn's Engineering as we listened to the broadcast. One after another the results came in, Mugabe, Mugabe, Mugabe. Muzorewa won only three out of the 80 seats. Most had realised that Mugabe would be elected, but hoped that it would not be with such an overwhelming majority. At least, according to the Lancaster House Agreement, Ian Smith and some white MPs were allowed seats in parliament for a period of time to assist with a smooth transition.

General Walls, the commander of the Rhodesian forces, had made a daring plan of his own – to attack all the terrorists now camped in groups, thus completely wiping out the opposition in one go. They would be easy targets. Plans had been made to “take out” each of the terrorist leaders too. Highly specialised troops were sent in to the centre of each of the terrorist camps to monitor their every movement and report every detail of each camp.

However, in order to succeed they needed the support of the black RAR (Rhodesian African Rifles) as the white soldiers were too depleted to pull off this coup. The votes of the RAR were carefully watched to see where their support lay. They were all voting for Mugabe. Walls's planned coup could therefore not be executed.

The first thing Mugabe did was to change the name of the country to Zimbabwe.

I went home that night, heavy of heart, quite unsure of what the future held. Mandy and I prayed. The Lord would guide us, and we would not be influenced by what everyone else was doing. The Lord had not told us to leave, and therefore we had to assume He would want us to stay.

13. A TIME OF SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

The Dutch Reformed Church, Gweru

In mid-2004 the Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) in Gweru was going through significant change. With the exodus of thousands of farmers, the DRC had diminished drastically. The Gweru minister resigned and left for South Africa, and given the difficulties experienced in applying for immigration into the country as well as the reluctance of ministers from outside to come, and the lack of funds to pay any who might consider coming, that left only three ministers to serve the DRC community in the entire country. It was too much for the ministers to cope with effectively.

The DRC in Gweru had reduced from a membership of over five hundred to about thirty. Consequently there was no minister that could be called to take the position. As I was not ministering full time and was the only Afrikaans-speaking minister in the city, and had also on occasion ministered in the DRC as well as to the farming community as a whole, I was asked to fill the gap. I accepted the challenge. It was a tall order as I was already farming part time in addition to my job of managing director of Jaks Engineering at that time.

My inauguration was in December 2004. The biggest challenge was to preach in Afrikaans. Though I spoke Afrikaans at home, my Afrikaans was not of a high standard as I had been Anglicised – English schools, English friends, English business community, English church and training.

Whilst ministering one Sunday morning, I was reminded of my calling as a young boy. There, before me, were some of those very same people who were present in the congregation in Chatsworth when the Lord told me that I would be up there speaking to the people.

I loved the opportunity to teach the Scriptures. The UAFC where my spiritual home had been freely gave me leave to help the DRC folk, and the head of that church conducted the inauguration service. A good re-



Mandy and I on a motor bike.



Beeld newspaper poster: 'Hoop vir Henry Jackson'.