

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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We are fast approaching the end of the school year in Zambia and we are busy recruiting new students for next year while still trying to make some necessary preparations for their arrival. Although the ministry is doing exceptionally well, we are experiencing a great deal of difficulty financially. We have also experienced some setbacks in our efforts to develop our agricultural revenue.

### **Report: Finances.**

I am sorry to begin yet another newsletter talking about the finances, but this is becoming a serious problem for us. We have now exhausted half of our emergency reserves, and we are starting to worry that we might not have the necessary funds to add the third-year of students in January.

Budget Cuts. I have terminated two-thirds of the construction workers (keeping only the skilled workers that we have trained) and I have laid-off one of our most expensive staff members. We have also reduced the budget as much as we can do so (e.g., tight restrictions on the use of vehicles to reduce the cost of fuel and vehicle repairs).

While **I think** we can now “survive” with our current monthly support (without undermining the quality of our Bible College training program), I am worried that we may not have the funds needed to add the third-year of students in January. We have only completed one-half of the apartments that will be needed to house the incoming students in January, but we do not have the money needed to build the remaining five apartments. Nor do we have the money to buy the drip-kits and equipment that will be needed in January for these students to start their gardens. So, I am not sure whether we should proceed with the third and final class of students or should postpone adding the third year to Jan 2019.

So, I would like to make an appeal for additional support (both monthly support and one-time contributions for construction and development). We are not far from completing the essential facilities (infrastructure) that we need operate a three-year Bible program. We still need to build two teacher houses, but even these can wait. What we can't wait on is the 5 additional student houses and drip-kits needed for the third year of students.

And, as we approach the next budget year, I would like to ask if you or your church might consider increasing your monthly

support (even if is just a small amount as we are right at the threshold of having enough monthly support to operate).

### **Report: Bible College.**

We are just 3-4 weeks from the end of the school year. Despite the setback in our chicken business (cf. below), the students continue to make progress in their agriculture training. The gardens are producing abundantly (even in the hottest, driest month of the year) and the production of chickens is increasing (even though they were not able to earn much money from the sale of their last batch of chickens). This is, of course, part of learning how to do business in a difficult market.

The men's program continues to do well, but it is the women's program (student wives) that has made the greatest improvement over the past three months as Violet Phiri and the wife of Boniface (cf. below) have come onboard and begun working with the women. In the past, we have had problems with the women as they were not being developed spiritually. Now, the wives are becoming a positive influence on their husbands!

I received the following update from Mustapha Sandi (Director of the Bible College) just today: **EVANGELISM IS GOING ON VERY WELL.** Every student and staff has been actively engaged in Discovery Bible Studies. One great testimony is the request from a set of young girls (who have been stigmatized as sex workers) to join a Bible study group in the village of Shimballah. Another four women from Shimaballah, along with a gentleman and his family from the police farm, and three other ladies from nearby communities have been visiting our church at Daybreak on Sunday mornings. Several of our students are conducting Bible studies with some of our staff workers who are either inactive in the church or are not yet baptized.

Recruitment for January: we have 30 applicants who have applied for enrollment in January. They are coming from different regions throughout Zambia. We need several things before the new students arrive in January: completion of student housing (apartments), Bibles in English, drip-equipment for gardens, and some provisions for our evangelistic ministries.

### **Agricultural Ministry.**

We have had some setbacks in our agricultural operations. I have laid-off the Mission Superintendent that I hired in May to help us develop our farming operations as she proved to be

ineffective, and I did not feel we could not justify her salary in consideration of our current financial situation.

I must emphasize that we are operating in a developing country where corruption and unstable markets undermine business (especially agriculture). Contracts are not honored, and the justice system provides no recourse. Also, the Chinese also have made things much worse with their dishonest business practices.

Although we had a contract for our chickens, the buyer failed to fulfill their obligations, and we ended up with chickens that could not be sold. Trucks broke down (ours and the buyer), and we have now been told that there is an over-supply of chickens (as the Chinese are flooded the market with their cheap product).

This is all part of what hinders progress in the developing countries. Nevertheless, these experiences and setbacks are all part of our learning so that we can figure out what does work and better train our students to succeed in their future ministry. The primary reason our ministry is as successful as it is today is because of the lessons that we have learned over the past 14 years. Boniface (cf. below) has now stepped in to work with Francis in our agriculture program and farming operations.

### **New Staff Member: Boniface Mambali.**

Boniface was someone I interviewed during our search for a Mission Superintendent in May. I was so impressed with Boniface that I decided to hire him as an administrator (as he has extensive managerial/farming experience) and teacher in our Bible College. Although he has had no formal Bible training, I found him to be



of exceptional character. He was highly recommended to me by Charles Phiri, who is the chairman of the board for Daybreak Mission (government requirement for registration in Zambia). Finding qualified people of character to hire is one of

our greatest challenges and, thus, when I find someone like this, I usually hire them and begin training them for our ministry.

Boniface is 56 years old and has a long history of active leadership in the churches of Zambia. Boniface and his wife (Jean Muleya) moved to Daybreak in October and have already begun to make a positive impact on our ministry. Although I don't have money to hire his wife, she has already plugged into the women's ministry with Violet and has also greatly enhanced our ministry. This is one staff addition we are most happy to report about. This was also a good decision because he is now able to assume many of the responsibilities of our former Mission Superintendent.

### **Kerin's Kids (Orphans).**

In our last Newsletter, we reported that Carol (one of the children with cerebral palsy that Kerin has been caring for) had to be hospitalized and was in serious condition. Kerin spent several days caring for Carol in the hospital (insuring that she got proper

medical care), and her condition improved. She was released from the hospital and is now doing well at home.

Also, Likando (Kerin's biological child) got seriously sick about three weeks ago and had to be hospitalized for several days due to some kind of an infection. He also has recovered and is at home. For those of you who use Facebook, you can follow Kerin on her Facebook page where you can get current news and pictures of the children's ministry ([www.facebook.com/kerinskids](http://www.facebook.com/kerinskids)).

### **Construction and Development.**

Within the next six weeks, we should finish the chicken house for the third-year students and Married Student Apartment Building (Block E). We do not yet have the money needed for the remaining needed projects: (a) Drip-Kits and Equipment for incoming students in January and (b) Block F of the Student Apartments (5 apartments) by March 15 (when the new students bring their wives/kids to campus).

### **Meet Our Students: Jason Banda.**



Jason is married and comes from the Eastern Province. Jason writes (in his own words):

*I decided to come to Daybreak Bible College because I desire to develop my Spiritual Leadership and being trained for holistic ministry and also to achieve a better spiritual life. My*

*ministry plans after DBC will be to develop and organize church ministry to orphans, widows and children in the villages.*

### **Meet Our Students: Patrick Mudenda.**



Married and comes from the Southern Province. Patrick is 32 years old and is one of our best students. He writes (in his own words):

*The reason for coming to Daybreak Bible College is to be trained and equipped as a spiritual leader. I hope to gain knowledge, wisdom and understanding of how one can be a good leader and*

*help people in the church and community. My future plans are to get into full-time ministry and, at the same time, to be engaged with agriculture as a means of generating an income to support my family.*