

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Comments from David.

I made a quick one-month trip to the U.S. in order to visit some potential supporters of the work and to talk with several people about how to solve our financial challenges. The problem is simple: while our support has remained steady, inflation in Zambia has been running about 15% per year. The dollar has not increased in value against the Zambian kwacha (same rate as in 2003). Thus, while our incoming funds have remained the same, our costs in Zambia have more than doubled.

In other news, we are especially happy that Mary Swindle has now come to Zambia to join Greg here in Zambia (along with their daughter Mindy). Greg is doing a great job teaching and mentoring students. Hopefully, their house here at Mapepe will be completed within the next 5-6 weeks (as they are living in one of our Visitor Huts right now which is more like a hotel room than a house).

And, we are especially thankful for Dixon and Flash Settle (from Wilmington, NC). They are doing a fantastic job here at Mapepe and have really fit in and contributed to the work. We are also happy that they are going to extend their commitment to Zambia and stay another year. Dixon is teaching a class and mentoring students. He is also teaching critical thinking skills to the students in the afternoons and teaching them how to plan, develop and implement new ministries in an effective way.

Flash is working with Lorie in our Primary School as they are developing a curriculum and training program to train people to serve as teachers in Community Schools (primary schools). They are currently training three people who will be able to go out and assist in training other teachers. There are no real requirements for the training of Community School teachers (as these are community efforts to provide education for children where there are no government schools). Lorie and Flash hope that eventually our training program will be certified by the govt so we can begin training some of our students to go out as certified teachers (which will provide some income for our students and fill a great need in Zambia).

MBC -- Inonge Church Conference.

(by Kennedy Mukuka – Director of MBC)

It was yet another great visit to Inonge, a small town in Kazungula District of Southern Province. We had a

wonderful three-day conference characterized by daily evangelism and nightly Bible studies. The Inonge church conference has become a yearly event organized by brethren in Inonge.

Mapepe Bible College has become part of this effort in that we get invited every year to go and help with evangelism and



and evening Bible studies. The Inonge brethren want us to be more involved than just teaching. They want us to participate in the planning process especially as it pertains to theme formulation and lesson allocation.

This year's conference began on April 6 and went on until Sunday evening (April 8). There were thirty four churches represented, and about 750 people in attendance. By the time the three days came to a close, 36 souls were restored to having a relationship with Christ and 27 souls baptized (21 people were baptized on Saturday while 8 on Sunday). Talking about restoration, one of the men who was restored when we visited Inonge in 2010 (Austen Pilingana) was part of the organizing leadership of this year's conference. Our God reigns!



On Sunday afternoon (April 8) it "rained cats and dogs." Nonetheless, even the heavy downpour could not deter Michelo Hakonze from baptizing eight people who responded to the Gospel call on Sunday. Those who went to witness the baptism at the river were

just as drenched as those who got baptized; everybody was dripping wet (picture below). Postponing the baptism was not an option for fear of eventualities and the fact that the baptizer cannot stop a baptism candidate from being baptized when they decide to do so (like the jailer and his household were baptized after midnight).

Kerin's Kids.

Last month was a tough month for us. There had been many cases of typhoid in the surrounding areas and we had to shut our doors and take many precautions to make sure that we didn't bring typhoid to the babies. Each day our house was wiped down with Clorox and we had to have everyone remove their shoes and dip their feet in Clorox before entering the house. We also restricted those allowed into the house. Typhoid kills many babies in Zambia and we want these babies to be happy and healthy. Nevertheless, the typhoid scare is now over and anyone can come and see the babies!

Ryan. Ryan was born with cataracts in his eyes as well as deaf and a few more health problems. Last year we took Ryan to an eye clinic in Lusaka to see if anything could be done for his eyes. The clinic gave us a referral for another eye clinic not far from where we live. After raising the money for the surgery, we went back to the clinic. Of course they told us that there is a long line of children in front of us for the surgery and that the soonest they could get us in was March. As the date approached, we were all excited. Ryan's Mom walks about 3½ hours to reach our house every time Ryan has a doctor appointment. She came the night before; but when we got to the clinic we were informed by the doctor that some of the equipment had broken down and the parts to fix it could take over a month to get here. I was pretty disappointed. I gave them my number so that they could call me when the machine was fixed they can call me and we can set up a new date.

In early May they called to set another date. So, the day arrived and we took Ryan back to the clinic; but in checking him over, they found a problem. The doctor informed us that there is something wrong with Ryan's heart and that we have to get a paper signed by a pediatrician (for the Anesthesiologist). Thus, we went to UTH (University Teaching Hospital). We first had to wait in line to see the doctor who, then, sent us upstairs to see an eye doctor who, then, scheduled us for another appointment later in the week. When we returned we had to wait in a line of 200 people waiting to see the eye doctor. We waited 6 hours until they called Ryan's name. This doctor, then, gave us a referral to see the pediatrician. YEAH!! So, we went and waiting in line for another hour. This doctor, then, gave us a referral to go get an EKG and an ECHO and, then, to see a pediatric surgeon.

We scheduled for another day and got up at 4 am to get a good place in line; but the doctor didn't arrive until 9 am. So, we waited for 4 hours to see the doctor who, then, informed us that the problem was not Ryan's heart, but that one of his arteries is tight. He told us to return in 6 months for a checkup at which time Ryan might have to have some ballooning done. But, thankfully, he did tell us that Ryan could proceed with his eye surgery! But, not so fast -- we had to return to the pediatrician

(where we had to wait for 5 hours). We finally saw the doctor and explained what the cardiologist had said; but, she decided to do a blood test and told us we would have to wait for the results from the blood test first.

So, we waited another two weeks. Finally, the blood test results returned (good results). So, yesterday, we all returned yet again to the eye doctor to turn in all the requested information (waiting in line with 50 other people); we didn't get to see the doctor, but we were given an appointment for this Friday (June 9). Hopefully, we will get a new date for Ryan's eye surgery. Please pray for him and other babies in the house. I would like to thank all of you for your continued support as we try to help the children of Zambia.

Comments by Flash Settle.

The good news is that the typhoid scare is now over. The pre-grade and primary children returned to the mission school on yesterday, Monday. They are so excited to be back in school. These young children are so eager to learn and soak up knowledge like a sponge! The Mapepe Bible College students are continuing to study and learn subjects such as Old Testament History, Conflict Resolution, Christian Coaching, New Testaments Books Luke and Acts, Music Theory, and Refresher Math. I am tutoring some in English Composition and one young man has said he wants to study African and English Literature. We have a small library which includes English writers such as Dickens and George Elliott. He is excited to begin reading. It is so refreshing to have students who are asking for extra lessons and want so much to learn. The Sunday afternoon Ladies' Bible class is going well. Our number increases each week. We are studying passages that speak of living together in love and harmony. (Flash Settle)

Lorie's Reflections.

A shiver ran down my spine and I drew my sweater tightly around me. The winter winds began blowing into Zambia with a slight morning mist. The once green lush grass has turned to tan. The once wet dirt has become a fine powder which makes tiny clouds as each foot hits the path. Passing people offer a nod of the head in greeting rather than their traditional handshake as they also pull their jackets tightly around themselves. And yet the people still can be seen going about their daily routines of tilling their vegetable gardens, washing and hanging out clothes, sweeping the "dusty dirt" outside their homes into artistic patterns, and wondering what blessings and issues this day will hold. Whether they find themselves enjoying blessings from the Lord or sorting through the everydayness of life in a third-world country, their joy and their petitions for necessities are shared through prayer to our heavenly Father. What a blessing to be walking life's road with them. Pray for them and their families daily as they labor with us for the Lord here. Here are the names of all of the people who God has brought together to serve Him here at Mapepe: Thomas Simubali, Kennedy Mukuka, Stella Tembo, Michael Sidajene, Michelo Hakonze, Francis Mwanza, Eness Siangandu, Cheko Hara, Paul Ngambi, James Mulenga, Sydney Mudenda, Witness Mumba, Samuel Nkando, Stephen Tembo, Sunny Madula, Mary Banda, John Phiri, George Manchisi, Derek Polo, Bright Mumba, Benson Banda, Greg & Mary Swindle, Mindy Swindle, Dixon & Flash Settle, and our family (David, Lorie, Stephen, Kerin, and Natasha).