

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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I apologize for being so late in sending out the newsletter, but we have been so busy this summer that it is really hard to get everyone (including me) to sit down and write a report on all that is going on.

Alternative Forms of Communications.

We believe it is very important to communicate regularly with everyone about what all is going on here in Zambia. We have grown increasingly frustrated with the traditional means of communicating via the printed form and U.S. mail (which costs more than \$300 per mailing and is usually four weeks out-of-date by the time it arrives). Compare this to the email version (no cost and arrives immediately) and the pdf version which we post on our web page each month and can be printed and copied multiple times (*no cost and is immediately available although it does require people to go to our web page at www.zambiamissions.org and click on the link (button) on the left side of the page*). Unfortunately, these cheaper options require everyone to have a computer and take the initiative to do so (and not everyone will).

So, what to do? I do hate spending \$300 to mail the newsletter every month. Hence, we have decided to try and strike a balance in cost and in the use of cheaper/faster forms of communication (e.g. Email, Facebook, and Web pages). From this point forward we will print and mail the printed version via regular mail once every **two months** (and post the pdf format on our web page as usual).

In addition, we have created a **Facebook** Page (Zambia Missions). With so many people now using Facebook, this offers a great opportunity for us to keep many of you better informed of current activities as they actually take place. Facebook (FB) is also a much better way to share **pictures, news, and prayer requests** from all of our staff here in Zambia. Hence, I have worked with our staff and co-workers here to organize things so that each of them can now post news, pictures, stories and prayer requests as they have opportunity to do so and have something noteworthy to share. FB will also allow any of you to post a comment or ask a question as FB provides an interactive format that is easy to use.

Thus, if you have a Facebook account (page), then all you need to do is search for "Zambia Missions" in FB and click

on the link that requests to be a "Friend." You should also click on the "Like" button so that you can follow our FB page as news and information gets posted. If you do not have a Facebook account (but have a computer), then it is very easy to set up a FB account by going to the Facebook web site. If you have trouble, then get someone who knows about FB to help you set one up. The big advantage in our using FB is that we can communicate using **pictures in color**, more of our staff and co-workers can communicate about activities they are engaged in, and we can hear back from you as you leave comments; and it is much faster means of communication.

Also, if any of you would like to receive the newsletter as an email (instead of the printed version via U.S. mail), then just send me an email (dfrench@zambiamissions.org) that you would like to switch to the email format. We will continue to mail out the newsletter in the printed form as there are many who do not have computers or FB and prefer the printed form. We certainly want to keep everyone as up-to-date as possible and fully informed about the work here. We believe that a combination of newer and older technologies is the best way to do this.

ACAC Conference (Aug 8-12)

We just finished with the "Africans Claiming Africa For Christ" Conference this past weekend. This is a conference that occurs once every four years and brings leaders together from all over Africa to discuss what Africans can do to spread the gospel throughout Africa. This year the conference was held here in Lusaka (Zambia). I do not yet know the total number who attended the conference, but do know that it was somewhere around 250 in number. I know that there were 22 Ghanians, about 25 Nigerians, 2 from Cameroon, 6 from Mozambique, around 12 from Swaziland, and about the same number from Kenya. There were also leaders from South Africa, Botswana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Sudan, Senegal, Angola, etc.

The theme of this year's conference was "Frontiers in Missions" and addressed not only geographical frontiers but also new areas of ministry/missions that have yet to be addressed. One new emerging frontier is the global mission. Africans are moving in large numbers to Europe, USA and the Middle East where they are now planting hundreds of churches (including Islamic countries). Thus, some suggested that the name of the conference needs to be changed to "Africans Claiming the World For Christ"! The conference began on Wed (Aug 8) and concluded on Sun (Aug 12).

Kerin's Kids.

After several years, we finally got our court date and finalized the adoption of Susann and Zainne! I am super excited! This was not an easy process and there were many "hitches" along the way; but, now it is final and legal. Susanne and Zainne are now "forever Frenches"! ☺

Update on Ryan. Well, the never-ending saga continues. Let me tell you what happened this time (as we struggle to get Ryan's eye surgery). Ryan, his mother, and I got up and left the house before sunrise. We had packed everything the day before. I was ready to spend 2-5 days at the hospital with Ryan and his mom. Well, we arrived and began searching for E11 which is the ward where they admit babies for eye problems. There are no signs but I know (from experience) where E-ward is located. So, we head off with all the bags and Ryan to E-Ward. We go up 2 flights of stairs and find E11! Yeah. There are 5 other mothers with their babies waiting in line to be admitted for various eye problems. So, we sat down and waited for the doctors and others to show up so that we would be given a bed and find out about the surgery; but, after waiting for 3 hours, a nurse finally came and to tell us that we needed to go back to Clinic 7 and see the guys over there. So, we got all our bags and Ryan and walked over to clinic 7 and waited in line for another 2 hours to see the Doctor there. As I waited I was fearing that he is going to tell us that the surgery would be delayed until the next day. I WAS WRONG! He told us that the eye surgeon had taken a holiday for two weeks; we were given another appointment for Aug 20th (one month)! I was speechless. Delayed yet another month. It was a silent car ride home. So, we are now waiting and bracing ourselves to try again on Aug 20th and praying that this will be the day we finally get the surgery done. Please pray as my patience is wearing THIN – very thin!

Other news. On July 19th at 12:33, Mary Alice was born. She weighed 2.8 kgs. The mother to Ali (as I call her) is only 16 years old and in the 9th grade. The father to Ali was just in town to get some things for his family. After he got all he needed he promptly left and went back to his family. Ali's mom tried calling him but he will not answer her calls. Ali's mom lives with her unmarried mom and 5 brothers and sisters and there is no one to care for Ali (as the mom is trying to stay in school). The family can't take care of the family they have now and Ali's mom doesn't have very much hope for the future. She knows she can't go to school with a baby and her mother just got a job after 2 years without income. There is no one who could help the family; thus, "Kerins Kids" will be taking care of Ali for now as Ali's mom tries to complete her schooling in hopes of being able to provide a living for her and Ali.

Report from Dixon Settle.

I have been blessed teaching the young men and women since arriving here in January, 2012. I find the students keenly interested in learning and actively involved in their studies. The most exciting course I am teaching is Project Planning. This course teaches critical thinking skills – teaching them how to design and plan a project so that when they return to their

villages they will be able to lead projects in the Lord's kingdom which will bring praise to Him (see Luke 14:28ff).

They have completed planning their schedules for their projects and are now doing cost estimating. They are extremely excited about executing their projects once the planning process is completed. Following is a list of each group (according to their group name) and the projects they are working on:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Project</u>
Canaan	Volleyball/Netball Court for the College
Revelations	Painting the classrooms
Shalom	Creating a Mapepe Singers DVD
The Eagle	Build a Play Park for the staff children
Zion	Build an Amphitheatre at the baptistery



The funding for these projects is made possible through a special contribution by the Pine Valley congregation (Wilmington, NC), friends and family. I have included some pictures of the students working. The first

(above) is the students checking the condition of a wall to be painted. The second (below) is the students meeting with the parents deciding the location and safety features of the Play Park.



Hydraform Block-Making Machine.

With the generous contribution of one of our donors, we have just purchased a Hydraform Block-Making Machine. This machine will make interlocking blocks out of soil using 15% cement. Because the blocks are interlocking, cement is not needed in the stacking of blocks. This sharply reduces the cost of construction and will allow us to build classrooms, community schools, and low-cost housing (staff and students) for a fraction of what it usually cost (buildings that do not have electricity and running water).

