

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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In this newsletter I want to focus primarily on our new Bible and Ministry Training program. But, first, I need to make an appeal for financial assistance in building a new Baby House for Kerin's Kids at our new campus.

Request: Funds for Baby House

We have just about finished building a new house for Kerin at our new campus (Daybreak); but now we are needing to raise money for a proper house for all the orphaned babies that Kerin is caring for. In the past Kerin has kept all the babies in her own house; but now that Kerin is married, she needs create some space between her family and all the babies she is keeping.



Once Kerin moves into her new house (above) at Daybreak (in about 6 weeks), we will temporarily house the babies in one of the small staff houses that we have built nearby. But, what we now need is to build a proper facility (beside Kerin's house) that will providing housing for up to 30 babies (and a couple of widowed ladies who will live in the house with the babies).

We are estimating that we will need about \$55,000 to build this new facility (especially since a baby house requires more plumbing which is expensive in Zambia). If you would like to contribute to this project, please send your donations to "Zambia Missions" (address above) and write "Baby House" on the memo line of the check.

Although some might call this an orphanage, we prefer not to use this term for two reasons: (a) Kerin's Kids is not limited to orphans but to all children who are at risk (whose families are in crisis and need temporary assistance), and (b) orphanages tend to keep children for long periods of

time (whereas Kerin provides temporary assistance and works with the mothers and/or extended family until she is able to reunite the child with the extended family).

Report: Bible College.

Our ministry-Bible training program continues to make good progress. As I explained in my recent visits to our supporting congregations, this is a new program that we began last September. It is a three-year training program designed to more fully train our students for ministry. We are especially concerned about the spiritual and moral development of our graduates. Although our one-year program (of the past) produced more graduates, we have always felt that we need much more time to ensure that our students more fully understand Christian faith and are personally transformed accordingly. Hence, our new program focused a great deal on spiritual formation.

We have also wanted to train men who are older (mature), married, and already engaged in active ministry; but our problem in recruiting such men has always been the cost. Such students are married and have families and this costs more money for food and requires housing for families (not just a dorm).

Our new campus at Daybreak has now solved these problems. Instead of operating as a boarding school, we now have the land to build family housing (see below) with enough garden space for every family to grow their own food. This not only reduces our costs per student but allows us to recruit more mature, married students for longer periods of time – and for much less money. In fact, this is part of our plan to become self-sustainable within the next 10 years.



Student house under construction

Our new program is also designed to train our students in many different areas of ministry which are more appropriate for Africa. Of course the priority throughout the three-year program remains focused on teaching Bible and facilitating the spiritual development of our students. This training begins on the first day and continues every day for three years.

But, there are other skills that our students need for ministry in Africa. First, they need to be able to support themselves in ministry. Thus, upon their arrival, we begin immediately to teach them what they need to know to grow their own food year-round (agriculture training). Each student is given three months to become self-supporting (since after three months we stop giving them food). Although we have been teaching our students all this in the past, we were disappointed to find that few of our graduates ever implemented this knowledge when they returned home. Why? Unless one actually implements what they learn immediately and practices it for 2-3 years, they rarely manage to do so later on. And, there is much that we want our students to learn in agriculture so that they can not only feed themselves but can also teach others.

Another skill we want our students to learn is how to manage money. For the most part, Zambians spend whatever money they get immediately. They do not know how to plan ahead so that they can pay for school fees or buy equipment and supplies that they might need for business purposes. Thus, as our students earn money from their produce and chickens, we teach them how to properly manage their money. Again, this is a skill we want our students to teach others and to use in churches and community organizations later on.

A third skill we want to teach our students is how to organize and fund a community school. In fact, if our students choose, they can enroll in Lorie's teacher training program. This training will enable our students to start a community school in their churches (which will generate income for them and meet an urgent need that villages have for qualified community teachers). This is another skill that will help local villages and increase the respect our students will have in their local villages later on (be seen as wise servant to the community). Student wives are also invited to be trained as a community teacher.

Finally, there are an assortment of other skills that we want to teach the students and/or their wives: (a) how to start an orphan-care ministry in the local church or community, (b) basic healthcare and medicine (preventive healthcare), (c) nutrition, (d) food preservation, and (e) HIV-AIDS prevention, and (f) marriage and family counseling.

Regarding the last item, we do a quite a bit of marriage counseling with our students so as to improve their own marriages. Traditionally, marriages in Zambia are arranged; but now people are choosing who they want to marry and they are marrying for love (intimacy). Because this is new to Zambia there are few role models and couples have not yet learned how to love one another and build intimacy (especially men who generally still treat women as property). We believe that the only way to build strong Christian families (monogamous) is to start with our students and to teach them how to teach others how to have strong marriages.

Last (but certainly not least by any means) is our ministry training. Our primary focus is on teaching our students how to

make disciples. To make disciples, however, one has to be a disciple himself and this is why we begin (from day one) to work with our students in spiritual formation. And, the best way to teach people to make disciples is to use that "method" in training them. People will make disciples in the same way that they were trained to be a disciple. Thus, as our students grow spiritually in their own lives, we begin sending them out to make disciples of others. Part of being a disciple is to make disciples of others; hence the shift to disciple-making is a very natural process that begins as each student is ready to do so. This is the way Jesus trained his disciples and it is the way that we are now training our students in ministry and disciple-making.

Conclusion. We are training our students for holistic ministry that focuses on making disciples of Jesus. In other words, the focus is on being holy (spiritual formation) and calling others to be holy and follow Jesus. And, just as Jesus lived a life of service to his community (helping others in need) and overthrowing evil in the world, so also are we training our students with the skills most needed in Africa that will be of service to their communities when they return home.

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

You can get regular information on Kerin's ministry to orphans by following her on Facebook. Enter a search for "Kerin's Kids" and then click on "Like." You will find lots of pictures and updates on the kids there. You can also communicate with Kerin via her Facebook page.

Education Ministry.

Lorie has just reorganized the Education Ministry so that it will become fully self-supporting in the next few months. Our Primary School now has a staff of three. We now have about 80 students attending. Shortly, most of our Bible College students will begin their training to be a Community School Teacher (along with how to start, fund, and operate a Community School).

Construction.

We now have four construction teams working on the development of our new campus at Daybreak: (a) Construction of Kerin's house (picture above) which should be completed by July 31; (b) Construction of six more Staff houses (five already completed); (c) Construction of Student houses (picture above) which should be completed by December (although this crew is currently finishing work on our Workshop), and (d) Crew that is clearing 30 acres so that we can plant our first soybean crop in November.

We are most thankful to Healing Hands International and the church in Troy (TN) who donated the money to drill another bore hole (water well) and install a new pump. This now gives us plenty of water for all our future agricultural work (which will help us toward our goal of become self-sustainable within the next ten years).

And, finally, we are most thankful that we finally got electricity connected at our new campus (after paying for it 18 months ago)! I just finished installing all the electrical and water infrastructure for the entire campus. So, now we have electricity and water throughout the entire campus!