

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

1910 Sycamore View Rd
Bartlett, TN 38134
(901) 372-1874

David & Lorie French

P.O. Box 350070
Lusaka, Zambia (Africa)
zambiamissions@gmail.com



Web: www.zambiamissions.org

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I think we are now having the best year ever! Our Bible students are among the best we have ever had. They are older, married, and already have ministry experience which makes them much more serious about their studies. We are also making great progress with our construction efforts and the Primary School has just started its second term (with two new To make matters even better, our new teaching staff (Bible College) is now functioning at a level far above what I had ever hoped. They are doing a fantastic job with these students. I just couldn't be more positive about the way things are all coming together at Daybreak!

Report: Bible College.

As I reported in a previous Newsletter, we decided to delay the start of this school year until April 1 so that we could devote three months to recruiting a better crop of students. This decision was made in part because we are now finally able to launch our new three-year program that focuses on married students (who must now bring their wives so that we can also train them). We have also raised our standards for admission so as to ensure we get quality students.

Thus, having invested into recruitment, our new students arrived on April 1 to begin the new semester (below). The students have been divided into three Ministry Teams and assigned one of our five Teachers as a Mentor. Because our training extends far beyond the classroom, we have improved our Teacher-Student ratio and are focusing more on mentoring the students. Each Mentor works with his assigned Team in order to facilitate efforts in spiritual formation, ministry (disciple-making) and agriculture (raising chickens and vegetables).



Since our students have just three months to become self-supporting (before we stop feeding them), we have begun their agricultural training in earnest. We are most happy to have Francis Mwanza join our Teaching Staff (April 1) as our Agriculture Teacher (pictured below far right). Francis was trained at Twin Foundations which is (in my opinion) one of the best two-year agricultural programs in Africa. Francis is now working with the students to plant their gardens (using drip-irrigation) and to start their chicken projects. Each Ministry Team works together to raise 200 chickens every five weeks. Francis is teaching them how to raise chickens as a business as this will generate the money the students need to buy millie-meal for nshima (staple food of Zambia) and buy all the other things they need. Students will not be able to bring their families to campus until they each prove that they can feed their families.



Thus, the teaching staff (above) is currently focusing on two primary areas of training: spiritual formation and agriculture. The students are taking two classes: spiritual formation and disciple-ship. Both classes are focused on the spiritual life and character of the student himself. We believe that before training students to teach others and engage in ministry, we must develop the student to be a morally-sound, spiritual leader. We do not believe it is a good idea to train men of poor character to be church leaders. Such men will only harm the work of God. So, our first priority is to develop the student himself and that is what our first classes are designed to do.

However, we do not rely on classroom teaching only. Each student is part of a Ministry Team (small group of 5-6 students) who are assigned one of our Teachers who will be mentoring our students in their spiritual development and ministry. If, at any point, we do not believe a student is qualified (spiritually or morally) to be trained as a spiritual leader, then our staff has been authorized to terminate that

student's training and send him home. We do not believe we should train men of questionable moral character. We fully expect that only two-thirds of our students will be invited to enroll in Year-Two of our training program. We want to continue training only with the cream of the crop.

Agriculture.

We have successfully grown our first crop of soybeans (20 acres) and are in the process of harvesting the crop. Because the cost of renting a combine was too great, we are doing the harvesting by hand (which gives people jobs). We also have started our chicken operations in our new chicken house. We started off with 500 chickens, and we have now reinvested the profits into growing 800 (which will go to market in another week).

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

The Baby House is finally finished. Because this will triple our capacity and move the operations out of a private house into a separate facility, we are having to get government approval and proper certification. Kerin has been working on this for the past few months and should obtain the proper paperwork shortly. We now have to increase funding for Kerin's Kids ministry so that we can hire some caretakers and care for more babies. This is one of the priorities I will focus on this fall when I return from Zambia (**raising additional support** to fund this ministry). Be sure to follow Kerin's Kids on Facebook (www.facebook.com/kerinskids).

Education Ministry.

We started the Primary School on Feb 8. Lorie hired four teachers and spent most of January giving them additional training. The school began with 55 students (Grades K-6). Unfortunately, one teacher did not perform well and another quit at the end of the first term. The two remaining teachers performed much better than expected and did an awesome job. So, Lorie interviewed a large number of potential teachers and has now hired two replacement teachers and continued her ongoing training with the four teachers. The new term began on May 2 and things are now moving forward even better than before. When our students bring their children to campus in 2-3 months, enrollment will increase another 12-15 students. Our capacity is now pretty much maxed out so that we are needing to build some additional classrooms.

A large number of these students are coming from a nearby potato farm. These are extremely poor families as farm workers are among the poorest people of Zambia. These are people who do not own any land, (often because they have lost their ancestral land) and thus they are desperate to find land where they can grow food for themselves. Such desperation leaves them vulnerable to farm owners (with land) who find creative ways to get free farm labor in exchange for land. It is such a touching sight to see these little kids coming to school with a tiny potato that they unwrap and eat cold for lunch (as that is all their parents can provide them for lunch). Hence, we are considering (if we can find a little more money) providing lunch for kids so that they will, at least, have one good, healthy meal per day. Not surprisingly, these kids tend to get sick more often and have a higher mortality rate.

Construction.

The Baby House is completed. Two blocks of student apartments (5 apartments in each block) were finished just in time for the students to move in on April 1. We are now putting the roofing on the third block. Construction on the Auditorium is progressing rapidly as they have now reached the 6 foot level (cf. picture). We hope to have the roof on by the end of June so that we can start conducting Sunday worship in July. Lastly, construction is progressing on my office (addition to my house which has just one-bedroom and room for an office).

All the materials needed to complete these above mentioned buildings have now been purchased. Unfortunately, however, we have **almost totally depleted all our construction funds**. We have only about \$3000 left for construction, and we still have some very important buildings we need to build.

At the top of the list is the need to build two additional student apartment buildings by January 1 (10 apartments) for the next crop of students (new school year). We estimate that the cost per apartment is about \$4500-\$5000. I am wondering if you or your church would like to pay for one or one-half of an apartment. This is exactly what one church decided to do about a month ago and it is a great way to help us meet this urgent need. Remember that these apartments will be used for many years to come to house a student family as they receiving training to advance the kingdom of God in Zambia!

In addition, we need to build four small houses for our Bible teachers. Within the last year I have hired four teachers, but I don't yet have housing for them. I have had to house them temporarily in the student dorm and duplex. Not only do our teachers need to be housed with the other staff members (houses with indoor bathrooms and kitchens which student houses do not have), but we are going to need the student dorm and duplex next year with the new incoming students for next year. Cost: \$6500 per house.



Former Student. We don't often hear from our 500 graduates (since they live in far remote areas where communication is almost non-existent); but occasionally we do hear something. So, we were most happy when Friday Kunda (2007 graduate) came to visit us. He said he just wanted to come and tell us how thankful he is for the training that we gave him. Upon graduating he returned to his home town (a Provincial City) and started a church that now has 250 members. He also reports that he has made multiple trips to Tanzania and Malawi and has planted several churches in those countries. He is pictured here (left in above picture) with Sandi (our Bible College Director).