

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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We are off to a good start with the new year. Our second class of new students arrived just little over a week ago and classes have now begun in earnest. The rains have been plentiful this year and our maize (corn) crop is growing well, along with the student gardens. We have made good progress in repairing the damage that was done from the December wind storm. We have also hired a new teacher and two spiritual mentors for the Bible College. Things are going well here in Zambia.

Report: Bible College.

During the first week of January, our **new crop of 17 students** (below) arrived for the beginning of the new school year which started on Jan 5. This is our second



crop (class) of students to our new training program that we began last year. This means that we now have two classes of students (see picture to the right of the returning, second-year students). Lord willing, we will add our third class of students next year (Jan 2018) and begin graduating 12 students each year (as this is a three-year training program).

Our goal is very simple: **to develop self-supporting, spiritual leaders who are equipped for holistic ministry.** As many of you know, I have been explaining what this means in detail as I have been visiting you (supporting churches) over the past year or so. Christianity in Africa has grown significantly over the past 50 years (numerically), but this growth is seriously lacking in depth. It is easy to make a convert in Africa, but the work of making a disciple (which

involves a spiritual transformation) takes a lot more time. This effort has also been hindered by the serious lack of spiritual leadership. This is why we believe the MOST important thing needed in Africa right now is the development of well-trained, spiritual leadership – something that is very difficult to accomplish since it requires such comprehensive change in the way people live and think.



The key to this kind of training is the development of a teaching staff that is trained specifically for this type of training. Currently, we have three very good teachers. Although we had five teachers (plus the agriculture teacher) last year, I found it necessary to terminate and replace two of these teachers who I did not believe were adequate for the task. Finding qualified teachers with integrity has been my greatest challenge. I have now replaced these two teachers with a new teacher from West Africa (Paul Richards) and two spiritual mentors (former students) who will work with the students outside the classroom in their spiritual development and evangelistic training (practical training).

We are also most thankful for our visiting teachers. We were blessed in January to have two teachers from Winchester, TN. Fielden & Janet Allison, along with Keith & Robin Honey, will be conducting a Marriage & Family class in May. We also have several other teachers we are working to schedule visits.

Repairs from the Storm Damage.

As we reported in the last newsletter, our campus was hit by a severe storm in early December that did serious damage to about 8 of our buildings (two of the four student apartments buildings, student dorm, the duplex where two of our teachers live, and the two student chicken houses). We don't think it

was a tornado, but it was a severe thunderstorm with wind shear (flat winds of more than 70 mph).

We are **MOST thankful** to those of you who donated to help us make repairs to these buildings. Our two construction crews have been working on repairs since the storm hit and have now completed all of the repairs except for the two Student Chicken Houses (which they started repairing this week). We believe all the repairs will be completed within the next 3 weeks (by Feb 15). Again, let me express our deepest appreciation to those of you who responded to this need.

Agriculture.

Our 20-acre maize crop has been planted and is doing very well. The rains came to Zambia on time and have been plentiful. The new students are now busy planting their gardens. We have had to delay the start of the students' chickens since we are still waiting on repairs to the two chicken houses that were badly damaged in the December windstorm. Our Daybreak chicken operations have also been affected since we had to move the second-year student chickens in with our Daybreak chicken House. Hopefully, the repairs to the chicken houses will be completed within a month and we can get things back on track in our agriculture.

Ken Hargesheimer (Lubbock, TX) conducted an Agriculture Workshop on no-till farming for us in late November, and we have scheduled a second Agriculture Workshop with Carl Burkybile (Healing Hands Intern'l) and John Dube (Zimbabwe) for late February. In addition to teaching our students, these agricultural specialists have also helped us improve our agriculture training and our Daybreak farming operations.

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

We have a new baby (Emmanuel) here at Kerin's Kids. He was born one month premature and weighed only 3.9 lbs. at birth. His little mother is only 17 years old and has been in the hospital for many weeks. Emmanuel wasn't allowed stay in the hospital with his mother so he was sent to his aunty. Unfortunately, his aunty had never had a child before and wasn't sure how to care for him. He had been at his aunty's house for 6 weeks and still weighed the same as when he was born.

Emmanuel's grandmother called me and asked me for baby formula. The family had only been able to buy cow's milk (which they couldn't afford to continue doing). I gave them baby formula and bottles and then showed them how to clean the bottles and how to purify the water. After two weeks he still wasn't gaining any weight. I took the baby to the hospital, and there we discovered he had a fever and was breathing really fast. He was admitted into the NICU at the hospital.

I have never had any of my babies in the NICU before so this was all new to me. Every morning I had to get up at 5:00 AM and head off to the hospital. There are only two times per day you can see the babies in the NICU (7:00 AM and 4:00 PM). Each visitor is given a paper with the baby's name you have come to visit. The NICU has a hallway of windows with thick curtains. At 7:00 AM they begin opening one curtain at a time. You hold up your paper and the nurses will get the baby you are there to visit. They hold up the baby for about 10 seconds and the visit is finished. You cannot see the baby again until 4:00

PM. The hospital gives you very little information, but they will let you know when you need to give them more diapers.

So this is what I did for about two weeks at 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM each day. Then, suddenly, we got the call that Emmanuel has been discharged. So I packed some clothes, bottles, and a lot of blankets as I headed off to the hospital to pick up Emmanuel. I brought him back home with me as his mother is still in the hospital. This past week we took Emmanuel back to the hospital for his check-up and were delighted that he has gained almost 3 lbs. (after not having gained any weight for the first four weeks of life). He now weighs 6.6 lbs. He is now doing well and is quite alert to his surroundings.

I would like to thank all of you who are contributing to this ministry to save the babies and for all your prayers for us and the babies that we are endeavoring to save. You make all the difference as we could not do it without your support. – Kerin

Education Ministry.

The new school year for the Primary School begin on Jan 15 (the school year runs from Jan-Nov). The school is now at full capacity with about 80 children. We hope to start construction on a third classroom in February (which we will need when the new students bring their kids in April).

Meet Our Students: Eugene Penta.

Eugene (picture below) is 30 years old and is from the Lusaka province in Zambia. He states that his reason from coming to Daybreak Bible College (DBC) was because he wanted to learn more about Christ and to gain experience in the work of God. He says that he plans (after graduating) to "become a missionary so that he can reach out to many with the gospel." He also adds that he wants the training at DBC so that he can return to his village to "equip the community with the Word of God by training youths and the vulnerable in society." More specifically, he hopes to set up a "retreat center where youths can be trained in different skills." Eugene has already been active in his church and that is why the leaders of his church recommend him to us as a student.

