

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Despite our own personal difficulties (see below), the work in Zambia continues to prosper. We are only weeks away from our first graduation of our new, three-year program, and our students continue to make progress in their ministerial and agricultural training. We have also hired some new Bible teachers which will further enhance our training.

Death in the Family.

It was with much sadness that we said goodbye to my Dad (**Parker French**) who died in his sleep on Oct 3. My Dad had just turned 93 in September. His health began to deteriorate after Easter when he got pneumonia and had to be briefly hospitalized.



I know that many of you either knew my Dad or had heard of him as many of the churches that now support our work in Zambia once supported our family when we did mission work in Pakistan and Australia (early 1970's). Others of you knew him because he once served as a Minister for your congregation or held Gospel Meetings at your church. In fact, most every church where my Dad ever preached or held

a meeting is now supporting this work in Zambia.

My Dad grew up in Cape Cod but came south in 1951 to attend Freed-Hardeman College after WW2 (in which he served). There he met my Mom (Joyce). Soon thereafter he began preaching full-time for various congregations in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Pakistan and Australia. He did not retire until he was 85 years old (2007), living thereafter in Arlington, TN.

Just shortly before he retired from full-time ministry, he and my Mom began making annual trips to Zambia to teach Bible classes (2005-2012). Many of our students in Zambia remember him fondly. I don't think anyone who ever met him forgot him as he was truly unique (Boston accent that became southernized). It seems everyone had a story about him or something "unusual" that he did. He had a zest for life and could always find joy in nature (especially rivers/lakes).

He will, of course, be sorely missed; but this is a day for which my Dad was prepared. If there is anything that truly stands out about my Dad, it is the fact that he was totally dedicated to the Lord – a dedication that led him into mission work. I think it is this passion that I inherited, and I think it is in this sense that my Dad continues to live on.

Report: Bible College.

I interviewed several candidates to replace the two Bible teachers that we lost in April. As a result, I ended up hiring three men (two from Zimbabwe); but because the one from Zambia cannot start until December and the Zimbabweans must first apply for and obtain a work permit to enter Zambia, I hired an older man in his 60's for just this Fall semester. However, we have just been informed that Zambia Immigration has rejected the application for the two Zimbabwean teachers.

The issue of immigration has become a worldwide problem in the last few years – not just in the USA. Although I do not believe it is an actual problem for Zambia, it is a global trend that has influenced Zambia nonetheless. This is why we lost one of the teachers in April (who was from Sierra Leone). His work permit was cancelled. We do, however, intend to appeal this decision; so, please keep this in your prayers that our appeal will be successful.

We are just a few weeks now from the date set for our first graduation ceremony for our new, three-year training program (which we began in 2015). It has taken us many years of planning and preparation to get to this point. For many years we have wanted to focus on married students and extend the program from two to three years, but the lack of adequate housing for married students and lack of land for gardens was a hurdle that was not overcome until we moved to our new campus in Oct 2014. We have now completed six apartment buildings (30 married students apartments), which has allowed us to finally reach this milestone.

Zambian Economy and Minimum Wage.

The Zambian economy is not doing well, thanks in large part to China who has bought up all the copper mines (natural resources) and loaned Zambia so much money that the country can no longer pay its debts. According to foreign observers,

China is now (in lieu of debt payments) taking control of the media and other government-owned enterprises and is about to take control of the national electric company and the airport. China is also paying bribes and bringing much corruption to the country.

As a result, the economy is now beginning to suffer, and, of course, those hit hardest are the poor. The kwacha (local currency) has lost about 20% of its value in the last two months, and this is causing fuel prices and the cost of most everything else to increase dramatically. The cost of mealie-meal (food staple) has seen sharp increases, and this has dire consequences for the common people.

In an effort to help the working people of Zambia, the government just announced a major increase in the minimum wage (about 55% increase). Of course, such a huge increase is very inflationary and will hurt many struggling businesses and lead to job cuts. This will also have a negative impact on our ministry as it will greatly increase our expenses in Zambia. Upon hearing this news, I had to lay-off half of our construction workers in an effort to reduce our costs. I will likely have to eliminate a couple of our employees in January (when current contracts expire).

Corruption has increased dramatically in the last few years. According to one British newspaper, *"Britain has frozen its entire funding programme to Zambia amid allegations that state officials have looted millions of pounds of aid to set up shell companies and buy expensive cars. The Department for International Development (Dfid) has also demanded a forensic audit of Zambian government spending after evidence emerged suggesting aid had been embezzled on a significant scale since 2012. A spokesman said the move, worth £42m (\$54.7 USD) a year, was part of Dfid's "zero tolerance" approach to fraud and corruption. The UK has frozen aid funding to Zambia, after its government admitted that \$4.3m (£3.3m) meant for poor families had gone missing."*

Note that \$4.3 million was for poor families! Of course, this cut in foreign aid money will further hurt the economy. Please pray for Zambia, especially the poor who will suffer the most (as always).

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).



Update on Emmanuel. You may remember (from about two years ago), there was a baby born premature. Neither he or his 17-year old mother was expected to live. Kerin was called by the hospital to take the baby into her care (which she did). The child was quite sick for some time and had to be hospitalized several times. Eventually he was returned to his mother and given baby formula by Kerin. We are thankful to announce today that both he and his mother have survived. Emmanuel is healthy and has just "graduated" from the baby formula program.

Meet Our Students: Rodrick Maambo.

My name is Rodrick Maambo. I was born in 1998 and come from Siavonga in southern province of Zambia. I am a first-year student at Daybreak Bible College.

I am coming from a Christian family of five, congregating from the Church of Christ, and my parents are farmers. I am single with no children. The way I would describe myself to someone



is that I am a faithful Christian who trusts in God, humble, very open and also a person who likes to preach or teach the word of God. What I care most is putting God first priority in my life. I started worshipping God since the time I was born and became a Christian when I got baptized in 2013. The reason I became a Christian is because I discovered that

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Without God in my life I am nothing. I am a member of the Church of Christ. At church I served in preaching, song leading, and presiding on the Lords' table.

The main aim for me to come to DBC was to be equipped more about the word of God and also to be trained as a spiritual leader who will make disciples to obey the teachings of Christ. My hope of being here when I graduate is to be fully equipped both spiritually and physically so that I will be able to grasp the knowledge and understanding.

So far being at Daybreak Bible College has changed my life both spiritually and physically. I was never used to tough physical work like digging the raised beds and spiritually I never mastered the whole Books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and memory verses have helped me a lot by now. I have learned how to make disciples. And, I am also learning how to be self-support while doing the work God.

My primary focus being at DBC is to be trained as a spiritual leader who will be ready to make disciples to obey the teachings of Christ. Also, I am eager to learn more about agriculture skills that will enable me do ministry without depending on church offerings.

Yes! I would recommend others to come and attend because this is the college that train men both spiritually and physically. My plans is to go home to my village and teach the people who sent me and to serve in the community. I would like to implement the agriculture skills back home and to preach the gospel of Christ to different areas as Christ commanded us (Matt 28:18-20).

My learning at DBC will help me in future because I have come to believe it is my foundation for what God has called me for. And I believe its God plan for me to be here.