

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Much has happened in Zambia since our last Newsletter. We celebrated the graduation of 21 students, suffered through a windstorm that blew the roof off the new Primary School wing, and hired several new staff members for 2021. Our new students have now arrived for 2021. And, finally, Lorie and I managed to survive the coronavirus over Christmas. We are also pleased to announce a new fund-raising campaign for Kerin's Kids involving matching funds (cf. below).

Report: Bible College.

On Nov 28, we celebrated the graduation of 12 male students and nine wives. This was the best class of students that we have ever produced in 16 years. The spiritual quality and depth of this class was truly remarkable.



Group Picture – 21 students



Twelve Male Students



Nine Female Students

Kerin's Kids

Zambia has one of the highest numbers (per capita) of orphans in the world. It is estimated that 27% of Zambia's children have lost one or more of their parents. The loss of one or more parents puts children at great risk as many of them end up seriously malnourished which greatly increases their vulnerability to disease. The problem is only getting worse in Zambia, and this is why we are announcing the following fund-raising campaign.

Kerin's Kids – Matching Funds

Goal: \$50,000 (April 15)

We are excited to announce a Fund-Raising Campaign for KERIN'S KIDS! We have an anonymous donor family that wants to **challenge** others to contribute money that will be used specifically to support KERIN'S KIDS Children's Ministry.

The goal is \$50,000 with the anonymous donor offering to **contribute \$2,000 for every \$8,000 that is donated between now and April 15**. This is a tremendous opportunity to truly "make a difference" in the lives of children that will last a lifetime and hopefully beyond. Please consider helping KERIN'S KIDS by accepting this challenge."

If you would like to contribute to this campaign, you may do so either online (www.zambiamissions.org) or by mailing a check to Zambia Missions, 1910 Sycamore View Rd, Bartlett, TN 37134. Make the check payable to "Zambia Missions" and write a note on the memo line: "Kerin's Kids Matching Funds."

Primary School.

In November, a windstorm blew the roof off of the new wing of the Primary School. Construction on the new wing (five new classrooms) was almost completed when the storm hit. It not only blew the iron sheets off but also the steel purlins (steel framework) and all the electrical wiring (as all the electrical wires in Zambia run through the ceilings). The wind blew the entire roof off and threw it 50 yards into the other classroom wing, damaging part of that building as well. Part of the wall of the new classroom building was also pulled down when the roof was ripped off the building.

I posted news of this event on our Facebook pages and the (www.facebook.com/zambiamissions) response from our friends

on Facebook was immediate and generous. Within two weeks enough money was donated so that we were able to completely repair all the damage! We hired extra workers and were able to repair all the damage so that the new classrooms were ready for the beginning of the new school year in January!



New classroom wing before the storm



New classroom wing after the storm

New Staff Additions.

We believe the Bible College teaching staff we had last year was the best we had with one exception. Thus, we decided to replace this one teacher with another man who we believe will strengthen the quality of our teaching staff even more. His name is Virchel Akapelwa. He has had a great deal of practical ministry experience which will strengthen our teaching staff. I believe our teaching staff will be the best we have ever had in 2021 (picture below)!



In September we hired an Assistant Director to help Lorie run the daily operations of the Primary School. His name is Jacob Likando and we have known him for many years. He has advanced training and experience in education and will do a lot to help us improve the standards of our Primary School.

We also hired one of our graduates, Chispine Chazanga, to serve as the Campus Minister for the Primary School. He and his wife were two of our most spiritual-minded students and we want him to boost the spiritual emphasis in our Primary School. He will teach Bible Classes, conduct daily chapel, and minister to the students and their families living off campus. He will also recruit

our Bible College students to participate in these activities so as to provide practical training for our students (which will also increase the spiritual environment on our campus).

We have also hired several new Primary School teachers (since we have added new classrooms). The newer teachers have better training and experience. This is all part of our efforts to provide a quality education to the students attending our Primary School.

In addition to all these changes, we have now hired a new Financial Officer, Seveliano Mbewe, to handle all our financial matters in Zambia. Mbewe is an active member in his church and has extensive training and experience in finances. We wanted to find a married man with high integrity as this is an especially important job. After much effort, we believe we have found the right person for this job. We are very happy to have found such a man.

Christmas for David & Lorie.

Lorie and I found out on Dec 19 that someone Lorie had had contact with became sick with COVID. Lorie began showing symptoms the next day and tested positive for the virus. Two days later I (David) began to get sick and I also tested positive for the virus on Dec 22. Thus, Lorie and I spent Christmas week sick with COVID. Thankfully, the worst of it lasted only about 8 days and we are now (as I write this) pretty much over the experience and are almost finished with our quarantine.

Changes in How We Communicate.

For several years we have been producing a newsletter every two months in both printed and electronic formats. The two formats contain the exact same information. Research, however, indicates that people are much more likely to read a two-page printed version (mailed to them) than a long electronic version of the Newsletter. What works best for the printed version does not work well for the digital audience. Digital communications need to be short and to the point (with pictures and video).

Hence, we have decided to change the way we communicate using these two formats. We will continue to produce and mail the printed version, but we are going to change the way we communicate using email. We will post a pdf version of the printed newsletter on our web page and include a link to download it in our digital communications, but we will now start communicating more frequently with shorter emails (using more pictures) to those who have subscribed to our email lists.

If you would like to receive the electronic emails, then you can do so by going to our webpage (www.zambiamissions.org). There is greater flexibility with emails (as we can include pictures and videos). **I would encourage those who have email to subscribe to both the printed and digital communications.**

We also intend to communicate more using our Facebook pages. If you have Facebook, then I would encourage you to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/zambiamissions).