

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

1910 Sycamore View Rd
Bartlett, TN 38134
(901) 574-9552

Web: www.zambiamissions.org

David & Lorie French

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

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It's been hot here in Zambia, but we are having good rains (as the rainy season started at the end of November). Zambia has been having serious problems producing enough electricity for the country. The government has introduced "load sharing." We get electricity twice a day for 6 hours at a time (i.e., we get electricity for half the day), if we are lucky. This has made it hard to sleep at night as fans keep going on and off (and it is hot when fans are not running).

Things are going well here in Zambia. We have just started the new school year for the Bible College and Primary School. Unfortunately, the rains have been so abundant this year, that there has been a lot of flooding in the rural areas and many of our first-year student's villages have been cut off from the main highways and transportation. Half of our students are still trying to find a way to get here.

Daybreak Bible College.

I have spent most of my time this month doing a training class for the Bible College teachers. Each year I try to assess how well we are training our students and then implement new ways to improve our training. We also have some changes in our staff this year. We have a new Director for the college, and I have hired two new teachers (increasing our teaching staff by one). Thus, I thought it good to focus all my time working with the teachers to refine and focus our training.



In addition to increasing our teaching staff by one, I am working to improve three areas of our program. First, I have made some changes to the classes that we are teaching. Our primary objective is to develop the spiritual life and character of our students. As we have been doing this, we are learning

more and more about what areas in our students' lives need to be addressed and we adjust our classes to do this. I think we have a better idea this year of just how much African Traditional Religion (witchcraft) is hindering their ability to understand what it really means to be a disciple of Jesus.

I have been meeting with the teachers both individually and as a group each day. I have sat down with each teacher individually to discuss each of the classes they are going to teach this year and talked about how to better focus their classes to achieve our primary objectives for each class. I have been working for the past 3 years to provide a library and other resources for the teachers so that they can continue to learn and enhance the quality of the classes they teach. I have also been meeting each day with all the teachers (as a group) to talk about mentoring which I believe is the real key to spiritual formation. In particular, we are going through the book by Reeves on "Deep Mentoring" (a book I would recommend to anyone engaged in disciple-making).

There are two other areas in which I am trying to make improvements: Mentoring and Practical Ministry. I want to increase the amount and quality of mentoring our teachers are involved in; hence the reason we are talking about mentoring (cf. above). We are going to change the way our teachers mentor our students and increase the amount of time they spend mentoring students (among other improvements). We are also going to involve our 3rd year students in mentoring so that they will get practical experience mentoring others. Not only will our teachers mentor the students, but the 3rd year students will now be guided in mentoring the first-year students (which should also help the first-year students).

Practical Ministry. I hired a new member to our Bible College staff this year who will be devoted totally to mentoring and practical ministry. He will not teach -- just focus on these two areas to make sure we give these two areas the attention they require. We believe it is very important that our students get experience applying what they learn in the classroom to real life. I have purchased 15 bicycles and repairing 5 others so that our students will have the ability to go out on Saturday and Sundays to engage in practical ministry. Our students will choose a village in our surrounding area (which is growing exponentially as Lusaka continues to expand) to focus their efforts.

Our goal is to teach our students how to make disciples by actually making disciples and we have developed a strategy for doing this in Zambia. It begins by building relationships in a village through acts of service. Zambians do not trust people they do not know, so before one can engage in what we might call “evangelism,” one must establish a trusting relationship with the community. Once this is done, then one can begin to identify people who want to learn about Jesus and the Bible. It is at this point that one can begin to mentor people who are open to Christ, both individually and in a small group. This eventually leads to some who will make the decision to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and be baptized; but the mentoring does not stop at this point as the evangelist continues to mentor those who have become disciples both individually and in a small group. If there no church exists in that community, then the next step is to establish a church.

Our students established a church last year in Shimabala which is a marketplace on the main highway (5 miles from our campus). The government put a toll booth just near this marketplace two years ago which caused much growth and development in this community. Shimabala has tripled in population just in the last 2 years and is fast on its way to becoming a town. We are now trying to find land for the church (which is becoming hard to find). This year our students will target two more communities with the hope of establishing 1-2 more churches in our area.

Below is picture of the two new Bible College staff members that we just hired. Victor Munyumbwe (left) is from Livingstone (Southern Province). He graduated from African Christian College (located in Eswatini which is a small country in South Africa) in 2003 and has been actively working in ministry since returning to Zambia. We also hired Adas Mungala (right) who is also from Livingstone and is also a graduate of African Christian College. Victor will be serving as a teacher, but Adas will focus solely on mentoring and practical ministry. I add Adas to our staff specifically to help bolster these two very important dimensions of our training program.



Daybreak Board Meeting.

In order to operate in Zambia, it is necessary that our ministry be registered with the government and have a Zambian board of directors. As I have turned 65 I am do all I can to prepare this ministry for the day that I will no longer be able to continue in my present role. I have no plans to retire, but one day my time will come to an end. One of the things I am trying to do is to develop a Zambian board who will be ready to assume total responsibility

for this ministry. Our board met on Jan 14. Below is a picture taken after the board meeting.



Kerin's Kids Children's Ministry.

We continue to increase the number of orphans and vulnerable children that Kerin is assisting. The uncle to some twins (boys) that Kerin helped two years ago came to visit so that Kerin could see how they are doing. The twins are now doing very well. Their mother had died when they were just six weeks old and the uncle (pictured below) has been raising them.

Recently another set of twins (girls) was born in the same village and again the mother died soon after birth. Their aunt (holding the twins below) has been caring for them and Kerin is also providing assistance to them. Their names are Faith and Hope.



Primary School.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we are in the process of registering the Primary School as a private school with the government. I met with our lawyer, and we have now filed the paperwork necessary to complete this process. The school will be registered as “Aurora Christian Academy.” We now have just over 200 students and we are hoping to add grades 8 and 9 within the next two years and become a testing center so that our grade 7 and 9 students do not have to go elsewhere and pay large fees to get their standardized tests (which are required to continue one’s education into the 8th or 10th grades).

Lorie has spent most of her time working with the Primary School as we endeavor to improve the spiritual and academic standards of our school. This school is proving to be a great blessing to the children of our area – most of whom are too poor to attend school. We are also providing breakfast and lunch to our students which is making a significant difference in their overall health and wellbeing.