

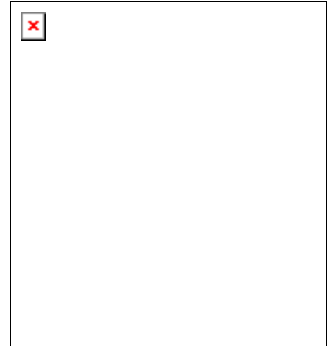
Zambia Newsletter

March 2005

Zambia Missions
1910 Sycamore View Rd
Memphis , TN 38134
(901) 372-1874

David & Lorie French
P.O. Box 36893
Lusaka , Zambia 10101

Web: www.zambiamissions.org



Dear Friends,

Much progress has now been made in the building of our house at Mapepe. We still had to wait 3 weeks for concrete to be brought by truck and poured for the foundation (concrete slab); but once the foundation was in place, work began in earnest to build the walls. Already we are now up to the 10th block high and are installing the windows (roof comes later in about three weeks). It is still our hope that the house will be finished and we can move in before the beginning of school in May. We are, however, still waiting for the electricity to be connected – something that we applied for in October of 2004 (five months waiting)! And, without electricity, there is no water (pump won't work).

We also have now finally purchased our 4-wheel drive vehicle. It is a used 1998 diesel Toyota Landcruiser that will carry 11-12 people (students). After much research and talking with other experienced missionaries, it became quite clear that this was about the only vehicle for us to consider. There is no other vehicle that has proven itself as strong and reliable in Zambia as the Landcruiser. This vehicle was built to carry a dozen people to just about any remote location where people live in Africa. This acquisition has been very much needed since I got to Zambia. There have been many churches that I have not been able to visit (even in Lusaka) because the roads were too bad for my car to pass through.

Most of our time is now being focused on things we need to do in preparation for the school to begin in May. The job of getting the word out about the school has been especially challenging. We have addresses for 831 churches, but most of these addresses are incorrect. Churches frequently are unable to pay for their P.O. box and, thus, lose them. Because this is the only way to send mail in Zambia (no street addresses or home deliveries), contacting churches in Zambia is extremely difficult. Thus far we have mailed out only about 100 packets (each containing 10 brochures) and many of these have been returned undelivered. The search for new and correct addresses has become a constant effort for me as I meet and talk to anyone from the churches here in Zambia. As soon as I get a new address, I quickly drop a packet in the mail to that church.

Despite this difficulty, we have already received more than 7 applications from church leaders wanting to attend school this year. These applicants are fairly dispersed throughout the country and are mostly in their late 30's and 40's (which is exactly the results we were hoping to get)! I have already personally interviewed three of these leaders and was most impressed with their desire to serve God. This has been perhaps the most encouraging development that has taken place since I arrived in Zambia!

There are still many challenges that we face in getting the facilities at the Central congregation ready for school in May (two months). We have yet to build beds and desks for 20 students. In addition, we must find a cheap way to construct a place for students to take showers and we must construct some kind of a kitchen. The septic tank has yet to be

completed and we must hire a cook and an administrative assistant to help me in running the school this summer (as I will have my hands full just trying to teach 3 hours a day for 15 weeks). And, as you probably would guess, we don't yet have the \$8500 we need to complete these preparations!

We continue to visit various churches on Sundays to preach. This past month we visited the churches at Chelston, Kafue Central, Lusaka Central, and Mapepe. This coming month I have been invited to speak at two leadership workshops: (a) At Lusaka Central I am to speak on marriage and what it takes to form a strong, permanent marriage, and (b) at Mapepe, I am schedule to speak on how best to evangelize neighbors and friends.

Our trip to the northeast with Roy Merritt (for Feb) had to be postponed to this month as the bank suddenly changed their rules and he was unable to withdraw money from the USA for his trip. This may seem strange to you, but the difficulties in doing even the most simple business transactions in African can be paralyzing and time consuming. For example, Lorie and I needed to withdraw \$1200 worth of kwacha (10 million kwacha). Each bank will only allow you to withdraw 2 million per day. Thus, we had to go to 5-6 different banks to withdraw enough money! This is both time consuming and frustrating.

I am leaving tomorrow (March 4th) on a one-week trip to the northwest with a group of Zambian evangelists (and visiting Americans). This group has been working for several years in trying to plant churches

in this unevangelized region of Zambia. They have also been trying to evangelize among the Congolese living in refugee camps along the Congo border. Their hope is that they can convert and train these Congolese to return one day to their war-torn country in order to plant churches in the Congo where we have only a handful of churches. As you may remember, I have a passionate desire to see the church grow in the northern parts of Zambia and on into the Congo. This will give me an opportunity to learn about this work and to discuss with these men how our work might contribute to and assist this outreach effort in the north. I also am going so that I might meet those churches that have already been planted and recruit leaders from these churches to attend our school this coming summer.

Lorie's Reflections

Those of you who receive our E-bulletin know that there are an array of different people and jobs that one meets everyday on the streets here in Lusaka. There are street vendors who line the middle of the bridges going into Lusaka, as well as, each traffic robot (traffic light) . There are street children of varying ages. Some are learning the trade of street vending.

This month I wanted to share with you one fascinating group of people that can be seen everyday and the devotion that they have to their job. These people are the "street sweepers". They are brightly attired in long , orange coats. They may be men or women, although there seem to be more women. Their job is simply to sweep the curbsides of the city streets so as to free them from dirt, broken glass, leaves, and other city debris. They can be seen carrying out their task beginning early in the morning and continuing throughout the day.

They are most diligent about their work. Early on one particular morning, as the streets seemed to be coming alive with excitement, the street sweepers at one round-about (the Zambian alternative to a 4-way stop) were actually singing a chant as they swept the streets in rhythm with their chant. Their bodies swayed. Another group of men were busy putting up color banners with the Zambia symbol on them. I watched as the street sweepers seemed to almost dance as they sang and worked. They were preparing this street for the president and a visiting dignitary who were to pass by later in the day.

On another day I was sitting in the car waiting for David to finish a business transaction. The shop was located at the edge of the City Center Market.

The streets and paths beside me were thickly, covered with village women of all ages who had come to sell their fruits and vegetables. Small children played beside their mothers. Babies nursed. The market was a buzz with conversations in various languages. There were seeds and peelings on the ground from a variety of fruits which had been eaten by people passing. I was quite intrigued with all of the commotion when I noticed the street sweeper who had been assigned to this portion of the city. I watched her for several minutes as she went about her job. Although her orange coat was faded and worn, she approached her job with the same fervor that the sweepers had demonstrated as they prepared for the president's motorcade.



God sometimes calls us to serve him in the spotlight, as if we are heralding the way for a passing president. And, sometimes God calls us to serve Him through the everydayness of life, as if we are sweeping peelings in the city market and unnoticed by anyone. Let us, as His children, pray that we will approach our service to Him with the same devotion and fervor regardless of whether we are called to herald the coming of a president or to sweep peelings in a city market that no one notices.

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