

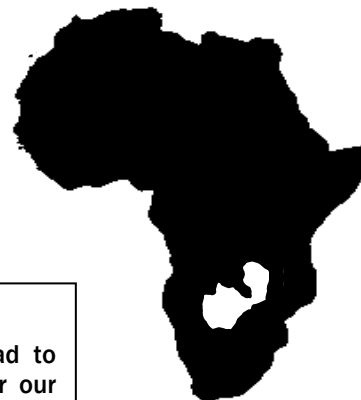
Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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

David & Lorie French

P.O. Box 36893
Lusaka, Zambia (Africa)
dfrench@zambiamissions.org



Web: www.zambiamissions.org

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End of the School Year (Brief Review).

We are quickly nearing the end of this school year. It has been a great third year! Thus far we have had a total of 160 students that have attended classes at Mapepe (plus another 80 who attended two different agricultural workshops and about 50 who have attended off-campus classes in area churches). Sixteen students graduated last Sept and we are expecting another 43 students to graduate in just a few more days from now (Sept 1).

In the previous two years, our students have planted six churches and have conducted evangelism campaigns in several other churches. This year our students participated in three major (10-day) campaigns (including the medical mission in July), planted six more churches, and spent most every weekend going out on weekend church-strengthening trips. Our students also participated in several humanitarian efforts (e.g. digging foundation for widow's houses).

Because communication is so difficult and our former students are so spread out throughout the region, we have no real way to determine what all our former students are doing. We do, however, hear from many of them and what we are hearing is good. Most of them are reporting having either planted a new church and/or having developed various new ministries for evangelism and service to their local communities. We know of at least 23 churches that our students have started. It will still take some time for us to assess how effective they are over time, but this feedback will be most helpful as we continue to refine our training.

This year we more than tripled our operations as we added a second semester (Jan-May), a new women's program, a Seminar in April (three-weeks in April for school teachers while on their April school break), an agricultural workshop (two weeks in May), dramatically increased our mission trips, and conducted our first Medical Mission! Next year we plan to continue each of these programs and increase the number of mission campaigns to plant new churches, increase the number of women students from six to 15-20, and expand our training to a three semester program. In the future, students who complete two semesters will get a Certificate of Completion in Church Leadership and those who complete the third semester will earn a diploma in Bible and Missions.

Additional Staff.

Our staff personnel has also had to increase dramatically. Last year our staff consisted of School Director,

Head Cook & Dorm Supervisor, Security & Farming Supervisor, Maintenance Man, and Farm Worker. This year we added the following positions: Administrative Assistant, 3 Mission Coordinators (one of whom died), Women's Dorm Supervisor, Driver, and Mechanic. Next year we will add four additional Mission Coordinators (one who is a woman to work with the women in ministry projects) and an Agricultural Teacher. This will give us a total of 7 Mission Coordinators, each of whom will be assigned next year to work with teams of 12 students each (focusing on their character development and working with them to plan and engage in mission works).

Infrastructure.

Thus far (over the last two years) we have built the following buildings: Classroom building (two classrooms and offices), Men's Dormitory (72 beds, kitchen and dining room), Staff apartments for six families, house for the School Director, Guest House (for visiting teachers from the USA), our house, installation of major drip irrigation system on the north side of the campus for growing vegetables (which we are going to sell to help support the school and to feed our students), and the installation of an electric fence around the property to protect the campus (e.g. vegetables) from thieves. We are presently constructing a new Women's Dorm (20 beds). Our plans for next year include building a third classroom, a second smaller dorm for additional students, and a Missionary Residence (as we are trying to recruit a teacher from the USA). We also will greatly expand our agricultural capabilities so that we can grow food to support the school and train students in farming (so that they can support themselves in ministry).

Visiting Teachers. Over the past few weeks (since our last newsletter), we were blessed to have the assistance of the following guest teachers: Parker French, Joyce French, Thayer Salisbury, Richard Waggoner, Brian Davis, and Don Boyd.

Reconstituted Board of Trustees.

With all the changes that have occurred over the past three years and with many of our older board members passing away, it was necessary this past year that we add some additional Zambian board members who have great expertise and knowledge in running a school in Zambia. We also wanted to add men from as many of the provinces of Zambia as we could. This process took about one year, but last month we

finally were able to conclude this effort and have now reconstituted a board of ten good men from across Zambia to serve on this board. The board has also formed four sub-committees to run various aspects of the ministry. We believe this will greatly enhance our effectiveness in the future.

Return To The USA. Lorie and I will be returning back to the USA for the next three months to make reports on the work to about half of those churches who are supporting the work and to try and raise some additional funding. This is necessary since Lorie and I are the primary fund-raisers for this ministry. We will be trying to visit those churches whom we did not visit last year (2006). Our goal is to visit every church supporting this work every 2-3 years. There are now about sixty supporting churches. This means that it takes us no less than 10 weeks just to visit half of these churches (visiting a different church every Sunday morning, Sun evening & Wed night). This doesn't give us much time to visit new potential supporters. Shortly I will be contacting those of you who we have not visited since 2004-2005 in order to schedule a visit to your congregation. If we don't contact or visit your church this year, it will be due to the fact that we visited your congregation within the last 18 months.

Donations To Help Stella and Eness. Several of you sent donations over the past 2-3 months to assist Eness (widow of William who died

in March) and Stella (widow with AIDS that we are trying to assist). I wanted to report that Stella's house is now finished and she is now living in it. Several who came over on the Medical Mission helped build this house for her in June. We are now in the process of building a house for Eness which is next to the Women's Dorm. Eness is now our Women's Dorm Supervisor and is working with Lorie in the Women's Ministry! Her house should be completed by the rainy season (late Nov).

Another Useless Death. It is just amazing to me how fast and easily people die here. As many of you know, Thomas Simubali (our School Director) lost two of his newborn children in 2005 and 2006. Two days ago his sister died at the age of just 31. It appears she died of pneumonia, but the real reason is again due to neglect. She was transferred from another small private hospital to the main hospital here in Lusaka where she laid on the floor for hours until she was finally admitted. Upon admittance, she was pretty much ignored (no doctor visit) until she died. This is now the fourth person (close acquaintance) in two years we have seen die of medical incompetence at this same hospital. My purpose in sharing this with you is not to criticize Zambia, but to alert you to the sad state of medical care that now exist in this country. The main cause of this is due to the flood of people dying of AIDS. It has just overwhelmed this poor country's ability to care for its sick. Not a week goes by (or so it seems) that I don't hear of someone I know (or a close relative of a friend) who has died suddenly at a very young age – and usually needlessly so!

Lorie and I look forward to seeing many of you in the next few weeks. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel.

Lorie's Reflections

When the door to the sitting room in our house opened, the chilly air of the Zambian winter made me shiver but the melody of the Zambian praise song which Chico was singing warmed my heart. This most unique, young man lost his parents and was sent to stay with extended family members. Like many orphans here in Zambia he became a work hand for his relatives. At times he went without food, was forced to sleep in the "stable". He lived a life of broken promises and yet he sang praises to His Lord.

Chico came to work at Mapepe Bible College and has blessed our lives in a most unusual way. That particular day, I didn't see Chico early in the morning. I couldn't hear the strains of praise which usually filled the morning air. Soon Mr. Mbulo (our MBC farm manager) came into the compound and told me that Chico had "been chased" from his relatives house and that he had no where to go. Chico was feeling all alone and hopeless at that moment. But Chico was not alone. The Father in heaven heard the cries of Chico's heart and kept His promise to be a "father to the fatherless". God allowed MBC to become Chico's

new family. Praise to God can be heard again from Chico's voice at Mapepe. Chico is God's precious servant and His precious child.

Pray for God's precious children in Zambia and for their "daily bread" to be supplied.



(Chico is a life that has been touched by your generosity)