

# 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](http://www.zambiamissions.org)

May 2008

**E-Bulletins.** Beginning a few weeks ago I determined to start sending out e-bulletins every two weeks in an effort to keep everyone better updated and informed about the work here. I also decided to start including pictures that actually show what is happening here. Of course, in order to send these bulletins out to you, I have to have your email address. Unfortunately, I don't have many of your email addresses and many that I did have previously have become outdated as you have changed providers and email addresses. I would really like to send this bi-monthly bulletin to all our you who have email addresses; so, if you have an email address, **PLEASE** send it to me as soon as you can (dfrench24@gmail.com). We also have started posting all past e-bulletins on our web page in PDF format (along with the colored pictures) so you can access any that you may have missed in the past. You will find the link to these on our web page under the menu item "E-Bulletins" ([www.zambiamissions.org](http://www.zambiamissions.org)). You can also find all of our past newsletters on our web page under the heading, "Newsletters."

**New Semester Underway.** This past Monday (May 12) was the start of our second semester this year. Thus far we have 53 returning second-year students and 9 first-year students (there are still several students still on the way). This is the first time we have had a drop in the number of first-year students (although we had 49 to enroll last semester in Jan). There are several reasons for this. Because the rains were so heavy during Nov-Jan, there was a great deal of flooding throughout the country and most of the maize crops failed (primary food of Zambians). Hence, many potential students told us that they could not come this year because they had nothing to leave behind for their families to eat and, thus, would have to remain home in order to find casual work or other ways to feed their families this year. There is going to be a lot of people going hungry this year in Zambia as a result. Nevertheless, because of our large enrollment this past January, we should have about 52-55 to graduate this coming Sept (which will be our largest graduating class yet). Marty Brownfield (an elder from the Goodman Oaks congregation in Memphis) is here teaching Hebrews and the Minor Prophets for the next three weeks.

**Medical Mission.** In less than three weeks we will strike out on our second medical mission (June 1-14).

We will be returning again to the Central Province where we are working to plant new churches. We have another great group of American and Zambian medical personnel and support staff to carry out this great work. We learned a lot from last year and we have made many improvements that should increase our effectiveness this year (both spiritually and medically).

**Agricultural Training & Development.** Great progress continues to take place in our agricultural training programs. Richard Myers just completed another trip here to assist us in conducting another agricultural workshop. He is training our agricultural staff so that we will soon be able to conduct these workshops without any American assistance. In addition, Richard is assisting our staff in the development of our farming operations here at Mapepe (which we use for training purposes and to feed our students). This week we are harvesting more than 1000 heads of cabbage which we are selling to help support our agricultural training program and farm operations. To our surprise we are discovering that these agricultural workshops are doing more to establish good will and respect in new villages where we can follow-up in an effort to plant churches. We now are starting to realize that our agricultural program may serve as our most effective church-planting tool!

**Update on Our Church-Planting Efforts.** As I have reported to you in the past, our students have planted 13 churches over the past three years. We continue to send our students out to these churches in an effort to mature and develop these churches. A great deal of effort has been invested over the past three months in the churches at Chipongwe (south of Lusaka), Chibombo (north of Lusaka where we just conducted an agricultural workshop), and Chongwe (east of Lusaka). We also have continued to work with the five church plantings in the Central province (where we will be conducting the Medical Mission). Due to our financial struggles this year (see below) we may not attempt to plant any new churches these year and, instead, focus our efforts on stabilizing and strengthening our past church plantings.

**Theft.** For three years we have hardly ever had anything stolen from our campus which probably made us all a little lax in our security. We did install an electric fence around the property last year to increase security for our agricultural fields, but other than this we actually had stopped paying much attention to security. About two weeks ago we awoke to discover that thieves had stolen our industrial welding machine

and a grinder (\$1200 worth of equipment). We made some adjustments to our security, but (to our horror) we awoke the very next morning to find that thieves had managed to steal our generator (\$7000) – something we never imagined could happen (since it takes 6 people to carry it). Long story short.... we posted a large reward that led to several arrests, including a family member of one of the non-staff, caretaker families living on the campus (we knew it required someone on the inside). Since reliable witnesses came forth, the police tortured the thieves to track down the others and in an attempt to recover the property. The police have (as I write this) recovered the welding machine and grinder, and they expect to recover the generator in the next day or two. Needless to say, we have had to serious increase our security measures, including hiring a daytime guard and a second night-time guard, and establishing new security protocols for future.

**Financial Struggles.** This year has proven to be our most challenging year financial since we first began in 2005. There are several causes for this: (a) declining dollar (30% drop in the last year), (b) Zambian inflation (35% last year), (c) increased fuel costs (now \$9.00 a gallon), (d) blown transformer that supplies one-half of our campus

that required running electric lines from the other side of the campus (since the electric company takes months to repair transformers), (d) major repairs on several of our vehicles, (e) recent theft in which they also stole a whole month's worth of food out of the kitchen (\$2000) and which now requires we pay \$2000 for the reward and install several security devises (lights), etc. In any case, we are flat out of money. What concerns me right now is the fact that (as I write this only a few days into May) we are having to make ATM withdrawals from our account in the USA which we rarely do (each month's funds are wired to us once a month) since doing so depletes the funds needed for the next month (i.e., it is the same as getting next month's salary 2-3 weeks in advance). Hence, I am worried that we will not have enough funds to operate in June and June is our most expensive month of the year since our biggest Mission Campaign occurs simultaneously with the Medical Mission in June (i.e., large amount of money is needed to buy fuel to transport all our students and equipment to the Central Province. I share this with you in case there are some of you who might be in a position to help us with a little extra to get us through the next six weeks. In other words, if you have given any thought to contributing anything extra this year, now is the time! ☺

## Lorie's Reflections

Blessings to you from Zambia.

Hearts are being warmed by our Mapepe faculty and staff wives. This group of women has been working tirelessly making clothing for the vulnerable children in the shanty compound near the school. After sewing over 30 garments they went together to the homes of the children and delivered new school clothes made with love. One little girl put on her new skirt and twirled around singing the Zambian version of "All gifts come from God". All of you who are sending and have sent fabric for the women were God's hands to these children.



A most remarkable thing has happened during this period of trial for all of us at MBC, it is the reunion of our daughter, Kerin and her little girl, Susann (Kerin arrived back in Zambia this past week from college). Each time they are reunited I see the joy which fills Susann's little spirit. I am always inspired when I realize that we as children of God can experience that same joy as we reunite with our Father in heaven each day. May we always pray to have a trusting heart like children. May our spirits be refreshed daily with the knowledge that God's mercies are new every morning. May we run to the arms of our Father for strength when our struggles on earth weigh heavy on us. "Be strong and courageous and do not be afraid. The Lord God goes with us each and every day!"