

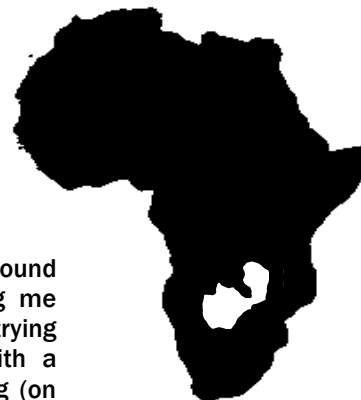
# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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**E-Bulletins.** I am now sending out regular updates on the work with pictures (via email). If you are not receiving these emails, then please send me your email address ([dfrench24@gmail.com](mailto:dfrench24@gmail.com)) or get someone in your church who does have email capability to do so (they can print out the e-bulletins for your church). You can also see all e-bulletins from this year online at our web page: [www.zambiamissions.org](http://www.zambiamissions.org) (cf. menu on left).

**Mapepe Medical Mission 2008.** We have just returned from our second medical mission. Although events leading up to the mission were quite difficult (e.g. wrecked bus), things went quite smoothly once we finally departed for the trip north.

**Logistical Nightmare.** We have now been waiting for more than a year for the delivery of our two 26-seater buses that we purchased from Japan. The seller promised us we would “definitely” have them in time for the medical mission. That was a promise he did not keep. Instead, he loaned us a bus to use; but, one bus was not enough. We had more than 75 students to transport to six villages in advance of the medical mission, 23 Americans, another 24 Zambian medical personnel, and our Mapepe staff (total of 130 people). In addition, we had all the food, tents, medical equipment, and medicine needed for 130 people and six days of medical clinics.

Due to the lack of the second bus, we had to make the one bus do the work of two buses. Our plan was to have one driver deliver three student mission teams up on one trip (pulling a trailer loaded with tents and supplies) and return late that same night (round-trip of about 650 miles). A second driver would, then, deliver the other three mission teams and return late that same night so that the next morning we could go to the airport and collect the 23 Americans arriving at the airport. Then, using the bus, 2-ton truck (we call Jezebel because it keeps breaking down), two four-wheel drive vehicle, and two trailers, we would load up and carry everything else up to base camp for the medical mission. Then, once the medical was over, we would do everything in reverse to get everyone home.

Tight schedule, but doable... right? Well, not exactly. The bus left on Friday as planned for the first trip and successfully delivered the first three mission teams.

But, early the next morning around 5:00 am, I got a call informing me that the bus had been wrecked trying to avoid a head-on collision with a truck at 3:00 am in the morning (on the return trip home). Now, what was a logistical challenge became impossibility. In desperation I called upon a good friend in another school who has a bus and he agreed to let us use his bus. But, before I could get that bus I still had 3 mission teams to deliver within 24 hours. With great anxiety, we called up “Jezebel” to deliver the remaining three teams and return in time for the medical mission.

All problems solved... right? Well, not exactly. Just as the three remaining teams were loading up and preparing to go, the 3 Mission Coordinators came asking me for tents. The Mission Coordinator in charge of the keys to the storage container had left in the first group, had taken all the best tents, and left with the keys! After much searching, we found a spare key, opened the container only to find that all the tents had been piled up in one heap with all the poles and accessories all mixed up together. Only one thing to do: pull out all the tents and try to see how many we could set up (matching up tents with poles and mixed up parts of tents). We finally put together enough tents, loaded up Jezebel to maximum capacity (with about 30 students in the bed of the truck with all their supplies), and off they went (about 5 hours late)!

Finally, I thought, we're back on track. Well, not exactly! No sooner had I got Jezebel off that I stopped to check my email and found an email from the USA informing me that the Americans had missed their connection in Chicago and were having serious trouble trying to find available seats to get them to Lusaka before the medical mission!

Did I forget to tell you that when the first bus got wrecked that it also damaged the trailer it was pulling? Not only that, they could not start the wrecked bus to drive it home. Hence, we determined that after Michael (our mechanic) delivered the remaining three mission teams in Jezebel, he would go on to where the wrecked bus was and attempt to make whatever repairs were needed in order to drive it back to Mapepe (and load up the trailer in the back of Jezebel to bring home). Our hope was that the bus could be driven back and that the trailer could be repaired in time for the medical mission. Not until late that day (just as I was going to bed) was I finally told that the driver and another passenger (who I didn't even know had gone) had been injured. The driver had not told me of his injuries earlier and was now calling asking when Michael would be arriving (as they were cold and in much pain)! Within the next hour, Michael finally arrived and made the repairs needed.

Around noon on the next day, Michael arrived back here at Mapepe with the wrecked bus (which he had managed to restart), trailer, and injured driver/passenger. It was at this point that I thought it best to send out an e-bulletin to all of you to ask for your prayers. It was obvious at this point that Satan was working hard against us. If you care to see the pictures of the wrecked bus, an overloaded Jezebel heading off with students, etc; then you can go to our web page ([www.zambiamissions.org](http://www.zambiamissions.org)) and access the e-bulletin that I sent out to everyone on our mailing list just before the medical mission on that Sunday.

**Answered Prayers – Successful Medical Mission.** I am confident that many of you began to pray for us that Sunday and that your prayers were answered; for it was at that very point that things began to turn around for us! Late Sunday afternoon I got an email informing me that all the Americans had secured flights and were scheduled to arrive in time for the medical mission. Michael was able to repair the trailer that afternoon. And, the bus from our friend in Kabwe arrived by bedtime that Sunday night! And, on Monday, all the Americans arrived on time and with most all their luggage (only one person didn't get their luggage). Last year we had five trunks of medicine and equipment that didn't arrive until after the medical mission.

On Tuesday we loaded up everyone and all our equipment and we all headed out for the 250 mile trip north to base camp. If any of you remember from last year, our departure day last year was filled with vehicles breaking down and people having to drive until late in the night to reach base camp. Nothing like that this year. No vehicles broke down (not this day and not during the whole rest of the medical mission) and everyone got to base camp long before dark! I am, therefore, convinced that this was all in response to all your prayers (as many of you wrote to me that Sunday to tell me you were going to pray for us every day during the medical mission). So, don't be surprised if next year when I ask you all to start praying several weeks before the medical mission (perhaps if we had prayed earlier this year we wouldn't have experienced all the problems mentioned above)!

Thus, on Wednesday morning we awoke at 4:00 am, loaded up, and headed off for our first day of the medical mission. It took us 3 hours to reach the first village (having to drive quite some distance from the tarmac on dirt/bush roads). And, on that day we treated 1446 patients! At the end of the day we loaded up and drove back to base camp, arriving home at about 9:00 pm that night. Long day!

We also instituted some new measures this year to strengthen the spiritual component. Since we already had a generator (for the eye clinic), we took our P.A. system which allowed us to preach all day to the people as they waited in long lines for treatment. We also did more praying with people entering the clinic and we beefed up our Bible study groups (which patients are invited to join after they get treatment). As a result, we ended up baptizing 30 people during the medical mission (last count we had). There have been a few more since then.

On Thursday we continued with the medical mission, again leaving very early and driving out to another village about

20 miles off the tarmac road. The dirt/bush road was a washboard; meaning we couldn't go more than about 15-20 miles per hour! [Although we conducted the mission in the same general area as we did last year, we did more this year to travel out to more remote areas off the tarmac. We found much greater receptivity and villages that had almost no churches of any kind (only Jehovah Witness and perhaps a few struggling Pentecostal churches). The people were very interested in studying the Bible with us and one chief even gave us a plot of land on which to start a church!]

As a result, we now plan to start 4 new churches in four of these villages in the next few weeks as our students return for follow-up. We could just as easily start six churches in each of the villages that we visited this year, but we just don't think we can sustain more than four new churches this year. Last year we started four new churches after the medical clinic and we still must continue working to mature these new church plantings. So, we have our work cut out for us. However, our biggest limitation is the lack of money to send our students out for follow-up (with fuel now costing \$9.50 per gallon). We fully believe that within 5 years we will end up establishing more than 30 churches in this region between Kapiri Mposhi and Serenje (150 mile stretch) where there were only 2-3 churches.

It was also clear this year that people throughout this whole region have come to hear about us and the work that we are doing. There was much greater receptivity and no one anywhere called us "Satanists" this year! The medical mission is truly helping us in our efforts to plant new churches and gain a hearing for our message in this region.

Also, you may remember the chief last year who was drunk and ran us out of his village after just two hours. This year it was much different. The chief saw that their community built us a top-notch, grass clinic and he came personally to welcome us. And, it was from this village that we had the largest number of patients: more than 1460 visited one of our three clinics: medical, dental, and optical. All in all, it was a VERY successful six-day medical mission and with no further logistical problems – the answer to your prayers!

**Dates for Next Year's Medical Mission:** June 3-10. If you would like to go on our next medical mission, then please email me ([dfrench24@gmail.com](mailto:dfrench24@gmail.com)). There is a limit to the number of people we can take for each component of the mission (especially for logistical, non-medical support team members); so it is important that you email me and submit an application as soon as possible, if you are interested.

**Update on the Theft.** The reward that we offered for information generated plenty of leads that led to the arrest of several people and the recovery of all our stolen property (the generator was recovered just two days ago in Kabwe, a town 75 miles north of Lusaka).

**Update On Our Financial Situation.** Several of you have answered with additional financial assistance in response to our appeal in last month's newsletter. However, our situation remains about the same as we are in serious need of funds to send out our students on mission trips to plant churches where we conducted the medical mission. Any additional contributions that you are able to give will go toward these mission efforts.