

Zambia Newsletter

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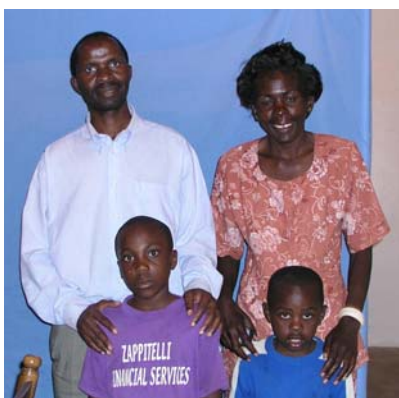
Web: www.zambiamissions.org

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Death of Simubali's Wife. It is with great sadness that we must report the passing of Thomas Simubali's wife this past month (April 28). As most of you will remember, Simubali is my Zambian co-worker who has been with me from the beginning. You may also remember that he had previously suffered the death of two of his infant children (2006 and 2007). His wife, Christine, had been sick for quite some time. She was somewhat already frail and we believe that she basically just never was able to recover emotionally and physically from the loss of her two children.

We don't know exactly what caused her death (as is so often the case here in Zambia); all we know is that she took ill on the weekend of April 25 and died three days later in the Lusaka Hospital. I must share with you my total lack of confidence in this hospital as we have sent four of our staff members/families to this hospital and all four have died (besides Christine and the two infants, you may remember the death of William back in 2007). Unfortunately, there is no where else in Zambia to send sick/injured people except this hospital. Such is the state of Zambian healthcare. Below is a picture of Thomas and Christine (2006).



New Semester Begins. Our new semester of classes began last Monday (May 4). So far we have 40 students who have arrived. We have three students from Tanzania and one from Malawi. There are also 7 female students and one blind student. We believe that we have recruited a better quality of students this year as we are now focusing more on quality over quantity. Marty Brownfield (elder from Goodman Oaks) has just arrived and will be teach for the next three weeks (John, Hebrew, Psalms).

Seminar in April. In April we conducted our third seminar for secondary teachers who were trained at Namwianga Mission and who now have teaching jobs throughout northern Zambia (areas with few churches). We do this in April because teachers in Zambia get one month off in April. There were about 45 of these teachers who attended and the focus this year was on church-planting. The purpose of this seminar is to both encourage these teachers in their church-planting efforts and to enhance their ministry skills (as well as to deepen their Bible knowledge).

Medical Mission. In just two weeks we will begin our third medical mission (June 1-10). We are returning again to the Central Province where we have been focusing our church-planting efforts over the past three years. This year we have 29 Americans coming to participate in this great event.

Medical Clinic. For the past year there have been several people discussing the possibility of starting a Medical Clinic near our Mapepe campus here in Zambia. Because the area where our school is located has now become a fast-developing suburb of Lusaka, land prices have sky-rocketed. Hence, we decided to ask the Zambian government if they had any land available that they might give/lease to us for this purpose. To our surprise the government not only had some land but they had a piece of property with an old British Guest House on it (14 rooms) that they had given to an organization 15 years ago for healthcare but are now repossessing since this organization has done nothing. And, although the deal has not yet been finalized, the government healthcare agency has all but assured us that we will be given this property in the next few weeks.

What is truly amazing is the fact that this property is located right down in the center of Chilanga (a large township between our campus and Lusaka where the largest cement factory in Central Africa is located). This will give our ministry a very high profile in this area and will give us a base from which to operate all of our humanitarian operations in the future.

Note: The funding for this ministry (and the other humanitarian ministries we are doing) **will NOT come from those of you who are giving to "Zambia Missions."** It is important for everyone to realize this. The only funds that we direct toward these humanitarian ministries are those that are sent to us by donors who specifically state that they want to contribute to a specific humanitarian ministry. The funding for these humanitarian ministries will largely come from the following ministries: Zambia Project, Silent Angels, Healing Hands Intern'l, etc. Our

ministry (which we call Zambia Missions and is under the elders of the Sycamore View congregation in Memphis) is a ministry focused on the advancement of the kingdom of God in Central Africa (spiritual focus). However, we believe that it is essential in Africa to conduct holistic missions that minister to both the spiritual and physical lives of people (following the example Jesus which he clearly taught his disciples).

Hence, we have created a new ministry (Center For African Missions) to which Thomas Simubali has now been appointed the Director (Kennedy Mukuka is now the Director of Mapepe Bible College). While MBC will focus on training missionaries and church leaders, this new ministry (C.A.M.) will focus on efforts to facilitate kingdom growth throughout Central Africa. In other words, while one ministry is for training "laborers for the harvest" the other is focused on the actual harvesting (working with students, graduates, and other church leaders and churches to launch evangelistic efforts in Central Africa).

One of the main responsibilities of this new ministry (CAM) will also include working with and alongside all our humanitarian ministries to provide the spiritual component. For example, the

Medical Clinic (in addition to the general medicine, optical, dental, and pharmacy) will have a section for "Spiritual Counseling." Everyone who comes to our clinic will pass through this section (before and after) for prayer and spiritual care. Since medical clinics rarely address the spiritual causes/concerns of patients, Africans typically go to a clinic for medicine and then to the witchdoctor to treat what they believe to be the cause of their sickness (spiritual problem). Our intent is to combine both of these concerns and provide a holistic approach to ministering to people in need (who are also spiritual sick and lost). Hence, CAM will be responsible for assigning staff members and students to the Medical Clinic during operations for this purpose (which will certainly lead to Bible studies outside of the clinic). This same approach will be applied to all our other humanitarian operations (e.g. agriculture, orphan care, etc).

Reminder: Be sure to sign up for our e-bulletins. Go to www.zambiamissions.org and click on the link "subscribe to e-bulletins" at the bottom of the web page.

Lorie's Reflections

The cycle of life is ever before us. We placed our dear sister Christine in the arms of the Lord. Words are inadequate to express the loss that we feel in our family here. Christine was such a blessing to know. As we stood around her graveside we listened to all of the ways that Christine had shared her faith with many. Literally hundreds of people came together to pay last respects to her. She lived what she believed in a great way. Many will be the stars in her heavenly crown.

At the same time that we mourn the loss of our friend we rejoice as we welcome into our Mapepe family two more precious "gifts from God". Sydney (our maintenance supervisor) and his family welcomed another tiny "preacher man" named Sydney (below).



Mrs. Mbulo (a kitchen worker) welcomed a new nephew last week. Kerin and I were asked to name him. He is Gideon John (picture top-right) because he is God's little man and John Mbulo (a retired employee at MBC) is the baby's uncle. How thankful we are for these two new souls to prepare for work in God's kingdom.



We eagerly await one more blessing. We will see if God is planning for five little preachers to serve Him from here or if we will also have "God's little woman" to join them. Join us in prayer as Our Lord continues to bless our ministry with children, both physically and spiritually.

