

# Zambia Newsletter



[This month's Newsletter is written by Lorie]. Each day brings new moments that we must ponder in our hearts just as Mary, the mother of Jesus did. She thought about them so intently because she had seen what happened when God comes near to people. Here are some moments from our hearts we can both rejoice in. You can see, like Mary did what happens when God touches lives.

The sun began to break over the hills to the south. We were sitting on a mattress in the back of the land cruiser popping around like fresh kernels of popcorn in hot oil. One particular pothole sent me into the air. I stopped suddenly when my head came in contact with the metal bar across the roof and then rapidly deposited me into the lap of Kerin who was across the vehicle from me. My mother would have said that I landed in

“a unlady-like” position however, at 5:30 AM on a rural road in the Zambian bush, perceptions change. We were on the way to Kalomo with the extended family of our dear granddaughter, Susann. All of us were going for what was to be the first visit to the magistrate of the court to finalize the custody papers. Those of you who know us well know that this was to be the final step in three year process. My excitement was visible. In fact, it was difficult to tell whether it was the potholes or my inner excitement which produced my animation. The road to Kalomo was four and a half hours long that morning. We arrived and began to witness the reunion of Susann's siblings with her. They had not seen her since the death of their mother, shortly after the birth of Susann (almost 6 years ago). Both of her older sisters , 16 and 18 years old, had been given in marriage and had their own babies.



Her elder brother was a very quiet 19 year old who looked as if he had carried the weight of the world on his young shoulders for the last 6 years. The older children had lost their father the 2 years before their mother died. As is common in some African traditions the family of a deceased spouse can give another husband or wife so Susann's father ( the younger brother of the father to the older children) was married to her mother. Susann's Uncle and Auntie (pictured here with her are the nearest relatives to her dear mother.

I think I saw a glimpse of how joyful our reunions in heaven will be and the joy that floods God's heart when those who were lost are now found. Thank God with us.

Another moment to ponder was the birth of child number 8 to Mrs. Miselo (right). This newest blessing is Natasha Angel Miselo. Natasha was named for our own daughter and because it means “thanks to God” in Bemba.



This precious bundle of blessing is seen here with her grandmother, Mama Banda (left). I couldn't help but wonder what blessings and teachings this godly older woman wanted to share with this innocent new life. As I watched these two interact, my mind returned to the time when so many godly men and women were influencing me. My blessing for little Angel is that her life will be touched by her parents and grandparents for the Lord and His kingdom as much as mine was by the godly example of my parents and grandparents.



Pure joy comes when you are sitting with the precious blessings that God gives you everyday. As we imitate God we are allowed to glimpse the face of God in the faces of the people we bless with His love each day. As we imitate God and He refines the gifts that He has given us, we are also teach others.

There is a child-like delight that comes to us when we serve the Lord with all of our heart. This delight reaches to the deepest part of our being and is visible on our faces. Zainne got great joy from helping “D-Daddy” give each of our students their own Bible. For several hours after this activity Zainne expressed “I-na D- Daddy an na Bibles an na students” (below is picture of Zainne on his way with D-Daddy to hand out Bibles to the students). Let remember the joy of simple service for God.



We have been blessed with the birth of little Judy Machila (below). This little blessing was given her name in honor of Dr. Judy Jones . Her father Bro. Oliver has been a tremendous help in all of our medical mission preparations each year. Her birth was a special blessing to this family as you all remember that a little over a year ago this family had to put their son into the arms of the Lord. Little Judy and her family are well and we rejoice that all good things come from God.



This year has begun a renewal of all of the staff. Just as Jesus spent time with all of the disciples we are praying, walking and talking together. Our senior staff is meeting to fellowship and pray at the beginning of each week (below). We are blessed to have these men of God to lead in this ministry. We ask you each to pray for them daily. Each of them has talents and insights to share. Pray that they will be patient to wait for the “still small whispers” from the Lord.

the open-doors that God has prepared for us. After all, someone must receive the blessing of preparing the food for the fellowship meal on Mondays. Those of you who know me well know that I love it (see below). I can’t thank you all enough for awarding us the opportunity to touch lives here daily.

Each of us has multiple opportunities to serve in a variety of ways as this ministry expands and we walk through



The next page is dedicated to the tiny lives that are being refreshed by those of you who are contributing to our Orphan-Care ministry that is now really beginning to “take-off” this year. These children are living the blessings of being loved by God and you. The unique thing about this ministry is that the more blessings that are shared the more the blessings return to bless other lives.

Your gifts of love provide coats for children who would otherwise go without. Clothing is being distributed to vulnerable children. Formula is being provided to babies born to HIV-positive mothers who cannot nurse their children (as this would infect their own babies with the virus). Assistance is being provided for young women who find themselves with child (and no where to turn for help) and/or who are being forced into



prostitution at 13-16 years of age. There are young men (teenagers) who have been sentenced to adult prisons who are being given a chance (an alternative in our ministry) to work and finish their education in the context of a loving Christian family environment because all of you care and share the blessings that God has given to you.

It has been said that a picture paints a thousand words. So here are the faces that you can ponder in your hearts and pray for. In them you can witness first hand the face of God. Listen to what they tell you.



A deadly disease threatens us daily but in our hearts we are renewed by God's love through you.

Families come in all sizes and shapes, but in this family, God's family, we are loved.

The very arms that tried to take my life in the beginning, are loving me now because my life and my mother's life have been touched by God's love through each of you.



## Classes Began at Mapepe in January

[The following news is from Kennedy Mukuka, Director of Mapepe Bible College]

Our students are now here – 38 of them (28 men and 10 women). Yes, and they seem to be fully geared for this year's classes. The mood on campus is characterized with excitement as we have great and enthusiastic students this year.

This semester we have been blessed with 21 new students, all of whom will be trained as teacher-evangelists by Mapepe Bible College and George Benson Christian College (Namwianga Mission) over the next four years. Once they complete the teaching training program at GBCC, they will be posted to public high schools across the country by the Zambian government. Most all of them will be sent to areas where we have no churches; thus, making them self-supporting missionaries in Zambia.

In a bid to expose our students to ministry early in the school year, we are making arrangements with several of the Lusaka churches so that our students can work with them in evangelism programs. So far we have started outreach programs with the Chimwemwe congregation which is located in Chawama compound, one of the most densely populated areas of Lusaka. We think this will be an ideal place to spread Christ's influence. The church is thrilled to have a working relationship with us for they see that there is great potential for growth in their area. We are equally excited about this program.

Our evangelistic efforts have been hampered, however, by the floods that have hit most of the compounds in Lusaka. In spite of the persistent floods in Chamwama, we have (together with the Chimwemwe congregational leadership) decided that instead of having outreach programs we shall be having Bible classes on Sunday afternoons until the rains subside in March. These Sunday afternoon classes are intended to equip all those who want to work with our college in the ministry of evangelism. The class began on Feb 21 and will continue through March (when the rains should be finished).

In addition to Chawama evangelism, our students are involved in taking the good news to the communities closest to our college here at Mapepe. For this local outreach program, we have divided our students into two main groups which have subdivided into smaller groups of twos. The major groups are each given a compound to evangelize each Saturday. We have targeted two compounds: Sonadi and Game. Game is a compound just south of Chilanga township and Sonadi is the infamous community just across the road from our college where some hardcore criminals live. In many ways this community reminds us of Sodom and Gomorrah; nevertheless, there are many wonderful and desperately poor people who call this compound home. We have ever reason in the world to believe this is truly going to be a great year here at Mapepe Bible College.