

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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### Another Unfortunate Death

One of the most difficult things about living in Zambia is to see how quickly and easily people can die here. And, whereas getting to the hospital in the USA usually means a positive outcome, here it counts for absolutely nothing. There are just so many people who die far too soon here in this country – people we have come to know and love.

This month was no different as our hopes for a successful recovery for Maureen (mother of Dani) ended with her death. Some of you many remember the story of Dani, one of Kerin's Kids (picture below). Dani came to us (Kerin) about two years ago when his mother, Maureen, tried to smother him with a pillow just a couple of hours after giving birth to him in the middle of the night. His uncle, Paul (who works for us as our Construction Supervisor), heard the disturbance and stopped her from killing Dani. He, then, called Kerin in the middle of the night asking her if she might keep Dani. Kerin drove out in the middle of the night to get him.



For the next year following this event, Kerin took care of Dani who grew into a healthy, smiling baby. Because Kerin's Kids is intended only to be a temporary solution, Kerin began to work with Maureen to reconnect her back with her baby. Slowly Maureen began to do so as she came for visits. She soon got a job and began to make some "token" payments for the care of Dani. Then, she began to take Dani home with her on the weekends. Finally, after about a year (when Dani was off formula), Maureen took Dani back home with her permanently.

What a great success story, right? Well, unfortunately, life happens. Yes, this was a great success and we all felt great about the outcome. This became for us a model of how to work with families in the future when mothers

and/or their families (in desperation) decide to abandon their babies (i.e., kill them).

But, like too many of our efforts in this country, our jubilation was soon cut short by the complications of life in Africa. Maureen and Dani were doing great until suddenly Maureen became deathly ill. She was taken to the hospital and was diagnosed with TB. As she began to get treatment, it appeared that she would recover. Dani, of course, was returned to Kerin as we awaited the outcome. Then, about two weeks ago, Maureen took a turn for the worst and never recovered. She died and was buried last week.

We are not sure now what the future holds for Dani. His uncle, Paul, is a good man; but the extended family is so fractured (from deaths and other problems) that we are not sure Paul is going to be able to take Dani or not. Nonetheless, Kerin will soon begin to work with Paul to figure out a long-term solution. Perhaps when Dani is a little older and able to contribute something to the family, Paul will be able to take him in. Please pray for this family.

### Report: Mapepe Bible College.

It seems like each year our students (as a group) seem to have a different personality with unique interests and strengthens. Our students from last year were probably the most "spiritual" group that we have ever had. The class of students from two years ago were clearly the most evangelistic (although perhaps a little lacking in their spiritual life). I remember one year we had a group of students who were especially well-gifted academically.

Our students this year (68 of them) have impressed me in several ways. First and foremost, they are especially interested in ministry – not so much "overt evangelism" as much as they are interested in just getting out among the villages and churches to help people (e.g. visit and pray with those in the hospitals and hospices, assist in the orphan care ministries and assistance to widows). They are the most "servant" like students that we have ever had. They are not particularly gifted academically and do not seem as eager to sit in class (although they do love studying the Bible). Instead, these students are most interested in the practical application of what they are learning in class, especially in that having to do with caring for widows and orphans, starting community schools, providing basic healthcare (e.g. first aid and disease prevention), etc.

Second, this class has also impressed me with their spiritual integrity (character). They have formed several singing groups among themselves and they love to sing songs of praise and worship to God. They seem genuine in their desire to be what God has called us to be as Christians. In fact, we have two or three students who are writing new (and very good) songs of praise both in English and in the local vernacular.

Pictured below are some of the students sitting at their desks in our large classroom. It is hard to get a picture of them all as there are 68 of them.



Picture of Stephen, Thomas, Lorie

guided field training and experience necessary for them to serve as future missionaries. We currently have five 3<sup>rd</sup> year students this year and Thomas is now actively engaged in training these students. They spend a few hours each week talking/studying about ministry, but most of their times is now being spent out in the villages doing ministry.

### **Report: Mission Outreach Program.**

We have finally moved forward in designing the new third-year program (a three-year Missionary Training Program or MTP). This was our first year to implement this new program, but we had to do so somewhat “on faith” as we did not have sufficient resources nor a clear understanding of exactly how to do this; but, sometimes the only way to get from Point A to Point B is just to start walking (as long as it is in the right direction).

This is, in fact, pretty much the way we have had to operate from the beginning in 2004. It seems we have had to figure out for ourselves how to do most of what we are trying to do (knowledge gained by experience through trial and error). We know of no other “model” elsewhere that fit what we are trying to do here in Zambia. Western models of education are not very effective in this part of the world. The process of figuring out what does work is a learning process involving a lot of trial and error (experimentation and evaluation).

This program (MTP) falls under the C.A.M. ministry (Center for African Missions) which Thomas Simubali serves as the Director. Unfortunately, Thomas has been saddled down with a great deal of administrative duties. This problem has been greatly helped by the coming of our son, Stephen (who is 29 years old), who has taken responsibility for most of the administrative duties and has helped better organize everything. This has given Thomas, Lorie and I a great deal more freedom to deal with our more important responsibilities.

This has now enabled Thomas to focus more on the CAM ministry and the Agriculture Outreach Program, including the 3<sup>rd</sup>-year program (MTP) – all of which overlap a great deal. This new program (MTP) is intended to be a practical apprenticeship program into which we invite our best students to enroll (up to 12 at a time). Our goal is to give these students a great deal of

Pictured below are the five MTP students along with three staff members who are also working with the MTP program: Eness, Jonathan and his wife Justina (Jonathan is standing behind Justina in the picture below).



### **Return to the USA.**

It's just about that time of year when Lorie and I have to return to the USA to visit those who are supporting the work here in Zambia. We have about 50 churches that we need to visit this Fall. I will depart for the USA shortly; Lorie and the rest of the family will follow me in about 5 weeks (as this helps shorten the amount of time both of us are away from the work here). This year our daughter, Kerin, will be returning to the USA with us (along with her two adopted children, Susann and Zainne). It has been 3 years since Kerin was in the USA and she not only needs a furlough but she also needs to visit those who are helping to support her ministry (Kerin's Kids). In addition, she also plans to focus on doing some fund-raising in order to increase the funding for this important ministry to children.