

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Despite the pandemic we have been able to operate as normal on our campus and no one on our campus has gotten sick from the Covid virus. The new classroom wing to our Primary School has been repaired (from the windstorm in Nov) and we have begun the new year better than any previous year. The pandemic has not hindered our ministry.

Kerin's Kids – Fund-Raising Campaign.

We have an anonymous donor who wants to challenge others to contribute money specifically for helping children in Zambia who are the most vulnerable of all the people of Africa. The goal is to raise \$50,000 for this effort and the anonymous donor is offering to contribute \$2,000 for every \$8,000 that is donated between now and May 15.

Thus far a total of \$22,000 has been donated which brings the total (including matching funds) to about \$26,000 (just over the halfway point). This is a tremendous opportunity to “make a difference” in the lives of children that will last a lifetime and beyond. Please consider helping us to reach this goal over the next few weeks.

If you would like to contribute to this campaign, you may do so either online (www.zambiamissions.org) or by mailing a check to Zambia Missions, 1910 Sycamore View Rd, Bartlett, TN 37134. Make the check payable to “Zambia Missions” and write a note on the memo line: “Kerin’s Kids Matching Funds.”

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

Zambia has one of the highest numbers (per capita) of orphans. 27% of Zambia's children have lost one or more of their parents. This places a huge burden on the extended families as they must take in and provide for these children. The impact of this on families is seriously increased when one considers that one-half of the Zambian population is under 18 years of age. This, then, represents an enormous burden on these families who are already struggling with severe poverty of their own.

It is not surprising, then, that the fate of these children (who have lost one or both parents) is not very promising. Few of these children are allowed to continue their education as most are forced to work long hours in the fields and at home serving the needs of the family. Basically, most of these vulnerable children become “slaves” to the extended family

that has taken them in. They get whatever is left after the rest of the family has taken what it needs (which doesn't leave much of anything for these children).

If things were not bad enough, the economic fallout from the pandemic has made the situation much worse in Zambia. The economic effect on Zambia can easily be seen in how the kwacha (Zambian currency) has fallen in value over the past year – losing about 50% of its value from a year ago. This will certainly have a negative impact on vulnerable children and the ability of the extended families to provide adequate care for these children.

Primary School.

Because of the quick and generous response from many of you, we were able to quickly repair the damage to the Primary School from the windstorm that blew the roof off in November. Due to an increase in the spread of Covid-19 in Dec/Jan, the Zambian government ordered a delay in the opening of schools for the new year. Schools were allowed to open on Feb 1, and we were able to begin using our new classroom wing at that time.

We have, however, divided our Primary School into two separate areas due to the pandemic. We fenced off the Primary School from the rest of our campus and set up a separate school temporarily meeting in Kerin's Kids Care Facility (since we are unable to operate the Care Facility during this pandemic). Because we have established a quarantine (containment) for our campus, we did not want to mix the children living off-campus with those living on-campus. Thus, in order to maintain containment from Covid on our campus, we found it necessary to divide the school into two separate campuses.

Bible College.

We have a new crop of 20 Freshmen students who arrived for the beginning of the new school year in January. We began classes but had to temporarily suspend classes for two weeks when the government ordered colleges and schools closed. It was feared that the increased numbers of Covid cases elsewhere in the world was going to hit Zambia as well. Although the numbers did increase, the spread was not anything like that experienced elsewhere in the world. Thus, the government allowed schools & colleges to reopen on Feb 1.

This two-week break did not go to waste as our students were able to focus on their vegetable gardens and as a result, our Freshmen began to produce a harvest one month faster than previous years. Our students are now all living on what they grow in their gardens (self-supporting). We also have reason to believe that this new group of students may turn out to be better than any class of students we have ever had. They appear to be serious and hard-working students. In fact, this one class grew as many vegetables as the other two classes combined! The Freshmen will bring their wives to campus during the April break, now that the gardens will support their families.

We also hired a new Bible College teacher in January, replacing one of our teachers from last year whose conduct was not up to our standards. The new teacher is proving to be a hard-working, serious-minded man of outstanding character. It is for this reason that I believe we have the best teaching staff that we have ever had. We also hired a new Financial Officer and an Assistant Director to the Primary School, along with a new Campus Minister and 6 new teachers for the Primary School. These additions to our staff have greatly improved our operations and the quality of our various ministries.

Zambia and the Pandemic.

For the past year I have expected the pandemic to hit Africa just as it has hit every other continent, but for some unknown reason the spread of the Covid virus has not been as prolific as it has been everywhere else (except for South Africa where a new strain of the virus has surfaced). There have been numbers of infections and deaths, but not near the level that we have seen everywhere else. No one knows exactly why, but many medical experts now believe that Africa has built up some type of immunity from the widespread use of hydroxychloroquine to treat malaria. In any case, we are most thankful that we have not seen the spread of Covid in Africa as everywhere else. If it had spread like everywhere else, then we would most certainly have seen huge numbers of deaths.

The greatest impact to Africa has been economic. The pandemic restricted trade (especially with South Africa) and the economic downturn throughout the world has seriously hurt Africa. The U.N. has predicted that the number of people living in "severe poverty" (starvation level) will double this year in Africa. Zambia, along with many other African countries, are now unable to pay the interest on their debt and are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. Several African airlines (Kenya Airways and South African Airlines) are now facing bankruptcy (as their countries cannot afford to bail them out).

After the Christmas break, we again put our campus into quarantine. No one is allowed into the campus without going through a 14-day quarantine. Our drivers are delivering to our Grocery Store all the food and supplies that we need. And, as stated above, we divided our Primary School into two parts so that we could continue both with the children on campus and off campus. As a result of these efforts, no one on our campus has gotten sick from the virus and we are able to operate fully as we always have. The only thing that we cannot do is take our students off-campus for practical ministry.

Meet Our Students.



Kenny Nyimbili is 44 years old from Isoka, Muchinga (which is a very remote region in the Northwest part of the country. Nyimbili has been married for 10 years (Micah) and has two children. He has previously worked as a brick layer,

painter, and chef. He owns his own land in his home village (Isoka) and he plans to return to his home village and begin farming upon his graduation from DBC. He has already been preaching for several years and is hoping that his farming will help support himself in ministry.



Nthani Ackson is 28 years old from Chipata in Eastern Province. He has completed the 12th grade and is married (Cynthia). He has one child. He has previously worked as a Driver and has done some work as a mechanic. He also owns his own land in the Chipangali District. Unfortunately, his

land has no water which requires him to walk about a half mile to where he can get water (for which he also has to pay for a fee). This is why drip-irrigation is so important to people whose land does not have water since drip-irrigation is the most economical use of water. Upon graduation, Ackson plans to continue ministering the word and farming his land.



Lighton Mwale is 25 years old and also comes from Chipata in the Eastern Province of Zambia. He has completed the 12th grade but is not yet married. He has worked as a tailor. He also plans to support himself as a farmer upon graduating from DBC. He also owns his

own land and is blessed to have running water on his land. He also is very interested in raising chickens as a way of supporting himself in ministry once he has graduated from DBC.