

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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The pandemic continues to present new and difficult challenges for us. Although we have decided to end our quarantine of the campus (May 31), the pandemic continues to make travel to Zambia very difficult for Lorie and me. Nevertheless, things continue to go well for our various ministries in Zambia.

### **Update: Covid Pandemic.**

Although I have worried for over a year that the pandemic would hit Africa (killing huge numbers of people), it has not happened – at least, not yet. No one seems to know why. At first, we thought that the numbers of Covid cases in Africa were being under-reported due to the lack of testing capabilities. Some thought that some countries were not reporting the number of cases and deaths for political reasons; but no one can hide large numbers of deaths and there have just not been any reports of large numbers of deaths piling up in the morgues of Africa.

For whatever reason, Africa just hasn't experienced the pandemic as the rest of the world has and no one knows why. The widespread use of hydroxychloroquine to treat malaria for the past few decades has been suggested as a possibility (acting as a preventive), but this conclusion has been hotly debated due somewhat to political factors.

However, as I write this, the number cases in Africa has been increasing, mainly due to people visiting Africa from India. Just this week, Zambia has tightened their restrictions on people entering Zambia and is now requiring all who enter Zambia to get a Covid test upon arrival or go into a 14-day quarantine at a destination at their own cost (even if they have been fully vaccinated).

### **Difficulty Traveling to Zambia.**

The pandemic has made it extremely difficult for Lorie and me to travel to Zambia. Borders have been opened and closed, airlines have stopped flying in Africa (or keep changing their schedules), and entry requirements for each country keep changing (as mentioned above regarding Zambia). Delta cancelled our tickets last year, and the scheduling has now changed; this prevents us from flying through South Africa.

Currently, the only way for us to get back to Zambia requires that we fly through four countries, forcing us to spend a night

in Kenya traveling to/from Zambia. Nevertheless, we have bought tickets to travel on June 28.

However, we have run into some difficulty. The Health Department refused to give Lorie her second vaccination since she had had an allergic reaction to the first vaccination. She was told she would have to get a doctor, clinic, or hospital to give her the second vaccination. Unfortunately, she has not been able to find anyone who is willing to give her the second vaccination since the CDC advises against giving the vaccination to anyone who had an allergic reaction to the first vaccination. Lorie has also had some long-term problems from when we had Covid at Christmas (breaking out in hives every night).

As a result, Lorie has been referred to the Infectious Disease Center at Vanderbilt in an effort to determine what is causing her allergic reactions. It does not appear that Lorie will be able to travel to Zambia with me at the end of June as she has been advised by several doctors not to do so at this time. Thus, I will be traveling to Zambia alone at the end of June.

### **End of Quarantine at Daybreak Campus.**

For the past year we have kept our campus in quarantine, allowing no one to enter without going through 14-day quarantine. This protected our staff and students and allowed us to operate normally on campus. At the same time, it hindered our students from going off campus to engage in practical ministry and to sell their vegetables. The students did, however, continue their agriculture training as we purchased their vegetables and sold them at the markets for a reduced price.

We never intended for this quarantine to last so long. Some new developments have now made it possible for us to end the quarantine. First, Zambia got a supply of vaccines and we arranged for our staff and students to get vaccinated. Not all chose to do so, but those who are most vulnerable did get the vaccination. The second consideration has to do with the low numbers of Covid cases in Africa. What we feared would happen in Africa has not happened. Thirdly, we need to reinstate our off-campus training. It is important that our students get practical ministry training, and we need to include the selling of vegetables in the agriculture training program. Finally, it has proven to be too difficult to keep our Primary School divided in two separate areas (for on-campus and off-campus students). Thus, on May 31, we returned to normal operations.

## **Daybreak Bible College (DBC).**

Now that the Freshmen students have begun harvesting vegetables from their gardens, the married students were able to bring their wives to campus in April. Pictured below are the Freshmen married students with their wives.



We were also very blessed to have **Fielden & Janet Allison** come teach some classes at DBC in May. Fielden taught a class to the Freshmen and Juniors on Marriage & the Family (pictured below) and Janet taught a class to the Seniors on Conflict Resolution. The Allisons have served as missionaries in Africa for over 40 years. They managed to enter the country before the new restrictions were announced this past week.



## **Kerin's Kids (Orphans).**

Kerin has added **two new babies** (twins) to her list of children receiving baby formula each month. The twins are one month old and they are double-orphans (i.e., both father & mother have died). Their names are Misheck and Shadrack. They are not in good health. See picture below.



**Kerin's Kids – Matching Funds.** We are also happy to announce that we were able to **meet our goal** of \$50,000 for the

Matching Funds Campaign for Kerin's Kids. Thanks so VERY MUCH to all of you who contributed to this effort!

## **Primary School.**

Trying to operate the school in two parts (one for children living on campus and one for those living off campus) proved to be a major challenge for the past year. Likando (Assistant Director) has done a great job increasing the quality of education in our school, but it has proven difficult. This is one big reason why we wanted to end our quarantine so that we might reunite the separated classes. This will make a big difference in our efforts to develop a higher standard of excellence in our Primary School.

## **Construction.**

We are nearing the end of our construction efforts. We still need to build two apartment buildings (8 houses) for our remaining staff members living off campus (which will reduce our expenses) and we need to build two classrooms (one for the women's program). We hope to complete these efforts within the next year (assuming the funding is sufficient).

## **Meet Our Students.**



**Joseph Chikwanda** was born in 1990 (31 years old) and is from the Muchinga Province (Bemba tribe) which is located in the northern part of Zambia. He is married and has two children. He has some training in Computers and Electronics and has been serving as a preacher in his home congregation. After graduation from Daybreak (DBC) he plans

to venture into poultry management and farming in the Mpika area (provincial capital).



**Lucky Beneya** is from Kalomo in the Southern Province (Tonga tribe). He is 23 years of age and has graduated from the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. He is married (Abigail) and has been supporting himself from farming. He has also been active serving as a preacher in his home

congregation. Upon graduating from Daybreak, he plans to continue farming and preaching.