

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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A lot of news to report in this newsletter. We are announcing the start of a very important fund-raising campaign for our Endowment Fund. Kerin had to have surgery for a hernia. We had a major problem with water – a problem that appears now to have been solved. Two major events in Zambia have now put us under some significant financial stress. Our next group of students will graduate on Nov 27. I have some news from some of our past graduates. The Primary School and Kerin's Kids ministries are progressing very well. And I am urging all of you who have email and/or Facebook to sign up for our digital newsletters and Facebook pages (mainly because it enables me to share more pictures and videos).

Hopefully, Lorie and I both will be traveling to Zambia next month. Lorie was not able to find anyone willing to give her the second vaccination, so we are somewhat concerned about her exposure to Covid during this next trip. Please keep us (especially Lorie) in your prayers about this trip.

Matching Funds – Endowment Fund.

We have an anonymous donor who wants to challenge others to give to the Endowment Fund for Zambia Missions. He is willing to contribute dollar-for-dollar in matching funds up to \$30,000 so as to reach a **goal of \$60,000**.

Funds donated to the Endowment will be invested in a mutual fund account that will be used to provide longevity for the ministry in Zambia. Why is this important? Because Zambia is such an impoverished country, it appears that the ministry in Zambia will continue to be dependent for support from America for many years. One day I (David French) will not be able to continue raising/maintaining support for this work. It has taken a great deal of money and effort to build what has become a very effective ministry in Zambia. This endowment fund will help enable this ministry to continue for many more years after I am no longer physically able to continue. Please consider investing in the long-term stability of this ministry.

How to contribute. You can contribute online (www.zambiamissions.org) by clicking on the orange Donate button and specifying "Endowment Fund" in the donation form; or you can mail a check payable to "Zambia Missions" to Zambia Missions, 1910 Sycamore View Rd, Bartlett, TN 38134 (and write "Endowment Fund" on the memo line).

Financial Concerns.

About two months the Zambian government did something that significantly increased the value of the Kwacha. This greatly altered the exchange rate and resulted in a 40% loss in the amount of Kwacha that we now get when we transfer money to Zambia. Three months ago, we got 22.5 kwacha for every U.S. dollar, now we just get 15.5 kwacha. In other words, we could buy K225,000 Kwacha for \$10,000; but now it takes \$14,000 to buy the same amount of kwacha. This has had a significant effect on our finances!

It is now reported that the government is going to raise minimum wage and set various levels of minimum wage for specific jobs. In other words, there will be a minimum wage for a domestic worker, a different minimum wage for a store clerk, a different amount for a teacher, a driver, etc. Based on prior experience, we expect the minimum wage to double; but what really concerns us is that we will no longer be able to negotiate wages for all our staff members who work in jobs that pay more than minimum wage. The government will now dictate to us what we must pay each worker and it will certainly be much greater than what we are now paying or can afford to pay.

Thus, we are being hit in two major ways: loss of money from the new exchange rate and from what appears to be a massive, forced raise in cost of labor. **This is clearly going to put a great deal of stress on our financial well-being next year.**

Communications.

We have now established several ways to communicate news about the work in Zambia. We continue to publish and mail this printed newsletter, but we also have a digital newsletter that we email. The email version is different in several ways. We are able to send it out more frequently. The news is more condensed and includes pictures and videos. It is also more up to date as we send out news soon after it happens. I encourage you to sign up for this newsletter (if you have email). You can do so by sending me your email address (zambiamissions@gmail.com) or by going to our webpage: www.zambiamissions.org

We also have **two Facebook pages**. This is the best platform on which to post news, pictures, and videos which I do every 3-4 days. The news is more condensed and more up to date as this is the easiest/quickest way to post news, pictures and video. If you

use Facebook, I strongly encourage you to follow our two Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/zambiamissions and www.facebook.com/kerinskids.

Bible College.

Our third-year students will be graduating on **Nov 27**. I'll be posting pictures on Facebook and in our next digital newsletter soon afterwards and in the next newsletter in January.

This year has been more of a challenge due to the pandemic. The students were not able to engage in practical ministry for much of the past two years as it required them going off campus and put them at risk of becoming sick from covid-19. Our agriculture program was also somewhat interrupted by the inability of the students to sell their produce in the marketplace (due to covid-19) and the recent water problems seriously affected their gardens in the last 3-4 months. However, our students did engage in an evangelistic campaign in Kafue (town south of our campus) the weekend of Nov 23-24.

There is a lot of news (including pictures and videos) that I am able to put in the digital emails and on Facebook that I do not have room enough to put in this printed newsletter. I recent posted some news and pictures from some of our past graduates. For example, three of our graduates conducted a Youth Meeting at Phikamalaza Basic School of Chasefu district in Eastern province in early October. [Youth in Zambia are unmarried adults under 35]. One of these graduates also conducted a 3-day regional meeting in Central Province about two weeks ago (picture below).



Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

Kerin had to have surgery last month (hernia). There were some complications during the surgery. The power went out which forced the surgeon to do traditional surgery (instead of laparoscopic) and a power cord caught fire during the surgery. This all increased the risk of infection and required a longer recovery for Kerin. Nevertheless, she has recovered fully and is now doing well.

Over the past two months I have posted on Kerin's Kids Facebook page, several pictures and videos of some of the orphans and vulnerable children to whom Kerin is supplying baby formula. The most recent update was that of the Twins (cf. picture right) who both healthy and now eating solid food (reduced to ½ supply of formula).



Primary School.

Our Primary School has really made some progress over the past two years. We built five new classrooms and hired six new teachers which now enables every grade to have its own classroom and its own teacher. We hired a campus minister for the school in order to focus on the spiritual education of the children. And we hired an Assistant Director to work with Lorie in an effort to increase the academic quality of our school. These efforts have greatly improved the quality of our school both academically and spiritually. Lorie and I will be traveling to Zambia next month (Dec) and Lorie will be spending a great deal of her time providing additional training to the teaching staff.

Recently I posted on Facebook and in our digital newsletter some news regarding the agricultural training program at the Primary School. Not only are we teaching agriculture to the Bible College students (including how to use drip-irrigation), but we are also teaching our Primary School students. We have partitioned off an area behind the Primary School as a place where the students can plant, grow, and harvest vegetables. This is a group project, and all the students are required to participate in this training that involves practical experience.

Water Problems.

The Dry Season in Zambia lasts for more than 7 months and most every year (Aug-Nov) we have struggled to pump enough water from our boreholes to meet our needs on campus. This year, however, the problem became much worse. We now have more people on our campus and more agriculture (using drip-irrigation). In August our student gardens began to suffer substantially, and we had to seriously restrict water usage.

We had a consultant come and assess our situation. He recommended that we drill an industrial borehole which is deeper and wider than the four boreholes we now have. The problem, however, is that it would cost us \$20,000 (which we didn't have). Since this was urgent, I sent out a request by email (newsletter) and on our Facebook page. In faith, I authorized a drilling company to drill the new borehole as soon as possible (which they did). Thankfully, the needed funds came in to pay for it! We now have a new borehole that is pumping out plenty of water. It filled our six reserve tanks (16,000 gallons) in just two hours! **We are so thankful to all of you who responded to this urgent need!**