

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Zambia is going through a difficult time due to the drought which has resulted in famine and a serious problem for the country in producing electricity (see below). Also see below news about the Bible College ministry and Kerin's Kids.

Due to the changing economy in Zambia, we have got to add a piggery so our students can continue to be self-supporting. We need help with this project (see below).

I send out an email newsletter once a month and then mail a printed newsletter once every two months. These two newsletters are different as the email version contains more pictures and less words while the printed version is a more thorough report. I try not to duplicate the same information in the two newsletters. I am, however, repeating some of the information this month that was in the email version.

Drought – Famine – Inflation – No Electricity

Zambia is going through a very difficult year. The rainy season was not good this past year (Nov-Apr). We got very little rain which caused the crops to fail. Since about 85% of the Zambian diet is maize (corn), there is a serious lack of food in the country and prices have skyrocketed (inflation). People are suffering in Zambia, and we still have many months to go until the next harvest of maize (June 2025) will be forthcoming, ASSUMING WE HAVE A GOOD RAINY SEASON THIS NEXT YEAR (which won't start in Nov).

The lack of rain has also seriously affected the country's ability to produce electricity. The water level in Lake Kariba (which is where the country's power plant is located) is so low that Zambia cannot adequately produce electricity. Power Sharing was introduced in March. This is a system whereby certain areas are provided power while other areas are cut off the grid for a period of time. The power is then redirected toward another area while the other areas are cut off from the power grid.

Things are getting much worse now. In July our campus was getting power for only about 8 hours a day. In August it was reduced to about 1:30 hours per day! And we have now just been told that there will be no electricity for anyone for the next 15 days! This will not be the only time, as we still have months to go before the next rainy season. You can only

imagine how this is disrupting business and affecting the economy! It seems like we have gone back 200 years in time!

Water!

This has hurt our campus because we depend a great deal on water. We have over 175 people living on our campus, and we have about 20-22 acres of land being used for student gardens (which is how our students feed themselves). We have five water wells (as we have to pump our own water up from the ground), six storage tanks (reserves), and about 12 water tanks (2600 gallons) up on 20-foot stands (gravity fed system). Without power we can't pump the water up out of the ground (250 feet down) nor pump water across campus and up into the 20-foot-high water tanks!

Because it takes a lot of power to run all these pumps, we had to buy a \$9,000 generator which is now costing us more than \$600 per week in fuel to run in addition to the two other small generators on campus. This has greatly increased our cost for electricity/power -- in fact, four times more than our normal electric bill. We also have to continue paying normal our electric bill as we have a flat fee for electricity. YES, they are still charging us the same price even though the electric company is not giving us power! How crazy is that!!!

Solar Power?

We are looking into solar power, but it is expensive, hard to get (as demand has increased dramatically) and not adequate to meet our needs. We cannot generate enough solar power for our water pumps. Nevertheless, we are looking into options as solar power might be able to provide enough power for lights, office computers, refrigerators, and other small appliances. We have already converted our cooking to gas stoves, and cold showers/baths have always been the norm (i.e., nothing new). The problem, however, is that we don't have the money to buy what we need for solar power this year.

Please pray for the people of Zambia. It is a difficult year, and people are going to go hungry this year. Many will become malnourished and die from various illnesses. Zambia is not the only country that is being affected. Most of southern Africa is experiencing the same problems.

Daybreak Bible College.

One of our objectives is to teach our students to be self-supporting since the churches in Zambia cannot support full-time ministers. We teach our students basic agriculture (how to grow vegetables using drip-irrigation), how to raise chickens and rabbits, and how to manage their businesses and finances. Growing and selling vegetables is the primary way our students have been supporting themselves while attending our school.

Survival is tough in Zambia and the marketplace (economy) is constantly changing. If there is money to be made in anything, then everyone jumps in and the market soon becomes saturated, producing an oversupply so that no one can make money any longer from it. This is what happened to our chicken business five years ago.

Unfortunately, the local marketplaces in our area (Lusaka) have become overrun with people trying to sell vegetables (as they have city water in Lusaka that we don't have where we are located). Thus, our students are now seriously struggling to earn enough from their gardens to support themselves while at Daybreak.

Thus, we are going to have to diversify and add another means for our students to earn money. We have decided therefore to add a piggery (which is what they call it in Zambia) and teach our students how to raise pigs. This will be a great addition to our training program even if it is being forced upon us this year. It is going to cost about \$18,000 to build the facility, plus another \$1,000 to buy the initial pigs.

I really do hate to ask for money, but we really need to build this facility quickly as our students are really struggling right now. If you are able to contribute to this effort, then you can either go online to our web page at www.zambiamissions.org (click on the orange button, "Donate") or mail a check to Zambia Missions, 1700 Goodman Rd E, Southaven, MS 38671.

This will greatly benefit our students as it will better equip them to be self-supporting now and in the future and will enable them to have sufficient funds to expand and increase their ministry efforts in the future once they graduate.



Off-Campus Ministry

We are increasing our recruitment efforts (in an effort to recruit good students), and we are sending our staff and students out to speak at various church activities and area-wide church workshops/meetings.

This past month, Dennis Sabelo (Director of the Bible College) was invited to speak at a Youth Conference in Southern Province. [Youth is a term in Zambia that refers to unmarried adults].

Upon returning to campus, Dennis wrote about his trip and said, "*It was another privilege and honor to have baptized six (6) souls at the just ended Southern province Youth conference held at Chirundu Church of Christ. To God be the glory.*"

Update: Francis Mwanza

You may remember from a previous newsletter that our agriculture teacher (Francis Mwanza) suffered a broken leg that was serious enough to require an expensive operation in South Africa. Many of you donated to help pay for this operation.

I am happy to report that Francis had his surgery and that he is recovering nicely from his operation. The pain he was experiencing has now gone. The doctor has now told him that he can start putting weight on that foot now. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this surgery. Francis is a very important part of our training program, teaching our students how to be self-supporting through agriculture.

Kerin's Kids (Childrens Ministry).

Kerin added 6 babies this past month -- all of them twins! It seems we have had an increase lately in the number of twins who are needing help. Malnutrition is a serious problem in Zambia (especially now during this drought/famine) and it seems that having twins is especially difficult on the mothers who seem to die more often than those having just one baby.

Most of the families who need help come to our campus, often walking very long distances (50-70 miles) which is one way we know they are in desperate need of help. Below are two of the six babies Kerin has added to her number.

Gift and Given. Twins from Kazionele (an area about 60 miles southeast from our campus). Their mother died, and they are now being kept by their grandmother who is unable to adequately care for the babies (e.g., nurse them).



Facebook.

There is so much going on in our ministry nowadays that I can only share a few bits of information in these newsletters. Because I don't want to overload people's emails with newsletters from us (become spam), I have limited myself to only sending out one newsletter per month.

If you would like to hear more about the work in Zambia than I can communicate via these monthly emails, then you can follow us on my Facebook page where I try to post more news and pictures/video once or twice a week: www.facebook.com/zambia.frenches.