

Zambia Newsletter

[April 2006](#)

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from Zambia! Things are certainly busy around here these days as we make preparations for the beginning a classes in just a few days. I have been spending a lot of time with our three teachers assisting them in preparing for their upcoming classes and planning our church-planting strategy for this coming year (e.g. how and where are we going to go out with our students to plant churches this year). It has been so exciting to realize the incredible potential that lies before us. We are convinced more than ever that the lack of leadership training in Zambia is what has seriously hindered the growth of the church in Zambia (spiritually and numerically).

Trip to the North.

The second weekend that I was back in Zambia, I organized a trip to the north with our three teachers. The purpose of our trip was to recruit students and to scout out possible places where we might take our students out this year on mission trips. We first traveled up to the Copperbelt to meet with various church leaders throughout the province. We, then, traveled back down to Kapiri Mposhi (where we have two students from last year) to make plans with the church leaders about how and where we can assist them this year to plant two new churches. We visited two villages to the east and west of Kapiri where they want to plant new churches. With the aid of one of our students, we then traveled northeast to Serenje and Mkusi where we again met with church leaders about ways that we can help these churches and assist them in the future to plant new churches in their area (where we have VERY few churches).

Medical Mission Trip (July 2007).

Another objective of our trip to the north was to scout out an area where we can conduct a Medical Mission next year. As we traveled around the USA this past year, there were several doctors, nurses, optometrist, dentists, and other medical personnel who indicated an interest in participating in a medical mission trip to Zambia. At the same time we several members from our sponsoring congregation in Memphis expressed an interest in participating in a mission trip to Zambia. These discussions eventually led into plans to conduct a Medical Mission in Zambia in 2007 (as this combines both the humanitarian and spiritual dimensions). Joe Godley (one of the ministers at our sponsoring congregation) has agreed to take on the planning and organizational tasks for this trip.

Thus, if you have any interest in participating in this Mission Trip for July of 2007 (first 7-10 days of July), please email or write to me of your interest ASAP. We need both medical personnel and people who will be willing to serve in several mission efforts that will accompany the medical work (VBS for children, teaching and praying with adults, and general assistance). Joe Godley (along with several others) will be here in June to make a survey and planning trip in preparation for this work next year. We will have more information to pass on to you after this survey trip. The deadline to sign-up for this trip is Jan 1 (as we must schedule the airline tickets well in advance). So, if you are at all interested, please contact me about your interest so that we can begin communicating about this.

Recruitment and Building Progress

Presently, we have received more than 65 new applications from church leaders desiring to attend this year. Thus, far we have sent letters inviting 27 of them to come. Along with our students from last year, we should have about 55-60 students here for our second year of operations. Our two new buildings at Mapepe are still very much under construction. Presently, they have laid concrete blocks as high as the window level (5 blocks high). We believe that they will complete the walls by April 15th, followed by the roof, plumbing, electrical wiring, and window installations – all before school begins! We don't have money to plaster and paint the walls, nor to install a ceiling or finish the concrete floor. It won't look like much, but it will be operational!

Shipping Container.

There were many of you who indicated that you have additional things that you would like to contribute to the work here in Zambia. As we build the school and begin operations this year at Mapepe, we are going to begin discovering lots of things that we need for the work here which many of you may be able to donate for the work. Thus, we are in the process of attaining another container (free) that we will load up and ship this coming Dec/Jan. Shortly we will begin communicate things that we need for the school which you may be able to assist in loading into this container.

Finances.

I need to update you about our financial situation as many of you have been asking for an update. As you know, I sent out an urgent request for financial assistance a few weeks ago. Many of you have responded and have sent additional contributions to meet these needs. This has greatly helped us and we would like to express our deepest appreciation to all of you for this additional assistance. Nevertheless, our financial situation remains fairly critical. It appears that we were able to raise only about 50% of what we need to run the school this year. The dollar-kwacha exchange rates have also hit us very hard (we are getting 1/3 less for the dollar now). The good news, however, is that we have paid off all our bills for the moment. The bad news: we are not quite sure how we will make it through this coming school year. Nevertheless, we are certain that God will provide what we need and we will find a way to do the work!

Lorie's Reflections

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“Then the little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me,

and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”’. (Matt. 19: 13-14)
This month I have been amazed at how many situations have brought these verses to my mind and made me realize all the more how much we as God’s family have the opportunity to pray for and minister to God’s precious children (of all ages). We are the hands of Jesus to touch the lives of children.

I found myself sitting on a grass mat outside my house tutoring a small boy whose grandparents couldn’t afford to send him to school. He looked up from his reading book and told me that he wouldn’t be coming for school much longer because he was being sold to someone. I was so alarmed that I asked an adult if this was a common practice. They told me that unfortunately it was becoming more common. Two days later, an orphaned young man came to me and asked about a verse in Eccl. which referred to evil people prospering and good people suffering. He was asking me if I could help him to complete his High school training. Later I found out that his extended family was throwing him out because of lack of funds. In order to help him, we gave him a job on the school farm. He will begin his secondary studies in May. By the year 2010, it is estimated that 1 in 4 Zambian children will be orphaned, due to AIDS. That is only 4 years from now! Please pray with me daily for the children.



This month for the first time our home has been blessed with “a little taste of heaven”. Her name is Susan Grace. She is an orphan from the southern province. We hope soon to begin training programs which will help extended families to care for the orphaned children and to offer vocational training and schooling for older orphans. All the while, we will continue to be the merciful arms of Jesus reaching out to touch and pray for the children. Take time out to hug your children and pray for the children in Africa. If you would like to contribute directly to help-ing orphans in Zambia, then just send your donation to our address (top of other side) and mark it “Zambian Orphans.” Since there is no overhead, all funds will go directly to help these children.

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