

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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So Much To Do!

I must apologize for being so late in getting this Newsletter out. Lorie and I have been so incredibly busy. Not only have we been in the midst of our school year, but we have also been extremely busy with construction works. I do not exaggerate when I say that we have been working from the moment we get up (6 am) until the time we go to bed (10 pm), seven days a week. And, we have been doing this since we returned to Zambia in February. We are now busy trying to prepare for our return to the USA in late Sept to continue our fund-raising efforts (we will return just after X'mas). We surely wish we didn't have to return, but we continue to struggle with the lack of monthly financial support that is needed for this work and we must continue our efforts to increase this funding. Of course, the work here will continue as we now have a very capable school director, Thomas Simubali, to oversee the continued operations of the school whenever we are away.

Construction Works

The Goodman Oaks congregation in Southaven, MS were most generous to the work here as they donated their fifth-Sunday contribution in July. With this contribution, along with some donations from several other anonymous individuals, we are now able to initiate the construction of several buildings at Mapepe (also see section on Dedication Ceremony regarding the donation by the Boiling Spring Lakes congregation in North Carolina).

Over the past two years I have been watching and learning about how buildings are constructed in Zambia and it occurred to me that we could

Church-Planting Works

Our students continue their church-planting efforts at Chipongwe, Chipapa, Mt Makuru, and Kapiri Mposhi (the four churches that our students planted during our July campaigns). Lorie's Dad, Richard Waggoner (who has been here for six weeks teaching several classes) has been working closely with the church-plant at Chipongwe. He and the students have been going out every Sat. on evangelistic endeavors to strengthen and mature this church. Our students will be going out for another week of campaigns at the end of school to these same churches in an effort to build them up and stabilize them. Our students have been going out on bicycles and with one of the three vehicles we now have managed to buy over the past few months.

save ourselves a great deal of money if we served as our own contractor. Thus, with the help of an American builder now living in Zambia, I put together three construction crews (14 workers), drew up floor plans on my computer, and set about to build several buildings that we are needing. I have just about finished purchasing and transporting to site all the materials that will be needed (my house now looks like Home Depot) and over the next three months while I am gone to the USA, these crews will build two faculty houses, an apartment complex of six houses for staff, two septic tanks (sewer systems), complete the remaining works on the classroom and dorm buildings, and several other items of infrastructure. Thomas Simubali (who has worked in the construction and maintenance in the past) will oversee these continuing works in my absence. Lord willing, all these works will be completed by the time I return after Christmas. This, then, will give us the essential infrastructure that we are needing for this school.

Medical Mission 2007

Our first medical mission is scheduled for June 3-16 of 2007. We have chosen an area in northern Zambia where the church is very weak and where our school is now focusing our church-planting efforts for the next five years. Not only is this area central to all Zambia but it is also just south of the Congo border. We believe that this is most strategic area in Central Africa for future church-planting works and we believe that future medical mission trips to this area will help introduce and promote the church in this area.

If you have a healthcare worker of any sort and have ANY interest in going on this mission, please email me at zambiamissions@gmail.com immediately. Not only will you make a meaningful contribution to helping people, but your efforts will also make a great contribution to our efforts to plant churches in Africa!

Dedication Ceremony

Earlier this year the Boiling Spring Lakes congregation in Brunswick Co. North Carolina donated a sizeable contribution for the building of our dormitory and for the buying of a school bus. Although we had GREAT problems with the contractor (big reason why we became our own contractor), we were able to construct a dormitory which enabled us to operate at our new Mapepe campus this school year (although the Contractor didn't get the roof on nor

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Dedication Ceremony (continued)

complete the electrical and plumbing works until after the first three weeks of operations). Along with another donation by an anonymous giver, we were also able to build about ½ of our new classroom building.

On July 29th we conducted a "Dedication Ceremony" to name our two new buildings. We invited members from all the churches in Lusaka (about 200 attended) to attend this first great event at Mapepe (MBC). In honor of the church who contributed the funds, we named the dormitory, "The Boiling Spring Lakes Dormitory." We told the story of this church and how this small church had generously donated a great portion of

the proceeds from the sale of their church building as an investment in the mission of the church elsewhere in the world. I emphasized the intent of their gift so that this new building might stand as a symbol of why the American brotherhood is investing in this work and in the training of African church leaders. It is an investment in the future of the church in Africa.

In accordance with the wishes of the anonymous giver who has given money for the construction of the new classroom building, we named this new building, "The Parker and Joyce French Classroom Building" (in honor of my parents who have served in full-time ministry (and missions) for more than 50 years. It was a great privilege

that both my parents were here in Zambia for this occasion (my Dad was here teaching a class). Zambians have great respect for age (my Dad is now 81) and, thus, it was quite meaningful to tell them their story. I stated that I believed their were two things to which my parents had dedicated their lives: (a) missions, and (b) faithful teaching and obedience to God's word. I, then, explained that it was to these two principles that we dedicated our classroom building in their honor - so that their example might inspire future generations of Africans trained at MBC to go and do likewise (i.e., plant churches that faithfully proclaim and follow the word of God). There are pictures of this event on our web page.

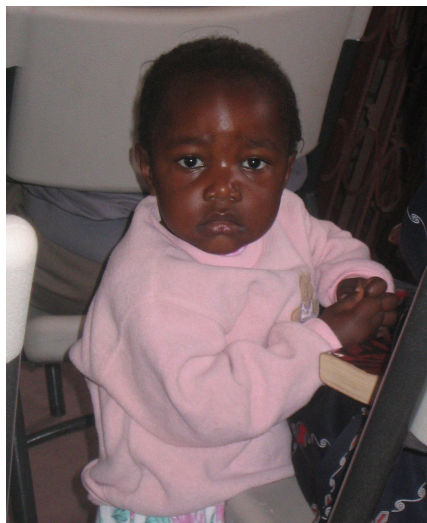
Lorie's Reflections

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; ...a time to mourn and a time to dance..." (Ecc. 3: 1-2, 4).

Only a few months ago, I found myself kneeling down beside a freshly dug mound of dirt. The tradition of sticking the long stemmed rose into the dirt and breaking off the rosebud to symbolize the loss was almost complete. Thomas Simubali's baby boy had gone home to live with God (cf. last newsletter). The bitter wails then subsided and a deafening silence fell over everyone...a time to die; a time to mourn.

The phone rang. Thomas had called to inform David that he was on his way back from a seminar in the Southern province. I found myself trying to interrupt after every sentence. "Is Tina with him?" "Is she going to get to come 'home' this week? Then the news came! Tina was coming home this very day! The Simubali family had been trying to bring Tina (an orphan) home from the Namwianga Orphanage for almost a year.

The Mapepe Bible College vehicle pulled into the compound.



Picture of Tina at church beside her Mom (above).

"French Hens" could be seen running out of every door of the house. The eldest French Hen (who will remain nameless) even jumped into the air and clapped. This sight even made Christine Simubali (Tina's New Mommy) laugh. Smiles could be seen on each of the faces of the Simubali family... a time to be born, a time to dance!

Perhaps the biggest smile of all was on the face of Mulaya Simubali (Thomas' six-year old son) because God had brought him a new sister. He had asked his Mom earlier if this sister would love God so much that she would go live with Him like Mulaya's other baby sister (Esther) and brother (Davis) had done. Christine simply hugged him and said, "Esther missed you so much from heaven that God sent her back home and told us to call her Tina". Mulaya replied through his smile, "Isn't God good!"



Picture of Thomas, Tina, and Mulaya after church (above)

Rejoice with our Mapepe Bible College family and the Simubalis as we thank God for bringing Tina to her forever home and rejoice with Mulaya because his little sister came home!