

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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School Begins Again. Classes for the second semester began again this past week. This is, of course, our largest semester and our most activity period of the year. We have about 20 first year students and about 50 second year students (22 students from last year and 28 students from this past Jan-Apr semester). This gives us a total of about 75 students and means that almost every bed is now filled (i.e., we are at maximum capacity). We are expecting that our second graduating class (Sept 1) will number about fifty in total! We had 16 to graduate last year.

Marty Brownfield (an elder from Goodman Oaks in Southaven, MS) is here for two weeks teaching two Bible classes six hours per day (John and Hebrews). Richard Myers from Memphis just left after conducting a two one-week agricultural workshop. The main focus of the workshops was about drip irrigation. We had about 82 people who came for these two weeks and completed the courses.

Medical Mission. Our first medical mission will begin in just two weeks (June 4-14). We have about 30 doctors, nurses and support personnel coming over from the USA (arriving June 4). There will be another 30 Zambian healthcare workers who will also join us in this effort. A great deal of preparation has gone into this effort, both in the USA and here in Zambia. I don't think that any of us realized before we began preparations what a huge undertaking this is. I am sure, however, that we will all be glad we did it once we see how much good is going to be accomplished. We will be conducting a medical clinic in six different villages.

Just prior to the mission we are going to transport all our 75 students to each of these villages where they will camp in tents for 10 days and conduct a mission campaign designed to plant a church in each of the villages where the medical mission will be held. Our goal is to use this medical mission as a way of introducing the church to this region of Zambia where we currently have almost no churches. In the weeks following the medical mission, we will be returning with our students every other week to continue our efforts to plant and stabilize these new churches. Once school has finished in September, we will be hiring six students as interns for six months to work with these new church-plantings in an effort to stabilize them and to develop new leaders in these churches.

Eness (Widow of William). Most of you will remember from the last newsletter about the unfortunate

death of William Siangandu. Several of you asked how you could assist his family and sent some money to help build a place for Eness and the children to live here at Mapepe. Eness expressed a strong desire to continue working here at Mapepe in some capacity. As a result we decided to hire Eness as the Dorm Supervisor for the Women and to build her a place to live attached to the new women's dorm which we just began construction on this past month. In addition, Eness will serve as the Pre-School teacher at our Mapepe Community School that we began three months ago. She will also work with Lorie in the women's program here at Mapepe.

Construction and Other Development Projects.

We are, of course, still in the midst of our building phase. This past year we began and completed the dorm and classroom buildings, a house for the School Director, a Guest House (for visiting teachers), an apartment complex for six staff houses, and the chicken run (which now has 200 chickens). We have just started work on the new women's dorm (which will hold 20 female students), and we are installing an electric fence around the property to increase security and reduce the level of petty thief around the property (as we have many people from the surrounding areas walking across our property day and night). Although Zambia is a safe country (by African standards), we do have serious problems with theft and we just received word the other day that armed robbers attacked the home of an American missionary couple working at Namwianga Mission to the south of us (stealing all their money, computers and other valuables). We are also installing an irrigation system that will allow us to grow vegetables year-round here at Mapepe. When this project is completed, we will grow enough vegetables to feed all our students and plenty left over to sell in the marketplace (provide some support for the school). We have now hired an Agricultural Manager/Teacher (begin in November) who will not only oversee our farming operations, but will serve to teach our students agricultural skills and conduct village-based agricultural workshops wherever we plant churches. The new electric fence that we are installing is necessary to protect all our agricultural equipment that will be out on the property. Our tractor should be here in the next two weeks when our container is released from Zambian customs. Over the past year we have come to the conclusion that teaching agricultural skills going to become an important part of our vocational train-

ing program. While Zambia has a few large-scale commercial farmers, most Zambians are subsistent farmers who know only how to grow a few vegetables and enough maize to barely feed their families. What we don't see here in Zambia are what we might call small family farms – people working 20-70 acres. Yet, Zambia has millions of acres of good farming land that is available for farming. Why is this? The reason is because no one has taught Zambians the necessary skills using low-tech methods that they can afford. Hence, we have determined that (while our students are here at Mapepe) we are going to teach them some vocational agricultural skills that they can successfully duplicate upon their return home (which they can also teach to others in their villages). This will empower our students to support themselves in ministry and help those in the church to better support the works of the church. In addition, we want to send out our agriculture teacher(s) to conduct farming workshops in the churches that our students have planted so as to ministry to the church members and facilitate the growth of the church in

the local village. With as much water and good farm land as Zambia has, there is no reason why anyone in Zambia should ever go hungry. In fact, Zambia could do a lot to even feed the starving of Africa. This is why we believe that teaching innovative, low-tech, agricultural skills is one of the best vocational training components that we could add to our school here.

Financial Needs. There are two ways that you can help us in the next few months, if you are in a position to do so: (a) If you can contribute financially, then we are very much needing money to complete our women's dorm and install our agricultural training program (irrigation system for 18 acres). (b) We will begin preparing and packing the next container upon our return back to the USA in October. If you would like to donate items for this shipment, then you can find a list of needed items on our web page: www.zambiamissions.org (click on "Shipment 2007" under the menu "Help Us").

Lorie's Reflections



"...in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others...for it is God who works in you...you shine as lights in the world." (Philippians 2: 3-4; 13, 15).

I walked along the dusty road by a small group of shops looking for a "woman full of joy" with two children. She was to meet me to give me a parcel for her husband William who was working at Mapepe. My eyes came to rest on a woman holding the hands of two children. When she turned around, I saw for the first time the beautiful smile of William's wife, Eness. I could see first hand why he called her "full of joy".

The next time that I saw her was the day that William came home from the hospital. She was getting cool cloths for his head (his fever was still high). When we walked into his room, he smiled. I made a comment about how he was smiling because his best girl was with him now. He looked

over at her and said with contentment, "My Eness is always smiling". She was good medicine for him.

Eness accompanied William to several African countries on a survey trip last year (including Rwanda which is still trying to heal from the genocide a decade ago). They wanted to help the hurting people of Africa. Eness spent a great deal of time sewing clothes for orphaned children and teaching the older orphans how to sew their own clothes and make some garments to sell for an income. She taught vulnerable pre-school children at a local school. Both William and Eness were known for "reflecting God's light" to the world. When William went home to be with the Lord six weeks ago, several village chiefs came to pay respects to the family.

Eness is pictured (left side in picture) with several children that she continues to sew clothes for. Recently, she met a widow with three young children who was struggling. She immediately sewed a new outfit for each of the little girls. The mother of the girls wept when Eness gave the dresses to her.

We are greatly blessed to have such a "light" shining at Mapepe Bible College. Eness is God's vessel. She shines His light in every thing that she does. She is an incredible example of "looking to the needs of others" before looking to her own needs. Some of you have sent funds to help with building her a house. We all greatly appreciate that on her behalf. However, there is one other small request that she has. If any of you have fabric that you are not using she would like to have it to sew clothes and to bless the needy children. Fabric is very expensive here but if she has the cloth, she can continue this ministry to vulnerable children.

If you would like to send fabric to Eness, you can either mail it to her here (Eness Siangandu, Mapepe Bible College, P.O. Box 36893, Lusaka, Zambia) or send it to Zambia Missions, 1910 Sycamore View Rd, Memphis, TN 38134 and we will include it in our next shipment. You may also donate money to buy fabric by sending it to the Memphis address above.