

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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March 2011

Hectic Month:

I apologize that this newsletter is three weeks late. The last two months have been extremely busy and I just haven't found the time to write this newsletter. In fact, Stevie Mick (who is a visiting teacher this month) is going to write and edit the remainder of this newsletter to help me as I've got too much on my plate right now.

Scholarship Fund.

Due to our current financial situation, we may be forced to send some students home at the end of this semester unless some additional donations are received. If you would like to help contribute directly to this need, you may do so by funding a student scholarship. Full scholarship is \$100 per month. Half-scholarship is \$50 per month. Make your checks payable to "Zambia Missions" at the Memphis address (above) and include a memo on each check that says "Student Scholarship."

Mapepe Bible College Report:

Mapepe began this new term on January 10, 2011. The college was blessed with 46 new students arriving from all nine provinces of Zambia. Some of our new students will eventually be going on to George Benson Christian College in the Southern Province of Zambia as part of the MPC/GBCC program. Among the new students are 35 men and 11 women. This gives us a total of 66 students (new and returning students).

Improved Agricultural methods are taught in addition to Bible knowledge at Mapepe so students will learn skills to help grow food to feed the hungry of their villages. This is part of Mapepe's mission to empower Zambians to provide for themselves. This "tent-making" approach to evangelism will open doors to the gospel wherever our students may go.

So far this term there have been seven baptisms. Two brothers, Collins and Misheck Mukupa were baptized by Dominic Kaoma on February 1st. Jackson Phiri plus Bernard and Joy Tembo on February 13th. Cleophus Musoma baptized Ninza, a young mother on maternity leave, and Enock Chandra on February 23rd. The spiritual influence on campus is a great encouragement! (Kennedy Mukula, Director of Mapepe Bible College).

George Benson College

About 220 miles south of Lusaka in Zambia is Kalomo, the small town and home of George Benson Christian College. There are 17 graduates of Mapepe attending there, so I made a trip there to encourage them. I wanted my visit to be a surprise so no one knew I was coming. I am proud to say our graduates continue working for the Lord with enthusiasm and great joy! They are divided into three teams: One team works with a local church in Namwianga. Another goes to several local congregations preaching and teaching. The third team consists of Clifford Namwakili and Mwangah Bweendo who ride bicycles 13 miles one way to a church in Macrons, Zambia. They teach a Bible class and preach a sermon. The church provides lunch and afterwards they teach another Bible class. On the way back to campus they will often make evangelistic visits in nearby villages. Everyone of the 17 Mapepe graduates (4 ladies and 13 gentlemen) teach Bible in Namwianga Secondary School under the direction of George Benson Christian College. "It is really an honor for us to be able to teach the Bible to this captive audience," says a smiling Deborah Mufwaya. Indeed, it was I myself who was honored and encouraged by my visit to encourage these former students of Mapepe. (Kennedy Mukula, Director of MBC).

Visiting Teacher: Stevie Mick

During this four-week session at Mapepe the first and second year students (sixty participants) are studying the Torah (more commonly known by most Christians as the Pentateuch or first five books of the Bible). Their interest and enthusiasm makes the teacher's efforts joyful. To accommodate the current visiting instructor's hearing loss the students must write down every question they want to ask and hand it to the teacher. This is a burden seemingly shouldered with great diligence judging from the volume received! Despite this handicap, going now into the final week, progress shows halfway through Numbers, with Deuteronomy remaining. The test scores covering Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus are encouraging with a class average of 81% correct answers ranging from 55% to 95%. Yet, of even greater encouragement is the implementation by the Dean, Dr. David French, of Spiritual Formation Mentoring groups led by selected third year students. Each group is made up of 5 or 6 students (First and Second year) led by a Third year student as mentor. The purpose is for prayer together and to incorporate Bible knowledge being learned into one's own spiritual life, a holistic approach. Students are evaluated on their level of participation and openness. All group discussions are kept

strictly confidential to encourage a spirit of mutual sharing and support. Male and female students are kept in separate groups, although perhaps in the future a mentoring group may be formed consisting of married couples. The results of these spiritual mentoring groups will be observed with great interest and prayer. (Stevie Mick, Visiting Teacher at Mapepe Bible College).

Lorie's Reflections:

Delight ran through my whole being as I walked the all too familiar path toward Mapepe Bible College. I paused for a moment to wonder why. There was a chorus of birds singing as they prepared their nests for their young. The clucking of the chickens, the peeping of their chicks, and the low sustained sounds of the cattle completed the symphony. They were glorifying God in the way that created them to do so.

I became aware of the playful sounds of the staff children laughing as they walked to Sunday school under the trees beside the college. Some of the village children had already arrived and were singing "Satani, your kingdom must come down. Your powa is crushed". With a clap of their hands for Satan to be crushed, I couldn't help but remember the increased volume in our voices and intensity in our hand motions we used to have as children when we sang the verse of "Roll the Gospel Chariot" in which we rolled right over Satan.

The other children joined in the singing as they walked the rest of the way to join their friends. The verses of the songs were first in Zambian English and then Nyanja. They were glorifying God with the refreshing innocence of children of God who are totally dependent on Him.



As I passed by the huge avocado tree which is beside the path, I also heard singing coming from the highest point on our campus, the original mud brick church

building. The precious voices of the Mapepe Bible College students were lifting praises to the Lord. The words of the rhythmic vernacular chant were praising God for being the giver of every gift, spiritual and physical.



At that very moment strains of English hymns joined the eclectic mixture of praises. For a brief moment I was blessed with a glimpse of what I have always believed that eternity in heaven will be, all of God's creatures and children each in the way that He created them, glorifying and praising him.

What a remarkable blessing we have been given to glorify our Father while walking our everyday paths. Let's not forget to continue our praise to Him for what He has done and continues to do each day, even when we ourselves in the wilderness and we feel alone; for, He is always there just as He promised in Christ that He would be.

- Please continue to pray with us this year that "the eyes of our hearts will be opened" and we will discern and do the will of God for His ministry here in Zambia.
- Be thankful with us that our second son, Stephen is here with us this year to help us in the work. That is such a blessing, not only because he is our son, but also because he is proving to be such a great help to us.
- Continue to pray with us that sufficient funding will be given for all of the ministry doors that God has opened for us to minister in for His glory.
- Pray that for all of the people involved in mission both stateside and Zambia will never lose sight of whose ministry this is and that all of our resources and personnel will be used for His glory.

Blessings and prayers, Lorie.