

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

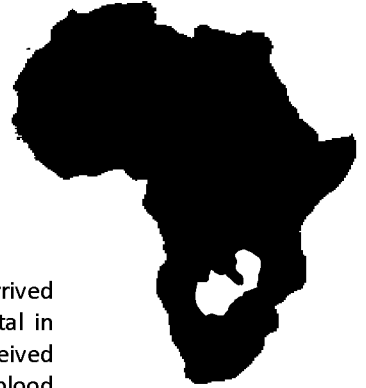
1910 Sycamore View Rd
Memphis, TN 38134
(901) 372-1874

Web: www.zambiamissions.org

David & Lorie French

P.O. Box 36893
Lusaka, Zambia (Africa)
dfrench@zambiamissions.org

April 2012



Heart-Attack: Stevie Meeks

One of our greatest concerns about living in Zambia is the lack of emergency medical care. There really is no adequate trauma care or emergency medicine. If one has an auto accident, heart attack, stroke, appendicitis, or any other such life-threatening event, there just isn't any adequate care available. This is why we have medevac insurance and insist that all our visitors purchase this insurance before coming to Zambia. If any of us get seriously injured or need emergency surgery, the only option is to call the medevac people and get transported to South Africa where there is excellent medical care. However, this service costs about \$45,000 or more.

It is a good thing, then, that Stevie Micks (from Lubbock, TX) had purchased the medevac insurance for his trip this past month when he came to teach a class here at



Mapepe. He had been here a week and was scheduled to begin his class on the following day (Monday) when he began to have serious chest pain (just after Sunday morning worship). [I guess my sermon that morning was just too much to bear!]. Lorie (our resident "doctor") immediately drove him to the one of two clinics in Lusaka (worth going to) in order to have him checked out. The doctor there immediately called "Medevac" and transported him over to another clinic in town which has just opened up and actually has a cardio-vascular unit (we knew nothing about this new clinic). Although they cannot do surgery, they can provide some good adequate care until one can be medevac'd to South Africa.

The doctors at this clinic were able to stabilize Stevie and confirm that he had indeed suffered a heart-attack.

Eventually the medevac service arrived and transported him to the hospital in South Africa where he received immediate treatment to remove a blood

clot that had blocked an artery. Two days later, Stevie was flown back to the USA where he is now under the care of his own doctors and his wife, Joann, (who is a nurse). The last report we had from Stevie was quite positive and it appears his prognosis is very good.

For several years Lorie and I have seriously considered buying one of those heart defibrillators that schools, airlines and businesses in the USA keep handy for heart attacks. We have lots of visiting teachers and other guests – most of whom are over 50 and/or in retirement years. My Dad, for example, is now 86 years old and still comes every year to teach here at Mapepe. There is also the fact that both Lorie and I, along with our American-born co-workers, are now all over 50 years old (Dixon and Flash are in their retirement years).

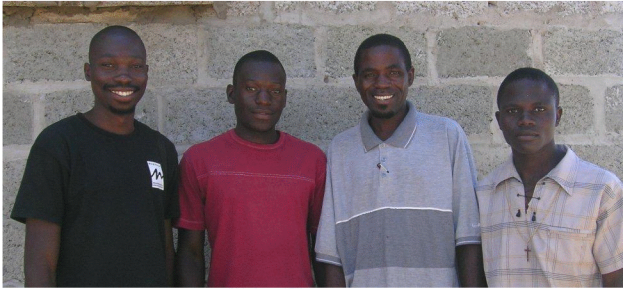
Our concerns certainly proved valid this past month and provided the impetus needed to convince us that we needed to go ahead and buy one of these machines for keep on hand here for our ministry. Eric Wilson (one of the ministers from our sponsoring church in Memphis) arrived yesterday and was able to bring it over in his suitcase (along with a manual resuscitator). Should this every happen again, we should be much more prepared to respond in an effective manner. We are most thankful to the Lord that He took care of Stevie and that everything went as well as it did considering that we are in Africa!

Report: Mission Outreach Program.

The following report is from Thomas Simubali (Director for our outreach program) who is now training 15 MT (Missionary Training) students). He has divided them into three teams and they are working in three different villages. Here is his report. [By the way, "youths" in Zambia refers to single people (15-30 years old)]

The Lilayi team is composed with five students. Our focus in Lilayi is to work with a small local church in order to bring about the transformation that we hope to see. With the advice of the leaders of this church we have started having Bible studies in the people's homes. In the last three weeks we have Bible studies in nine homes and we have lead four people to Christ.

The local community has also asked us to work with the youth. "There is a lot of hopelessness among the youths in the area as



they lack skills and jobs, so most of them engage themselves in beer drinking, crime and prostitution,” says Chinga (our Lilayi student leader). To help youths know who they are and to live lives that God wants them to live, they recently conducted a Youth Empowerment workshop in which they challenged the youths with God’s purpose for our existence and provided them with skills for both spiritual and social life. This ministry team of our MT students is now working with about 11 youths from the workshop as they hope to develop them a youth leaders and through them influence the other youths of this village.

The Sonadi team is working in one of the most “broken” communities in the country. This community lacks any social organization, legal recognition and has no economic base. The levels of desperation among the people is obvious. Grayton (the student leader of this team) says that “The people of this community have no hope whatsoever for a better life and this is evident by the number of people who have turned to witchcraft and crime for survival.” It is in situations like this that the love and hope of Jesus Christ shines even brighter.



The most vulnerable of all in this community are the youths and the women. With the help of the local leader, the “chairman” (as he is called), these students have started working with the youths. We think that we have the greatest chance of influencing and leading them to Christ. It is for this reason that these students invited 24 youths to a Youth Empowerment workshop, where they taught about God’s love and His purpose for life. They shared with them key values that are rooted in scriptures and they have continued to make follow-ups as they hope to use these youths as agents of God’s transformation in this community. The local leaders and many of the parents are very excited about these efforts and are encouraging our efforts.

To an effort to increase the number of youths that they can have contact and influence, the student team has started organizing soccer games in the community. Grayton says, “We pray before the games and we are building good relationships... God is working here in Sonadi, and we think the people are beginning to see the power and glory of God.”

The Chanyanya Team is working in a very rural community. Food security is the greatest need here and this is a community that we have been working in for quite some time now (e.g. Agriculture Training Workshops). More recently we have begun work with the community to construct a “Community Demonstration Garden.” Our idea is to have a center of excellence, where the local people can have a clear demonstration of growing their own food to feed their children and support their communities.



Like the other two student teams, this team has also decided to focus on the youth and the women of the village. “With the help of the local community we have already constructed 30 raised beds, and we are hoping to have a hundred beds for demonstration”, says Daniel. “This community will really be impacted with simple but practical skills that will transform the people’s lives and we think many people will see God’s love and power,” Daniel adds.

And, like the other two teams, this team also conducted a Youth Empowerment Workshop in early April. They invited 37 youths and taught about the love of God. The youths were so touched by what we had to say that they asked us to repeat the same workshop so they could include their parents. We really believe that God is working in this community.

Comments By Flash Settle.

Dixon and I arrived in January. Since we arrived we have found much work to do in this place. I feel a sense of calling about working with this mission and we have been bountifully blessed by being here. Dixon teaches daily at Mapepe Bible College. The young men are eager to learn, are very spiritual, and all desire to go back to their communities when they complete their studies to serve God as ministers and spiritual leaders. The training they receive here is excellent and Bible-based. Not only are they increasing their Bible knowledge and insights, they are also learning skills by which they can support themselves in their communities. They are learning agriculture skills as well as project management. With these skills, they will be able to lead others in whatever communities they end up going after they graduate.

I have been working with the children in the Primary School based here on the Mapepe campus. Lorie French and I have been teaching the Teacher Trainees who teach in the primary school. We are instructing them from a text approved by the Zambian government for teacher training, hoping to improve their understanding and level of teaching skills. Also, I have been leading a Ladies’ Bible study on Sunday afternoons, teaching the young wives of staff members how to better serve the Lord in their community here at Mapepe. All in all, I feel this is a very worthy work that glorifies God and supports people who have great spiritual and human needs.