

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Lorie, Natasha and I have just returned from Zambia and we now plan to focus on visiting (over the next 4-6 months) all the churches that are involved in supporting the work in Zambia. This will give us the chance to update everyone on some of the new plans that we have for the work as we move forward in the years to come.

Lorie and I have now been involved in this work for ten years and there is a lot that we have learned – the kind of learning that comes only through experience. We believe all this practical experience now requires that we make some adjustments (revisions) in our approach so that we might better accomplish our mission and do so in a more cost-effective manner. One of our main concerns moving forward has to do with long-term sustainability and this requires that we make changes so that we are not so completely dependent on American support. I look forward to visiting with all of you in the months ahead and I am excited to share with you our vision for the future.

Report: Bible College.

This week we will celebrate the graduation of our eighth class of students. The total number of students that have completed our training will now total more than 500. This may likely be the last group students to go through our one-year training program. Starting in September we will shift to a new approach that we call the “Missionary Training” program. This program will be quite different from our previous training in that students will now come with their wives and will stay for 3-4 years.

One of the concerns that we have had from the beginning has to do with how to train our students so that they might become completely self-supporting in ministry. This is why we began teaching them drip-irrigation and basic farming skills. Unfortunately, it seems that only a small percentage of our students ever managed to duplicate the agricultural techniques that we taught them – much less teaching others how to farm more effectively.

Furthermore, we have also become convinced that we need to recruit and train married men and have them bring their wives so that we might train them as well. Married men and women are much more stable and mature and far less likely to fall to sexual temptation. Furthermore, women tend to do most of the family farming in Zambia (growing vegetables) and it is they who really need to be trained in basic agriculture. But, implementing these

measures requires much more time, effort and money. It is for this reason that we have hesitated. We do not have housing at Mapepe for married students (we have only a men’s dorm with three large common rooms). Bringing in student wives (and children) would dramatically increase the number of people to feed and care for (medical care and schooling for children).

This is one of the primary reasons behind our decision to purchase the 50 acres of farm land that we now call “Daybreak.” What we have come to realize is that for our students to learn and actually apply our farming techniques, they need 2-3 years of practice under our guidance and supervision. Unfortunately, Mapepe did not provide us with enough good farm land to create small student farms as Mapepe is on two hills with lots of rock. The new Daybreak campus has 50 acres of flat farm land on which we can create 30-40 small student farms (picture below).



This will also solve the financial problem as we can eliminate the costs of feeding students since they will grow their own food and cook for themselves year-round using drip irrigation. This reduces our costs and ensures that our students become self-supporting since they will get plenty of practice doing so during their 3-4 years of training. If students learn to feed themselves when they are with us, then it is far more likely they will do so when they return home. Students who do not succeed in feeding themselves will be sent home.

Our students will continue to get as much Bible training as they have at Mapepe, but it will be accomplished over a three-year period (instead of one). This will further enhance their Biblical training and application since it will be at a rate they

can better absorb and apply. Like rain that falls on a garden, a lite drizzle over three days is much better than a one hour thunder storm that dumps all the rain at one time.



It is not enough to teach Bible in a classroom. Students also need time and guidance in making application of what they have learned. This, then, brings internalization of knowledge and spiritual transformation. And, one of the best ways to facilitate this process is to give students the time and opportunity to go out and teach others what they have learned. The person who learns the most from a Bible class is the teacher himself. This also ensures that our students will be able to reproduce themselves (make disciples) and teach others. Thus, in addition to their Bible training, students will be directed to go out into the surrounding villages in order to make disciples and teach others what they have learned.

Our approach is actually quite simple. It basically involves having our students to live among us for 3-4 years while we teach them, mentor them spiritual, and have them duplicate everything we have taught them over an extended period of time so as to ensure that when they go home they will be successful in reproducing everything they have learned wherever they move for the rest of their lives. Students will not graduate until we are convinced they will succeed in reproducing what they have learned after leaving us.

Teach Men To Fish.

We have quoted the old saying, "Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you will feed him for a lifetime." Much of what we are doing is "teaching men to fish", but in actuality we are attempting to do far more than this. There is a third line to this saying that seldom is included, "Teach a man to teach others (to fish) and you will feed the world." Indeed, this is what we are trying to do.

Our goal is not just to teach our students Bible and facilitate their spiritual growth, but to teach them to go make disciples of others. Our goal is not just to teach our students how to farm for themselves (so they can be self-supporting), our goal is also to teach them to teach others how to farm. Everything we do is about empowering others; but, more than that, we want to teach others how to teach (empower) others. It all has to do with developing people who can reproduce themselves (spiritually and otherwise).

Graduation: Teacher-Training Program.

On August 3 we celebrated our first graduation of our new Teacher-Training Program. Zambia cannot build enough schools nor hire enough teachers. Hence, many villages are now starting their own Community Schools (often in churches). Unfortunately, there is no training program or certification for Community School Teachers. Thus, Mary (Flash) Settle (retired teacher from Wilmington, NC) and Lorie have developed a program designed to train Teacher-Trainers who can go out into the villages to train and assist these Community School Teachers. This is "teaching men to teach others to fish." Picture below are the three Teacher Trainers who graduated earlier this month.



Family News: Kerin Gets Married.

Our daughter, Kerin, has been dating a young, Zambian man for quite some time and, thus, they decided to get married on July 27. His name is Ikabonga Mashekwa (but we call him Sam). He is from the Lozi tribe and owns a large farm near Namwianga Mission that he inherited from his father. He has extensive experience in farming (which is rare for Zambians) and already knows how to raise pigs and chickens. Kerin will, of course, continue with her ministry (Kerin's Kids) and Sam will assume the role of Farm Supervisor at our new campus where we plan to develop a piggery and chicken farm. Sam is a very good man of high moral character and we are very happy to welcome Sam into our family! Pictured below is a wedding photo of Kerin and her new husband, Sam.

