

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Lorie and I are currently in the USA visiting all the churches that are helping to support the work in Zambia. We have now visited about two-thirds of the churches and should finish up visiting the other one-third after the first of the year.

We will be making a five-week trip back to Zambia in November in order to check-up on the work and solve some of the problems which always arise in our absence. We will return just before Christmas and then continue our fund-raising activities after the first of the year.

Financial Challenges.

I hate to focus on finances, but I feel I must for the good of the work in Zambia. As you make budget plans for this next year, I would like to ask that you consider our work in Zambia.

I have not done much over the past 2-3 years to raise additional funding due to the Recession; but, unfortunately this has put us in a difficult position especially in consideration that one of our largest supporters (one-third of our annual support) has had to cut (completely) his monthly support due to changes in his business. This, coupled with the 15% inflation in Zambia over the past ten years, and I think you can begin to understand how this has resulted in a serious problem for us financially. And, what's more, all this has come down upon us at a point that we are needing to develop our new campus at Daybreak (for reasons that I have been explaining to the churches that we have visited over the past couple of months).

Financially we now find ourselves in the most difficult situation that we have ever found ourselves in the ten years that we have been doing this work. Hence, Lorie and I have determined that we now have no choice but to focus our attention on raising new support over the next year or two. We tried to do this earlier this year, but events in Zambia forced us to return to Zambia (which

delayed fund-raising efforts for this year). Now, we cannot delay any longer and will try again in 2014.

In regards to **monthly support**, we need to raise the additional support for the following ministries:

Bible College – \$3,000 per month.

Kerin's Kids – \$4,000 per month (provide care for 30 infants & 50 children on baby-formula).

Education – Teacher Trainer prgrm – \$2,500 /mo

Agriculture – Development prgrm – \$3,000 /mo

Medical Missions – \$500 per month.

Not only are we needing to raise additional monthly support, but we are also needing to raise **additional one-time support** for the construction and development of the new Daybreak campus. As I have been explaining to the churches that we have visited so far, the primary purpose for this shift to the new Daybreak campus is so that we can achieve long-term sustainability of the work in Zambia. The new campus is twice as large as the Mapepe campus and is much better suited to our agricultural works (less rocky, flatter, and more fertile). This will allow us to eliminate the cost of feeding our students as we can divide our campus into small Zambian farms for our students and train them how to farm using the farming techniques and drip-irrigation that we teach them. This will also ensure that our students become self-supporting before they graduate and can do so when return home.

Furthermore, the Daybreak campus is large enough for us to set up a Chicken and Pig Farm that should be able to generate enough income that the ministry can eventually become more self-supporting and less expensive to operate. Although this transition to a new mode of operating is going to require a large initial investment, we believe this will be far more cost-efficient in the long-term and give us the potential of becoming totally self-supporting one day (long-term sustainability).

Thus, we need to raise this initial capital investment to relocate the bulk of our ministry to this new mode of

operation. More specifically, we need to raise money for the following projects:

Student housing – initially 12 houses (\$7,000 ea).

Staff housing – 10 houses (\$7,000 each).

Kerin's Kids Facility for 30 infants – \$65,000.

Senior Staff housing – 4 houses (\$40,000 each).

Agriculture – Chicken house & piggery (\$30,000).

Perhaps you or your congregation would be willing to make a one-time contribution toward one of these projects. If, for example, you or your congregation would like to pay for one of the student or staff houses (\$7,000), we would be happy to name the house in your name (post a plaque).

Bible College: Graduation.

On August 27 we celebrated our eighth graduation. Twenty-seven students graduated. Unfortunately, no one attending graduation thought to take any group pictures (as Lorie and I were not there to take the pictures this year). Hence, I have no picture to post in this newsletter this year.

This was one of our best years ever due to our increased focus on spiritual transformation. This is also due to the hard work of Dixon Settle (retired couple from Wilmington, NC).

Missionary Training Program.

This year's graduating class will be the last from our one-year training program. As I have been explaining in my recent visits to churches this Fall, we are now transitioning over to a new program. The new program (Missionary Training Program) will be a three to four year program.

We are implementing three fundamental changes in our training. First, we are no longer going to feed our students; we will now train them in basic agriculture (using drip-irrigation) so they can grow their own food. Our students will be self-supporting. Second, we are requiring that they bring their wives/families so that we can train their wives. And, third, we are going to extend the training program to three to four years.

We have learned that if we want our students to actually apply what they learn after they graduate and return home, we must structure our program so as to ensure that they successfully do what we teach them for a couple of years while they are with us. If we want them to be active in making disciples when they leave, we must make sure that they are actively

and successfully doing it while they are with us. The same applies to teaching drip-irrigation (basic farming), starting community schools, orphan care, nutrition, and any other skill that we would like them to do and/or teach others. Thus, if we want our students to be self-supporting when they leave us, then we need they need to be self-supporting while they are attending our Bible College.

There will be more attention devoted to the recruitment of these students as the requirements for admission will be more stringent. Students must be married (or to be married within a year) and be willing to come with their families. They must also be already actively engaged in ministry (having already demonstrated a commitment to ministry). Although we will allow some exceptions, we would like to recruit students between the ages of 25 and 35. And, finally, they must be willing to learn work (farm) to support themselves while attending our Bible College.

Lorie's Reflections.

The chill of the morning caused me to pull my covers up and tuck them tightly around my head. We had arrived home around midnight from the previous day of visiting churches to report on the work in Zambia. My thoughts went immediately to the parades, festivities, and dancing that were going on in Zambia – for it was Zambian Independence Day! In the eyes of my mind I could see the rhythmic swaying of the students from side to side as they began the morning with devotional praises to Our Heavenly Father.

The ears of my heart could hear the faint strains of the children's laughter and singing punctuated with enthusiasm, as they celebrated the day that their ancestors fought and won freedom from Britain (1964). And, what made this celebration even grander was the fact that Zambians awoke on this special day to celebrate the coming of the rains (after seven months of Dry Season). The coming of the rains each year brings the greatest of joy because their survival depends upon the timing and the abundance of rain.

A smile broke out on my face as I realized that we as God's children can celebrate and thank Our Heavenly Father each day as we remember the refreshing mercies that He sends to cover ALL of His children every day to water our souls which truly thirst for Him and the incredible independence from sin that we receive from the blood that Christ shed for us. Remember His sacrifice and shed blood for us, celebrate His new mercies each day, and share His word every place actively every chance that the Lord provides to you. Ask Him for open heart eyes to see these opportunities He provides. Blessings!

– Lorie