

Reports on the Work in Zambia

This report has been written in an effort to provide some insight into the success that our ministry in Zambia has experienced. However, I have found writing this report to be a major challenge for several reasons: (a) We have not done a good job of documenting the success of our efforts. It seems that we are so busy working and so overwhelmed by the work itself that we have not taken the time to write down the successes that we have seen. Hence, it is now extremely difficult for us to remember these stories after two or three years. We are way over-extended and documenting these stories has not registered as a top priority. While we have the advantage of being present to see all the success stories, we have failed to realize that our supporters in the USA have not been present to see all these things. This is an obvious oversight on our part.

(b) Communications in Zambia are very poor. The postage service is highly unreliable and the cost of postage is extremely expensive for the poor of Zambia (one stamp equals a half-day wages). Because most of our students come from the rural areas of Zambia, few have access to electricity and the internet (much less know how to use email). Thus, we hear very little from our graduates once they leave us.

(c) Training Ministry. Because our ministry is a training ministry, the fruits of our ministry are not able to be measured in baptisms and churches we have planted. The fruits of our work will take some years to yield visible fruit. Our ministry is dedicated to training Zambians to advance the kingdom of God in their country. One of the great problems with past mission works in Zambia is that the missionaries did all the evangelism; thus, when the missionaries left, so also disappeared the growth of the church in Zambia. In contrast, our ministry is dedicated to training Zambians as missionaries as this is the only way to ensuring long-term, sustaining growth of the church in Zambia.

(c) Measuring success in spiritual matters has always proven difficult. This is why few churches in the USA are ever able to evaluate or document their success in ministry. One can state what ministry activities they have done and record statistics (attendance and contribution), but it is difficult to assess the spiritual outcomes which are internal and invisible. We have the same problem in Zambia. While we can document what we do and the physical impact our efforts have upon the people (especially our humanitarian efforts), it is very difficult for us to measure the spiritual results. It is even more difficult when dealing with people in another culture as it is very hard to sense the internal character, values, beliefs, and spiritual transformation taking place in people who may not even speak English.

(d) It is much easier to document the physical and humanitarian impact of our ministry. It is easy to take pictures of these activities and post it on Facebook or insert into a newsletter. And, obviously, the responses to our humanitarian works are obvious and instantaneous – and, perhaps, appreciated more than any of our spiritual efforts). Obviously, food for hungry people is appreciated more than good Bible teaching. So, it is easy to understand why our humanitarian efforts dominate most of our reports in newsletters and Facebook.

(e) And, finally, because our ministry is strongly focused on discipleship (which has been the missing link in most mission works, Mt 28:18-20), we are no longer producing the short-term results that most missionaries report (and which we once reported). It is easy to baptize lots of people and plant lots of churches in Africa (which produce lots of nice photos and statistics for newsletters that impress American donors where baptisms and church-plantings are few). But, what matters in Africa is teaching people who have been baptized what it means to obey the teachings of Jesus (Mt 28:18-20). While baptisms are easy, making disciples in Africa is extremely difficult and takes lots of work and time. And, while I can post baptism pictures in our newsletter, how do I take a pictures of a disciples (showing their spiritual heart and life)? It also takes just a few hours to get a baptism; it takes several years to see the fruits of having made a disciple of Jesus. I can take a picture of a new church planting; but church attenders does not testify to having made disciples. Our ministry in Zambia is dedicated to disciple-making and we are seeking quality of results, not quick numbers that can easily fill the pages of our newsletters.

Purpose of this Report. Despite the difficulties mentioned above, I am (nevertheless) going to attempt as best I can to address the spiritual dimension of our ministry and document what spiritual outcomes I can despite the extreme difficulty this task presents for me. But, it is important that the reader understand that – despite my best efforts to do this – I now find that the following report falls far short of this goal. There are so many stories of lives spiritual changed (that we have witnessed over the past ten years) but stories that we have now long since forgotten. I do not have a good memory and it seems I was always so busy trying to get on with the next task that I failed to mentally document the people and their stories. Hence, their names and their stories have long since passed from my memory. I have faint memories of these events but can no longer remember the details. The same is true of most all of our students. We have had so many students and I have seen most of them experience tremendous growth during their stay with us; yet I have failed to remember their names and faces (remembering Zambian names has proven to be an impossible task for me as their first names are often the same and I can rarely pronounce the indigenous names). While the impact of our work does not die, most of these stories have now passed from my memory.

This report begins with a brief synopsis of what we have accomplished spiritually and physically (humanitarian efforts). This is followed by an modest attempt to document some of our graduates whose stories I do remember (usually because I have had some interaction or communication with them since their graduation).

A. Brief Synopsis of Ministry Accomplishments

- (1) Number of Bible College **graduates** (2005-2013): **500** graduates.
- (2) Number of **baptisms** by our students during their training (mission campaigns): **300** (estimate). Number of baptisms by our students after graduating: **5,000** (conservative estimate). This estimate was made by the staff in 2013 after assessing the reports we have had from our students and estimating the number of baptisms that average graduate has had. We believe this is a conservative estimate as there is good reason to believe the number may be twice as much.
- (3) Number of **churches planted** by our students (both while attending our training program and upon graduating): **1,000**. This estimate was also made by our staff in 2013 after assessing the reports from our students and our own travels. While some of our graduates have planted 7 or more churches, most have planted at least one or two churches. We have 500 graduates. If all of our students planted just two churches on average, then there will have been about 1,000 churches. We believe this is a fair estimate. But, even if the average were just one, that would be more than 500 churches!
- (4) Number of churches planted directly as a result of our **Major Medical Missions**: **30** (estimate).
- (5) Number of **Youth Rallies** conducted on our campus: **6** (Bible and ethics taught).
- (6) Number of Saturday **Bible Seminars**: **10** (over 4 year period). These were seminars held for religious and community leaders in our area. Classes were Bible and Christian living.
- (7) Number of graduates who have gone on to get a **college degree in Bible**: **4** graduates.
- (8) Number of years in which we conduct the “**Seminar in April**”: **5** years. These were held each year in April when all schools in Zambia are on a one-month break. These seminars were for church leaders and secondary teachers associated with Northreach. Since the secondary education program at George Benson Christian College did not include much training in Bible and ministry, we determined to begin this program as a way to provide these self-supporting evangelists in the north with continual training in Bible and ministry that would enhance their ministries and give them much needed encouragement. This program was stopped due to a lack of finances.
- (9) Number of graduates who have gotten a college **degree in Secondary Education**: **90** (estimate).

- (10) Number of graduates who have in the past or are presently teaching Bible in a Bible College (training others in ministry): there are about **12** that we know of.
- (11) Number of graduate who have started an Orphan-care ministry: **20** (based on the number we have heard of but we suspect the number is higher than this).
- (12) Number of graduates who have started a Community School in their church: **30** (based on the number of reports we have received but this number is surely larger than this).
- (13) Number of Evangelistic One-Week Mission Campaigns by our students: **30**. Once or twice each semester the students were taken off in the bus to conduct a Mission Campaign (Gospel Meeting in the evening and evangelism in the day).
- (14) Number of Bible Studies conducted by our students in the Sonadi Compound near our campus: **100's** of Bible students (no way to estimate). Our students and staff have been going into the compound multiple times each week as part of their training. This is a compound of 5000 people. It is basically a shanti-town filled with very transient people. There are been lots of baptisms, but it is a poverty-stricken community full of criminals and great immorality.
- (15) Number of Baptisms of Parents of the children in our Primary School: **20**.
- (16) Number of years in which Bible has been taught daily in our Primary School: **7** years.
- (17) Number of Community Vacation Bible Schools (VBC): **5**.
- (18) Number of Ladies-Day Workshops on campus: **30** workshops (Ladies from the surrounding community were invited for teaching on Bible and other matters of importance to women).

How does one measure the long-term impact of all this work on the lives of the students, their families, and the communities (churches) where they have moved and will minister for the next 10 to 40 years? Because our ministry is a training ministry, the fruits of our ministry are not able to be measured in baptisms and churches we have planted. The fruits of our work will take some years to yield fruit.

We have trained our students spiritually (spiritual formation), greatly deepened their knowledge of the Bible and the Christian life it calls for (discipleship), and have trained them in many different areas of ministry (agriculture, orphan-care, medical, Community School education). All of this will have a major impact on them and their communities for many years; but these results are not easy to document and will take many years to yield fruit.

There is no question that many lives have and will be changed spiritually and enriched physically because of these efforts. But, how do we measure this and take pictures of it to put in a report? The kind of deep and meaningful change we are seeking does not often bear its fruit for many years. We can count baptisms, churches planted, and numbers attending churches, but we have long since discovered that these numbers tell us nothing about the inward lives (hearts) of church attenders.

B. Brief Synopsis of Humanitarian Ministry

- (1) Number of major Medical Missions (involving 60 medical professionals from the USA and Zambia): **3** (2007, 2008, 2009). Provided medical, dental, and optical care.
- (2) Number of small-scale Medical Missions: **15**. These have usually focused on just one area of medical care (general medical, dental or optic) and have usually involved only 2-4 medical professionals.
- (3) Number of prescription and reading eyeglasses given to patients after eye exam: **20,000** pairs.
- (4) Number of teeth pulled (during our dental clinics): 15,000 (estimate).

- (5) Donation of Medical Equipment to local Healthcare Clinics: shipped **1** forty-foot container of donated medical equipment and supplies to Kafue area clinics in 2011.
- (6) Number of local farmers training through our Agriculture Workshops (training in sustainable agriculture): **2000** (estimate).
- (7) Number of children who have attended our Primary Schools: **750** children (estimate).
- (8) Number of orphaned and vulnerable children who have been given assistance (baby-formula, food assistance, school supplies, medicine, or given housing in Kerin's Kids): **500** (estimate).

These efforts have all testified to the love of God and have had a tremendous impact for good on the physical lives of our students and all the people who we have ministered to through these efforts. There are many stories of how people's lives have been impacted by these efforts. One story that comes to my mind is that of an older couple who came to our Medical Mission in 2008 to get their eyes examined for glasses. They must have been more than 70 years old but had never had a pair of glasses in their lives. They had had poor eyesight their entire life. Upon receiving his first pair of glasses, he looked at his wife and announced to everyone, "I have married a beautiful woman; I never knew how beautiful she was until today!" There is also the story of the old man who upon getting his first pair of glasses in his entire life, looked up at the trees and shouted with excitement, "The trees have leaves on them!"

There are so many stories. There is the story of Ryan who was born deaf and blind. In desperation his mother walked 25 miles to bring him to Kerin in hopes she might help him as he was malnourished and still unable to walk at age 3. Kerin started him on a nutrition diet, strengthened his muscles through nutrition and diet, and finally taught him to walk. Kerin, then, raised \$4,000 to get an eye operation that restored his sight. He is now back with his family and doing very well. Although he is still deaf, he will now have an almost normal, healthy life. Likewise, there are the stories of orphaned children whose lives have been saved because their families were able to bring children to Kern when they would have otherwise had put them to death (most of whom were left orphaned when their mothers died). There is the story of Susann who was thrown in the grave with her mother after birth, but was rescued by an uncle who brought the child to the orphanage. There are so many other children with stories just like this whose lives Kerin has saved. And, likewise, there are the stories of all the mothers with HIV to whom Kerin has provided baby formula so that they will not have to risk giving their babies the virus through breastfeeding.

There is the story of Stella who was left homeless and destitute when her husband died and she was chased from their land and house. Having no family to take her in and being unable to find work, she soon became severely malnourished and sick. We gave Stella work in our agriculture program and assisted her regaining her health and finding a house to live in. She soon was baptized and, as we realized what an honest and intelligent woman she was, we gave her promotions and training which has now resulted in her becoming our Financial Officer and the most important member of our staff!

And, there are the stories of all the sick people for whom we have provided medicine, hospitalization, and surgery – most of whom would have died. There are the stories of 2000 farmers who have sung songs of thanksgiving to us after completing the agricultural training workshops that we have hosted throughout our area. We have pictures of them holding their drip-lines with the biggest smiles ever to cross human faces. Hundreds of stories which can never be captured in any picture.

C. Graduates of the Bible College

- (1) Samuel Nkando. Samuel was our first student to register in our new school in 2005. He was convert through World Bible School. He had heard about our college and had left home in the north to come

to Lusaka to find us. It took him over a month to find us. He attended the Bible College for two years and graduated as Valedictorian of our first graduating class. He, then, served as a Teacher in the Bible College for about 7 years until the move to our new campus at Daybreak. It was at that time that he moved back to his home village in the north where he now serves as a church leaders in his home congregation.

- (2) Thomas Sakala. Thomas was a convert from our prison work (where he had been convicted of stealing strawberries from a farm). Upon his release he attended our Bible College and upon graduation he served as one of our two Prison Ministers. Eventually he was hired by Hands of Compassion to work with the orphan-care ministry where he continues until this day. He is now working with Hands of Compassion and is providing food and assistance to more than 200 orphans.
- (3) Dyson Mukonka. Although Dyson was not one of our most academically gifted students, he more than made up for this upon his graduation in 2006. Returning to his home village (which is in one of the poorest areas of Zambia), he planted three churches and started an orphan-care ministry that is now providing care and assistance to more than 200 orphans (without any American support). Dyson has become a very influential and respected leader in his home area. He exemplifies the type of student that we want our Bible College to produce.
- (4) Chrispin Nombwana. From newly populated area of Central Province up near the Congo border. Within two years of his graduation, he has planted 7 churches (one in Congo) and was receiving invitations from villages all over his area to come plant a church in their area.
- (5) Foreign Students. We have had several students that have come from Tanzania, Angola, Malawi and Congo. It has been very difficult for us to stay in touch with these students as the mail is so slow, expensive and unreliable. Very few of these students come from areas where there are computers (email) and few (if any) of them even know how to use email. Periodically we do hear bits of news, but it is very rare.

Angola. We have had more than 10 students from Angola. Many of these were refugees from the war in Angola. When the war ended about 12 years ago, some of these refugees began to move back into Angola and with them were many of our Angolan students. Communication from Angola is still pretty much non-existent, but we have heard from a few Zambians who have traveled into Angola that our students are active in church-planting and evangelism and that there have been tremendous opportunities for church planting with all the returning refugees back into the country; but the conditions are still very rough as 40 years of civil war has put the country back into the stone age.

Congo. We have had only one or two students from the Congo and we have heard very little from them upon their return to Congo. This also is a country still suffering from a 60-year old Civil War that is still going on. We have had several Zambian students who have gone over into Congo and have planted some churches (cf. Chrispin above). Because this is a French-speaking country, it is difficult for us to recruit students from Congo who can speak English.

Malawi. We have had about 8 students from Malawi. Two or three of these students were quite outstanding students. One or two have now returned to Malawi to serve as Bible Teachers in some of the Malawian Bible Colleges (as the number of members of the church in Malawi is much greater than that in Zambia). Walakeni Nyirenda is one example of this (cf. below).

Tanzania. We have had about five students from Tanzania. We have heard (indirectly) from only one of these students. It has been reported that he has now started several churches back in his home area in Tanzania and has been quite active in several evangelistic campaigns in his country.

- (6) Walakeni Nyirenda. Upon graduation Walakeni returned to Malawi where he serves as a church leaders and Bible teacher in one of the Bible Colleges in Malawi.

- (7) Costa Muuba. Costa was one of our first students. He is also one of only a handful that has come to us from the Lusaka area. We do not get many students from Lusaka or the other cities of Zambia as those living in the cities tend to have jobs that they dare not give up (since one has to have a job to survive in the cities). Costa graduated in 2006 and is now a leader in the Mutendere church in Lusaka. He has also started his own business (pest control) and has prospered quite well as a self-supporting church leader in Lusaka (he even owns a Mini-Van).
- (8) Masauso Moonga. Moonga was also one of our first graduates. He was also one of the few students to come from Lusaka. For several years he worked as one of our Mission Coordinators (training the students in missions and evangelism) and eventually moved over into Administration. He married one of our former female students. Moonga has now moved back into Lusaka to take a job that will provide more income than we can afford; nevertheless, Moonga continues to be active in the ministry of his home church and will, no doubt, eventually become a leader in that church.
- (9) Aaron Chilembe. Our oldest student (62 years old). Upon graduating he returned to his home village and began working with a new American Mission team working in the Northwest Province. In 2011 I was told by one of the missionaries (Don Boyd) that Aaron had become one of the best church leaders and had participated in multiple church plantings in the Northwest Province.
- (10) George-Benson Students. For several years we worked in partnership with Northreach Missions to train students as Secondary School Teachers in the Northern Province (where there are few churches). For many years Northreach was providing scholarships to students to attend George Benson Christian College in order to get their college degree in Secondary Education. Such graduates are typically hired by the government soon after graduation. The condition of the scholarship was that the students would agree to take jobs back up in the Northern Province so that they could serve as church-planters and church leaders for the Northreach church-planting effort. The problem, however, was that the three-year, Teacher-Training Program at George Benson provided very little Bible and ministry training. Thus, Northreach agreed to expand the program to a four-year scholar-ship so that it would include a year of training at our Bible College. Northreach students would attend our program and, then, go on to George Benson. This greatly improved the quality of their students and the effectiveness of their students in ministry once they graduated from George Benson. Thus, over a four year period, we ended up training about 100 of their students who went on to get a Teaching Certificate and are now serving as church leaders and indigenous missionaries throughout the Northern Province. It is still somewhat too early for us to hear back as to the success of these students as most have only recently graduated from George Benson.
- (11) Daniel Mbele. Daniel was one of our best students to graduate from our Bible College. He was especially remembered for his spiritual devotion and depth (maturity). He was a serious student and was highly respected by all his fellow-students. Upon graduation, Daniel was given a scholarship to attend the three-year Bible program at African Christian College (ACC) in Swaziland. He completed his degree with an emphasis in Bible and Marriage & Family. We have now hired Daniel to be a Teacher in our Bible College and to focus on two primary areas of our training: spiritual formation and marriage & family.
- (12) Spencer Kasauka. Spencer also attended ACC (Swaziland) upon graduating from our program with a degree in Bible and communications. Upon his return to Zambia, he married one of our former female students (who he met while attending our Bible College). Spencer appears gifted in the area of business and agriculture; and, thus, we have now hired him to become a teacher in our Bible College and to focus on training our students in business and agriculture (which will be essential to our students learning to become self-supporting).
- (13) James Mulenga. A church leader from the Central Province. We hired him in our Bible College for several years to serve as a Missions Coordinator for our students (training the students in church

planting and evangelism). He also organized numerous mission campaigns for our students. He has now moved back to his home church in Kapiri Mposhi.

These are only a few of the 500 graduates that we have produced at the Bible College. Most of our graduates live in far off, remote places where communication is almost non-existent. Many are still young men who have yet to establish themselves adequately in their home villages and earn the respect that comes only from age (as Zambia is a culture that limits respect to the elders).

Thus, our Bible College finds itself represented by the sower in the Parable of the Sower (Matt 13). Our students are the soil, we are the Sower, and our training is the season of planting. We know that not all of our students will prove themselves to be good soil. Some are bad soil and they will produce little. Others will yield results in varying degrees. But, some students will go forth over the course of their lives and will make significant and long-lasting change. This is just reality. Not all our students will be successful and will yield fruit. We do believe that the lives of most all of our students will benefit substantially from having gone through our training; but not all will succeed in ministry and advance the kingdom of God in their communities in significant and long-lasting ways.

In the final analysis, we have to put our faith in the power of the Word. If we believe that God's Word is powerful, then we know that our training in the Bible will yield results. How much results will depend upon God and the receptivity of the people who will hear God's Word through our students and their lifelong ministry in the Kingdom.

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