

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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We are now making some great progress in our work in Zambia. Our transition from Mapepe is now complete and we are fully operational after just six months.

Report: Bible College.

We now have 13 students in the Bible College and classes are now fully back in operation. We would have more students than this except that we don't yet have enough houses for students. Nevertheless, we do intend to build five more houses this year so that we can increase our enrollment to 20 for next year (starting in January). We then plan to build enough housing to increase our enrollment to 30 for January 2017.

As I have reported in the past, we are now recruiting married students between the ages of 25 and 35. It is for this reason that we now have to build houses for married students and their families. This means that it is going to take some time to build enough houses for everyone; not as simple as building one dorm for everyone.

In addition, we have just hired a new Bible Teacher: Daniel Mbele (see picture). He is one of our graduates (2010) who went on to attend ACC (African Christian College) in Swaziland. He just graduated from ACC with a college degree in Bible and in Marriage & Family. We are MOST excited about adding Daniel to our faculty for several reasons: First, he was one of our best students (both academically and spiritually). In fact, while attending our college in 2008-2010, he was respected among all the students as a spiritual leader. He evidenced a deep spirituality that everyone admired. We believe Daniel will greatly enhance our efforts to facilitate spiritual growth among our students and this is why I have assigned him to oversee the spiritual formation of our students.

Second, Daniel has been trained, not only in Bible, but also in Marriage & Family. This is especially significant because Fielden & Janet Allison were his teachers at ACC. The Allisons have served as missionaries in Africa for more than 35 years. Some years ago they also got trained in Marriage & Family Therapy. There are very few people who are better suited to apply Marriage & Family studies to the African culture (considering their lifetime understanding of the Africa culture).

African marriages are in serious trouble. As Africa is shifting from arranged marriages to "love marriages" (marriage by choice for love), marriages have become quite unstable.

Divorce rates have skyrocketed where divorce never existed before. Why has this happened? Three main reasons. First, if one chooses marriage, then they can un-choose marriage.

Second, Africans have not yet learned the skills that are essential for forming good marriages. Men still believe that the best way to deal with conflict in marriage is to beat the wife. African men have no idea of how to love their wives and they are quite selfish (e.g. spend their money on themselves and still expect the wives to work the gardens and feed the family). Third, drinking (alcohol). This has become a problem of epidemic portions in Africa today and it (along with adultery) is serious undermining the strength of African families. [Adultery is also leading cause of AIDS deaths].



It is for this reason that we have made "Marriage & Family" one of our six areas of ministry at Daybreak. It is also one of the reasons we have shifted from training single students (or students coming without their wives) to insisting that students be married and bring their wives to Bible College. We want to teach our students the

relational skills of marriage, strengthen their marriages, and train them how to do the same for marriages in the villages where they will return after graduation. And, this is one of the reasons why we are so pleased to have Daniel join our faculty (with his training in Marriage & Family).

Assessment of the Ministry After 10 Years.

We have now been in Zambia for 10.5 years; hence, I thought it would be good for me to write up a report on the work and provide an assessment of the work we have accomplished so far. In doing so, however, I quickly began to realize just how difficult it is to assess the spiritual component of our ministry (which is the primary focus of our work). We may be engaged in holistic missions, but the spiritual dimension remains central to our work. Nevertheless, I was surprised at how difficult it is to assess this area of our ministry.

There are several reasons for this: (a) Communication in Zambia is very poor. A stamp costs a day's wages and most of our students live in very remote areas of Zambia where

electricity does not exist. It is for this reason that we rarely hear back from our students after they graduate and return home. We hear great stories from those we do hear from, but they are only a handful. We have no addresses or any way to contact these graduates of our Bible College.

(b) Because our ministry is a training ministry, the fruits of our ministry are our students and what they will do throughout the course of their lifetime. It will take some years for our work to yield visible fruit. The fruit of our ministry is not measured in their numbers of baptisms or churches planted.

(c) The focus of our ministry is disciple-making. We begin with the spiritual growth of our students and then train them to make disciples. Our ministry is heavily focused on quality, not quantity. So, how do we measure qualitative fruit? How do we take a picture of spiritual transformation in our students? It is easy to baptize lots of people in Africa (show pictures of this), but that is not evidence of kingdom growth. Jesus said that we are to make disciples and that takes a lot of time and effort.

(d) Measuring success in spiritual matters has always proven difficult. Just ask any preacher or church in the USA to assess what progress they have had in spiritual growth in their ministries and you will see them struggle to give any answer! It is impossible to assess spiritual growth (matters of the heart).

(e) It is much easier to report and show pictures of the success we are having in the humanitarian areas of our ministry. Helping orphans, giving glasses to people who have never had glasses, teaching people to feed themselves using drip-irrigation, and all the other things that we do are MUCH easier to report (with pictures). These efforts produce immediate results and I can insert lots of pictures in our newsletters. These efforts impact people's lives in major ways and it is exciting to tell you about it. But, how do I take pictures that show the spiritual growth of our students? And, how do I report success which will take years to reveal (even if we do hear back from some of our students)? We do not want to leave the impression that most of what we are doing is humanitarian work (because this is not the case at all); but I do fear this is the impression that we may create since changing lives outwardly is so much easier to document and report. Reporting spiritual success (inward changes of the heart) is MUCH harder to do.

Report on the Work. Nevertheless, I have tried to write up a report on our work and I have posted this report on our web page (www.zambiamissions.org). You will see a link to the Report on the lower left side under "Newsletters". It is a pdf file that you can download and print (7 pages). I also plan to mail a copy in the near future to all our supporting churches.

In writing this report, I have realized that I need to do a MUCH better job of monitoring (tracking and documenting) the spiritual dimension of our ministry. This means that we have got to figure out a way to stay in contact with our students once they graduate and return to the villages.

Finally, I need to add one very important observation. We have learned a GREAT deal from the first ten years of our work. Despite all my training, EXPERIENCE is the best teacher. We have now taken all this experience and are now integrating it into our training at Daybreak. One of the reasons for moving to Daybreak was in order to create a ministry that would be much

more effective. We now have the space and the land necessary to train older, mature, married students and to train them in a way that is more effective (based on our experience from the past ten years). I believe our future students will be far more successful than those we have trained in the past since we now have both the knowledge and the proper facilities to better train students for ministry in the kingdom of God. We now feel like we know what we are really trying to accomplish and know how to do it.

Agricultural Ministry.

Our students are busy digging their raised beds and setting up their gardens using drip-irrigation. Soon they will be self-supporting. We also presently in the midst of harvesting our 20-acres of maize (corn). And, we are now working toward starting our Chicken operation which will be the first step in our efforts to become self-supporting by 2025.

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

We are excited to report that is expecting her first biological child (she already has two adopted Zambian children). We are expecting a due date of around the middle of Sept.

Education Ministry.

The Primary School at Sonadi continues to operate with about 60 students. Some recent contributions by two generous donors will now allow us to build additional staff and student housing and build the first two classrooms for our Primary School at Daybreak. We will insert a temporary partition in the two classrooms in order to make four classrooms. We hope to accomplish this by January and the start of the new school year. We operate this school on just \$500 per month. Although we hope to develop the Daybreak Primary School into 7 grades with about 500 students, this school will be developed so as to be self-supporting (parents pay school fees).

There is a huge need for this school in our area. The nearest school is 5 miles away and is so overcrowded that they have gone to two half-days: younger grades (6 am to noon) and older grades (noon to 6 pm). What's worst is the fact that the education is quite substandard (poor). Our school will fill a huge need in our area and will enable us to have a powerful influence on the families of these children. It will greatly enhance our evangelistic efforts in our area.

Construction.

We currently have three construction crews working to build our new campus. The Baby House has now reached the roof level. The Bible College Director's house is now within three weeks of completion. They are now putting up the walls on Stella's house (Financial Officer). Soon they will start work on building three new Junior Staff houses, the Primary School (two classrooms), and five student houses. We have two crews making Hydraform blocks (from dirt); one crew digging the dirt and another making the blocks. And, our students are currently building a Chicken House that will hold 750 chickens (building it out of leftover, rejected blocks from the Baby House). This is part of teaching the students how to be self-supporting as rural farmers. They will produce 750 chickens ever 6 weeks.