

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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We are just coming to the end of the Cool Dry Season (when every day is sunshine and 72 degrees). With each day that passes we will now enter into the Hot-Dry Season (with October being the hottest), followed by the Rainy Season. Obviously, water becomes a problem in Zambia during the two Dry Seasons (7 months), but this year is especially bad since most of the country didn't get enough rain during the past Rainy Season (Dec-April).

There are always consequences when this happens. Many people didn't grow enough maize (corn) this year (which is their primary staple food) and, thus, many people are going hungry this year. In addition, the low river levels has reduced the amount of power that the country can generate. This had already become a major problem for Zambia (as the country has not invested in developing its electrical capacity to keep up with growth); but now the problem has become very serious with the lack of rain.

As a result the country has had to implement "power sharing." They have divided the country into three groups and they rotate which group doesn't get power for 8 hours a day. So, right now we are in the group that doesn't get power from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm. Not only is this most inconvenient, but it is also have a major impact on the economy of the country. It certainly makes you appreciate the modern convenience of electricity!

Report: Bible College.

Classes. We are just starting the third semester of the year and the students are beginning with two new classes: (a) Lorie is teaching a class on "Where There Is No Doctor" which is a class on basic medicine, healthcare, nutrition, agriculture, and other topics related to health and well-being. Daniel Mbele is teaching a class on the Gospels. Michael (Bible College Director) is not teaching right now as he is recovering from an auto accident (see below).

Fielden & Janet Allison will be here in early September to teach a one week, short-course on Marriage & Family. The Allisons have 40 years of experience in Africa and they have a degree in Marriage & Family Therapy. This makes them among the best in Africa to teach this class. Daniel was a student of theirs for three years when he attended the ACC (college) in Swaziland. With their continued guidance Daniel will be develop our Marriage & Family ministry and training program in Marriage & Family.

We just started construction this week on a new block of student housing (see picture below). This housing block will include five houses (apartments) for married students. Because of the generous contributions of two donors, we should have this building completed by January so that we can recruit five additional married students for the beginning of the next school year that begins in January.



Student gardens. Students have made great progress in getting their gardens going. Because we have just shifted to this new campus, it has taken us a bit longer to get everything set up and working properly. It took some time for us to get all the infrastructure in place for the water supply and we had to buy all the drip kits and water barrels. See picture below.

The students have planted rape (collard greens), tomatoes, beans, onions (red & white), carrots, okra, cabbage, eggplant, impwa (small yellow eggplant), potatoes (white & sweat), etc. This training will enable the students to become self-supporting. They have also just started work on a Chicken house so that they can learn to grow chickens.



Education Ministry.

We also just started work two weeks ago on the first phase (first two classrooms) of our Primary School (see picture below). We expect to complete the school in time for the start of the new school year in January. We expect to enroll about 100 children. Eventually we hope to build enough classrooms for about 500-700 children.



Why build a Primary School? There are many reasons why we believe building a school is worth doing? (1) We need a good school for the children of our staff and students. The closest school is 8 miles away. It is extremely over-crowded and space is limited (waiting list). The quality of education is also very poor. It will cost us just \$500 per month to operate our school of 100 students. We are already spending that much in fuel to transport our staff and student children.

(2) The school provides our students and/or their wives with practical training in becoming a Community School Teacher. One of the things we are teaching our students is how to start and operate a Community School in their village as this is a great need in Zambia and will increase the influence that our students will have in the villages where they serve.

(3) The need is great and the cost is minimal. There is only one Primary School (mentioned above) in our whole area (radius of about 15 miles). This area is a fast growing area and the one existing school is seriously overcrowded even after having gone to two shifts per day (morning school and afternoon school session). The cost is also very little. Currently we are spending only \$500 for 100 children (\$5 per student). Eventually, our school will become full self-supporting (based on school fees). In fact, it is quite possible that the school could even help generate some money to help fund the overall ministry (since our goal is to make this ministry 85% self-supporting by 2025).

(4) Having a Primary School increases the influence of our ministry in our District. We want to be of service to our community and this is a great way to do so (along with our healthcare program, optical clinic, and orphan-care ministry); but providing these low-costs services also do a great deal to increase our influence and to open doors for us in our area. This is especially important for our training program as it opens doors for our students and gives them plenty of opportunities to engage in practical ministry training in our area. Because of our ministry, our students are able to go out into the village and be welcomed by the villages where they go.

(5) We believe it is the right thing to do. It is part of our holistic approach to missions. Over the last two years as I have visited all of our supporting churches, I have spoken on this subject and tried to explain why we believe in holistic missions. Poverty

and ignorance is a consequence of sin and it entraps people into a way of living that actually hinders people from being what God wants people to be spiritually (as well as physically). We can't teach people to stop stealing as long as they are living at survival level (dog-eat-dog mentality); but when we empower people with the skills and knowledge to escape such dire poverty (survival mentality), then teaching people how to live like Christ (e.g. stop stealing) becomes possible. Providing a children with a good education is critically important to defeating the power of darkness in Africa.

Agricultural Ministry.

We are about to start construction on a Chicken Run for 1000 chickens. Once this is built, we will begin raising chickens (broilers) for sale. There is a huge market for chickens in Zambia. This the first step in developing our farming operations that will enable this ministry to become 85% self-supporting by 2015.

We have just finished our second year (crop) of maize (corn). We have processed it and put it in 180 50-Kgs (110 pound) bags. This comes to a total of 20,000 pounds of maize. We will now wait until October-December to sell our maize when the price is highest (end of dry season when people have run out of maize). In December (when the rains begin) we will plant soybeans. This is a much better market for soybeans. In the future we will rotate between soybeans and maize.

We have also started clearing the last section of our campus (15 acres of bush). Because it is the thickest section of bush and we know that it has several big, black mamba's living in it, we decided to burn it. This is where the best soil on our campus is located (and why the bush was thickest) and it is where we will set up our tomato farm and other cash crops grown by irrigation. This is part of our plan to become 85% self-supporting by 2015.

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

Kerin is now in her last month of pregnancy. She should give birth sometime in September. She seems to be doing quite well and everything appears to be fine with the baby. We will post a birth notice on our two Facebook pictures when it happens (www.facebook.com/kerinskids and www.facebook.com/zambiamissions).

Construction.

We just finished construction on three houses: two Senior Staff houses (College Director and Financial Officer) and one Junior Staff house (Construction Supervisor). You can get updates with pictures on our Facebook page (cf. above).

Auto Accident.

Michael (College Director) was involved in a serious auto accident on Aug 3. A drunk hit him on the Driver's side as he was making a turn. Michael suffered several broken ribs and pelvis. He was knocked unconscious and had to spend 3 weeks in the hospital. He is now home recovering (although still bed-ridden for few more weeks). I posted a picture of the wrecked car on our Facebook page (cf. above). The vehicle was totaled and, unfortunately, the drunk who hit him has no insurance and has no money to pay for replacing the vehicle. So, we'll have to do without.