

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

1910 Sycamore View Rd
Memphis, TN 38134
(901) 372-1874

Web: www.zambiamissions.org

David & Lorie French

P.O. Box 350070
Lusaka, Zambia (Africa)
zambiamissions@gmail.com

November 2015



Lorie and I have been traveling non-stop across the USA for the past two months. We just returned from a three-week trip to the Carolinas. We still have quite a few churches to visit before Christmas and our return to Zambia on Dec 29.

We have made tremendous progress in the work this year. It has been one year since we moved to our new campus and I must confess that I did not expect to have accomplished all that has been accomplished this past year. All of our ministries are back up and running, plus the addition of the Optical Clinic (see below), and we just graduated our first class of students from the new campus last Saturday (Nov 14). We also have redesigned our Bible training program and hired a new Director and Bible Teacher for the College.

There is one correction I need to make from the last newsletter. In that newsletter I was speaking about our 2025 Plan – a plan to make the ministry 85% self-supporting by the year 2025. I mistakenly typed in 2015 instead of 2025 (which makes a BIG DIFFERENCE)! Considering the fact that I am now 58 years old, I have committed myself to making sure the ministry becomes as self-supporting as soon as possible with a goal of reaching the 85% mark no later than ten years from now. My goal is to free the entire ministry from any dependency upon me by 2025.

We already are making great progress to this end. We have cleared, planted and harvested 20 acres of maize (corn) and will rotate this crop with soybeans (which we will plant within the next 2 months). Our students have now dug and planted their raised beds (students feed themselves). And, this month we are starting construction on the first of six chicken houses that will enable us to raise between 3000 and 5000 chickens (every six weeks).

Report: Bible College.

We celebrated the graduation of our first class from our new campus at Daybreak last Saturday (see picture above). This class was a result of a partial transition to our new three-year program which we will fully implement in 2016. This class was smaller than usual for several reasons: limited student housing on the new campus, transitional period from one campus to a new campus with a new training approach, and the fact that some students were unable to complete the program (six students were unable to complete all the course work).

We are initiating a major campaign to recruit a new type of students for this new program. This hasn't been done since I arrived in Zambia in 2004; but with the implementation of our new training program, there is a need to re-education the churches about our program and the kind of students that we are now seeking to recruit. Our standards and pre-requisites for this program have increased significantly. We are now recruiting married students between 25-35 who are already active in ministry and can be recommended by their churches. And, because we will be training fewer students (30-35 students) for three years, we only have 12 slots per year for new students (as we will graduate 10-12 each year and recruit 10-12 new students each year). Thus, our recruitment efforts have become much more selective and thorough.



We were especially blessed in September to have Fielden and Janet Allison (along with Keith & Robin Honey from Botswana) to come to Daybreak to teach a class on Marriage & the Family (picture above). The Allisons have served as missionaries in Africa for more than 40 years (Janet has a degree in Marriage & Family Therapy from Harding). They are uniquely qualified to teach this class as they are able to combine the theory of Marriage & Family with their extensive knowledge and experience with African families and culture. This is the fifth time the Allisons have taught this class for us.



I have just hired a new Bible teacher for our new training program. His name is Mustapha Sandi and he comes from Sierra Leone. Mustapha will also serve as the Director for the Bible College as he has extensive experience serving as the head of other Bible Colleges in West Africa. He is 59 years old and will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that our two current teachers do not yet have. We expect Mustapha to remain with us for about 3-5 years. One of his main tasks will be to train and develop our staff so that they can assume leadership before he returns to his home country. This will greatly enhance our training program especially as Sandi brings with him extensive experience in evangelism and spiritual formation (which is the primary focus of our training).

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

It is with great joy that we announce the birth of our fifth grandchild, Likando Julian Mashekwa (born on Sept 25). This is Kerin's first biological child. We have just space to post one picture below, but you can find lots of pictures on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kerinskids).



Kerin did have to endure 18 hours of labor (without any medication) and, then, ended up having to have a C-Section. Then, she ended up with an infection and had to be hospitalized again. Likando also developed a serious case of jaundice and had to go through some special treatments. Once these issues were cleared up (after about two weeks), both she and the baby have done quite well and appear to be in good health now.

Work on the Baby House will resume within the week as we proceed with the installation of the roof. We temporarily shifted over to the Primary School and Student housing since the need for these facilities was more urgent (since the new school year begins in January). We should complete the Baby House before the end of Feb or March.

Education Ministry.

The Primary School should be completed by the middle of December and just in time for the new school year in January (see picture above). The school has two classrooms and an



office. We will temporarily divide the two classrooms to make four classes. Our hope is that we will be able to build one or two classrooms per year until we have sufficient space for about 500-700 children in grades K through 7.

Although some children will be given financial assistance, the school will charge a small fee sufficient to pay teacher salaries and enable the school to be self-supporting and self-sustaining. Not only will this provide a much-needed service to the community, it will provide the practical experience needed to train our students and their wives in how to teach and start a Community School in their villages upon their return home after graduation.

Optical Clinic.

During our trip over to Zambia, Lorie and I managed to transport all the optical equipment for our new Optical Clinic. We also work on clearing out on of the shipping containers that we have now converted into the Optical Clinic. We also set up all the shelves and organized our inventory of about 10,000 prescription eye-glasses. On the last weekend before Lorie left Zambia, she conducted our first Optical Clinic on our new campus (see picture below).



Our Optical Clinic will operate only about one or two days per month. Most of our operations will be conducted off campus in the surrounding villages of our campus. This will not be an expensive ministry to operate as we will be able to use our existing staff and students. Our operations will also be limited to our supply of prescription eye-glasses. The Lions Club will give us all the eye-glasses we need, but we must pay for cost of shipping the glasses to Zambia. We are searching for low-cost solutions, but it is the cost that will limit the number of patients we will be able to serve and the number of days we can operate the clinic.

This is one of our most fun ministries in Zambia as it is a life-changing event in the lives of the local people. Giving glasses to 50, 60 and 70 year old people is almost the same as giving sight to the blind! It is such a joy to see the people jump and dance for joy (literally)! It doesn't cost us much, but it makes a huge difference in these people's lives – people who have never had a pair of glasses before and have lived in a fuzzy world for most of their lives.

This is part of our "being Jesus" to the people of our area and it opens up more doors for evangelism than just about anything else we have ever done! If you would like to assist in this ministry, you can do so by sending donations to "Zambia Missions" (address at top of newsletter) and writing "optical ministry" on the memo line.