

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Since the last Newsletter, most of our efforts have been devoted to finishing up key construction projects and preparing for the coming of students and the start of the new school year on April 1 (including trips across Zambia to recruit good students which has taken a lot of time and effort for the past four months).

Bible College: Teaching Staff

Since our last Newsletter we hired one more teacher for the Bible College which brings our number to six teachers. The fifth Teacher hired is Bright Himakampa who is a 32 year old graduate of African Christian College in Swaziland. This now gives us two older, experienced teachers (Sandi and Ndhlovu who are both in their late fifties and pictured fourth and third from left below) and three younger teachers (Daniel, Bright, and MacDonald, pictured first, second and fifth from left in the picture below). This gives us two experienced teachers who can train the three younger men for the future of our Bible program.



Not pictured above is our sixth teacher, Francis Mwanza, who is our Agriculture Teacher. Francis is a graduate of the Agriculture Program of Klaus Muller (which is a three-year vocational training program). I believe this to be one of the best agriculture programs in Africa, so we are most pleased to have Francis to join our staff as he will greatly increase the effectiveness of agricultural training efforts.

Bible College: Classes Begin for 2016

Our new class of students will be arriving in the next few days as classes for the next school year will begin on April 3. We are MOST excited about this new group of students. We believe these will be the best students we have ever had. We believe this for three reasons.

First, we believe this because we invested just over four months recruiting this new batch of students. It has been more than 11 years since we engaged in a concerted effort to advertise our Bible College and recruit students from across Zambia. For the past 11 years we have relied on word of mouth and former students (to recommend new students). But, now that we have moved to a new campus and are operating under a new name (Daybreak), not many people know about our move and our new training program. Thus, we felt it best that we delay the start of this new school year (from January to April 1) so that we could concentrate on advertising our new school and revised program. This has involved a lot of effort since the only way to advertise in Zambia is to travel the country (cost of transportation).

The second reason for our optimism about this incoming class of students has to do with the fact that we are now fully implementing our new three-year training program (which we were only about to partially implement two years ago). We are now moving from a one to two year program involving mostly single men (or men without their wives) to a three-year training program involving married men (who will bring their wives). We were unable to do this before now because we have never had any married student housing (which we now have). So, we are now recruiting few students and focusing on training them longer (increased quality of training).

The third reasons for our optimism has to do with our increased prerequisites for admission. Because we are now focusing on training married students for longer periods of time, it means that our students are more mature (older) and more committed to life in ministry. And, because we are recruiting fewer students, we are now able to be much more selective about whom we invite to come. Our standards have increased and we spend more time learning about our students before we invite them to come.

In the coming months I will take pictures of our students and present a short biographical sketch of our new students (and their families). I will probably post these on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/zambiamissions) and in future Newsletters as space permits.

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

As I reported in the last Newsletter, we have reassigned workers to complete construction of the Baby House (for

orphaned and sick infants). We expect this facility to be completed by April 15.

Completion of the Baby House will, however, present us with a new challenge: **funding**. Kerin has been operating her ministry on a shoe-string budget for the past 6-7 years (less than 5% of our total budget). All of the support for this ministry comes from individuals and Ladies Bible Classes. There are only about two churches that are presently contributing to this ministry.

This, of course, was sufficient when Kerin was single and operating her ministry out of her own house; but now things have radically changed. Kerin is married with three children (yet still living on less than \$800 per month salary and without any health insurance). And, with the completion of the Baby House (which will enable Kerin to increase capacity to 30 infants), the time has now come that we have got to raise money for this ministry. So, one of the things I am going to be focusing on this year is raising new monthly support for this orphan-care ministry.

If you or your church would like to **contribute to this ministry**, you can do so by sending your donations to our address (top of Newsletter); write "Kerin's Kids" on the memo line. Remember that donations to this ministry literally save the lives of babies (and for a monthly cost that's less than dinner at Denny's)!

We also would like to remind you about Kerin's Kids Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kerinskids). This is a great way to follow news and see pictures of the kids that Kerin is working with in Zambia.

Daybreak Farm.

We planted our first crop of soybeans in December just as the rains began in earnest this year (although 3-4 weeks late). The rains are now ending in Zambia, and it appears that we have a good crop of soybeans to be harvested in the next couple of months (20 acres). There are more pictures on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/zambiamissions).



In the last Newsletter I also announced the completion of our first Chicken House (including a picture). We have just raised our first batch of 500 birds (which are going to market this week). We will re-invest our profit into increasing the number of our next batch and continue this process until we reach full capacity of 3000 chickens. Then, we will build the next Chicken House. This is the first step toward developing our Daybreak Farm (chickens, pigs and tomatoes) until we are able to achieve 85% self-supporting by 2025.

Education Ministry: Primary School.

As I also announced in the last Newsletter, our new Primary School (two classrooms) began operation on February 8 (Pre-School through Grade 6). Lorie hired four teachers (spending two months training them). Enrollment has now reached 55 paying students (as the School must be fully self-supporting in three years). If we can raise the money to do so, we really need to build two more classrooms by the end of August when our students are scheduled to bring their wife and children to campus.

In case you missed the previous Newsletter, I would encourage you to download and read it from our web page (www.zambiamissions.com) as I explained why this Primary School is important to our ministry. By the time we reach full capacity in the Bible College, I estimate that we will have about 80-90 kids living on campus (staff and student families) who will need a school to attend.

Construction.

Bible College. We have now completed five student houses (Block A) and will finish Block B (five more houses) by the time our students arrive April 1. It will take us another four weeks, however, to complete the third block of five houses (Block C). Our construction workers are also working on completing the Student Chicken House (capacity for 600 chickens) within the next two weeks and the Outside Student Kitchens shortly thereafter (kitchens are simply a covered space with a sink and space for cooking using small braisers).

Auditorium. Construction continues on the Auditorium (Church). We have never built a building this large before (50 x 105 feet), so we have had to do some extra planning and preparation (consulting others). We have always mixed our own concrete in our construction, but we thought it best this time to buy concrete for the floor from an outside concrete company (who would do the finishing work).

I am now reminded as to why we have always done all the work ourselves. We had to pay in advance (always have to in Zambia), and although this company guaranteed they would do the job within three days, we ended up having to wait two weeks for delivery. Then, they did only one-half of the floor – insisting that that was all we paid for! So, it has taken us a week to argue with them (threatening to bring in our lawyer). They have now promised to deliver the remaining concrete except for a small amount yet-to-be determined (which they still insist we have not paid for). This is why I had to assume the role of General Contractor ten years ago. Such is typical of doing business in Zambia. Pictured below is one-half of concrete being delivered.

