

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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### **Financial Appeal**

I hate to start off our Newsletter with a plea for financial assistance, but we are facing some deadlines that require funds (soon) we don't have. We have just five months to build two apartment blocks (10 apartments plus furniture), one student chicken house, and irrigation equipment for ten student families. We have just 5 months before our next class of students are scheduled to arrive and we don't yet have housing for them. Total cost: Approx. \$50,000.

It takes 3 months to build one apartment block (5 married student apartments), so we don't have much time. It costs about \$3750 per apartment, so I am wondering if you or your congregation might be willing to fund the building of one student apartment?

**Future Construction.** If we receive this funding for the apartment blocks, this will give us one more year (Jan 2018) before we have to build one more apartment building (5 student houses), a third student chicken house, and four house for our Bible teachers. Four of our teachers are currently living in student houses (which don't have indoor plumbing and kitchens). We need to build houses for these teachers so as to free up the student houses that will be needed when our third and final class of students arrive in Jan 2018. When these facilities are completed, it will complete all the necessary (essential) housing that we need for our teaching staff and all our students (three classes of students in our three-year training program). These facilities are essential to our basic operations. We cannot operate our school without these facilities. Without them we will be forced to skip a year of student training. So, it is critical that we meet these deadlines.

### **Report: Bible College.**

This is turning out to be the best crop of students that we have ever had. Now that we have built apartments (instead of dorms for single students), we are now able to train older, married students who are more mature and have already had some ministry experience. Hence, the quality of our students has increased dramatically this year! In addition, now that the students have successfully planted their gardens and are producing chickens (becoming self-supporting), they are now bringing their wives and children to campus. This is the first time in our 12-year history that we have had married students with their wives on campus (a goal we have had for more than 6 years)! Now that we have relocated to our new campus

and have built houses (apartments) for married students, we have finally achieved this long, awaited goal of training married couples for ministry.

We believe that training the wives of our students is just as important as training the men – sometimes even more important since women do most of the work in Zambia and are the ones who disseminate (distribute) new information and skills to others. Most learning in Zambia passes between women, not the men. So, we believe it is paramount that we train the students' wives for ministry; but this presents us with a new and major challenge: **How** are we to do this? It is difficult enough just trying to find qualified male teachers; how are we to find teachers for the women?

This is a major challenge and it pretty much means that we will have to train up women who can teach and train the wives in ministry. This will take time – and it is yet another responsibility that will fall upon my good wife, Lorie! Already Lorie has started teaching the students' wives and she is now working with our Bible teacher's wives in an effort to train them to work with our student wives. Expanding our skills training will not be so difficult; the difficult challenge involves developing the spiritual and ministerial training.

### **Kerin's Kids (Orphans).**

Construction on the Baby House is finally done! We are still going through all the government paperwork required before we can expand our ministry and begin using the facility. Of course, anything involving the government takes time (six months and counting)!

Unfortunately, we suffered the loss of one of the babies that Kerin has been helping this past month. The baby was just a few weeks old and was quite sick (appearing to have cerebral palsy). Early one morning as they were getting up, the baby had a major censure and stopped breathing. Kerin called Lorie and began CPR as they rushed to the nearest clinic, but unfortunately, the child never recovered. There was nothing Kerin or anyone could have done.

Although we know this kind of thing is going to happen when trying to care for children who are seriously sick, disabled, and often seriously malnourished, losing a child is a MOST DIFFICULT thing, especially for Kerin who cares so deeply for these children. She and Lorie were emotionally distraught over this for several days afterward.

It also happens that the infant came from the same village that Ryan came from (child who was deaf and blind for whose sight we were able to restore through an operation 4 years ago). We were most afraid that the family and relatives (village) would blame us for the loss of the child (as Africans don't tend to believe that bad things just happen). There is always a cause. So, as you can imagine, Kerin was quite fearful of how the family and others would respond.

Thus, it came as great relief when the grandfather (most respected member of the family) spoke up quickly to reassure Kerin that he did not blame her. He said, *"We know you and the good work you are doing to help the children in this District; I don't want you to be discouraged by this loss so that you stop helping these sick and needy children; please don't stop."*

This was the "heart medicine" that Kerin most needed. Not only does it affirm the work that she is doing (knowing that the people of our area know about our efforts and value them); but it also (more importantly) means that God is being glorified through our ministry in this area. This is our reward, knowing that we are helping the people of this area see Jesus.

### **Agricultural Ministry.**

We successfully harvested our 20 acres of soybeans although we had to do so by hand (cost of renting a combine was too much). We will now also have to process the soybeans (also done by hand) over the next month or two before we can actually sell our crop. We have also successfully raised and sold three batches of chickens. We are now up to 800 chickens (every six weeks) and are increasing our number with each batch as we reinvest the profits into increased production.

### **Education Ministry.**

Our Primary School continues to grow (Grades Pre-K through Grade 8). With the coming of our Bible College student's wives and children, we now have 11 new students. This is one of the reasons we found it necessary to start our own school as there are no local schools in our area that can enroll these children. This now means we have a total of 70 students (counting the 59 children from the surrounding community).

We are also most happy to report that the Headmaster for our school (Isaac) has now graduated with his teaching degree. Isaac is doing an incredible job and has exceeded our expectations both in his administrative and spiritual qualities.

### **Meet One of Our Students: Moses Mwansa.**

Over the next few newsletters, I am going to include a section in the Newsletter so as to introduce you to one of our students. This month I'd like to introduce you to Moses Mwansa and his wife, Joyce. He is the oldest of our students. He has three children and comes from Kasama (Northern Province). He is from the Bemba tribe (which is the largest tribe in Zambia). We have not had many students from this area in the past, so we are most happy to have Moses. Kasama (his hometown) is the Provincial capital of the Northern Province (although he lives a few miles out from the city in the rural area). See picture (right).

The Bemba tribe is also where the Catholics are the strongest. More than half of the tribe claim to be Catholic and Moses was

a Catholic before his conversion in 1999. Within a year of his conversion, he became what he calls a "lay preacher man" (i.e., he became a self-supporting preacher). This, I think, shows the depth of his love for God. This fact is also important to us because it means he has been active in ministry for quite some time (ministry experience) and shows that he is not serving God for money. This is the kind of student we want to recruit: married with experience in ministry (especially self-supporting).

When asked why he came Daybreak (our Bible College), he wrote, *"I came to DBC to be equipped in being a spiritual leaders and to learn more about farming using drip irrigation systems. This will help me be effective in providing my community with life skills to enable us to be self-sufficient in food production. This will also help to share the gospel with my community."*

He goes on to say that he has already seen a lot of change in his life (although he has only been here for four months). Among the changes he lists is the spiritual growth that he has experienced and, he adds, *"I am now able to tell others about Jesus and his love."* Lord willing, Moses will be well prepared to do just this when he graduates in Nov 2018.



**Student Agriculture.** Our students have now successfully planted their gardens (digging raised beds and installing drip irrigation systems) and they have now successfully raised two batches of chickens (200 chickens for every 5 students). Several of the students have responded with much joy and surprise as few of them thought they could ever learn to do such things. As one student recently commented, "I never thought I'd ever learn to raise chickens and earn a profit."

Our agriculture teacher, Francis, is doing an awesome job teaching the students how to be self-supporting in ministry. I'll try to explain in the next newsletter why this is so important for the growth of the church in Zambia. This month we will terminate the stipend we give the students for 3 months as they are now self-supporting.