

# Zambia Newsletter

## Daybreak Zambia

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There is much to report in this Newsletter: the start of a new school year, an outbreak of cholera, staff changes, progress in construction and agriculture, etc. It also just feels like we are finally reaching our stride as certain key components now seem to be in place.

### **Outbreak of Cholera.**

There has been an outbreak of cholera here in Zambia this past month. More than 3000 cases have been reported, most of which are from the Lusaka Province (i.e., the area in which we live). Cholera is basically spread through **contaminated food and water** and thus, occurs mostly among the poorest people (e.g., people living in the slums of Lusaka). It is rarely spread through casual contact, but it can be a deadly illness. Quite a few people have died in our area. In fact, a man living on a farm next to our campus died just a few days ago (which was surprising since our area is rural and not a slum). We believe he contracted the disease from a trip to Lusaka where he drank or ate contaminated food.

This has produced quite a scare in Zambia and led to what I believe is a bit of an over-reaction as the government shut down all the schools, churches and outdoor markets throughout the entire country during the first week of January (even in areas where there was no cholera). What was interesting to me was the fact that they did not shut down the bars! Of course, this produced a great deal of complaining, and after one week, the government lifted the ban on church meetings and did shut down the bars in Lusaka. After two weeks, the government finally lifted the ban on schools.

### **Bible College: A New Milestone.**

Due to the government ban on schools, the start of the new school year here at Daybreak Bible College was delayed two weeks. Our new class of students totals about 20 students. With this new class of students, Daybreak has finally passed a major milestone in our history. We are now (for the first time) a three-year

training program. We now have 40 students plus their wives (who are part of the women's program).

This brings our total number of students to more than 70. Also, starting this coming December, we will begin graduating a class of students each year from our Bible College. This is a goal that I have had for more than 8 years (to have a three-year program for married students and their wives). So, it is with great delight that we celebrate this new accomplishment. Pictured below are our Bible College teachers for this year.



Women's Program. We have promoted **Jean Muleya** (wife of Boniface Mambali) to be the head of our women's training program. Violet Phiri (who was head of the women's program) was offered a government teaching job in December. Jean has been working with the women's program since her husband (Boniface) joined our teaching staff in August. She will be an excellent replacement as she is older and is already well-respected throughout Zambia (as she is frequently invited to speak at women's workshops throughout the country).

### **Daybreak Student in the News.**

One of our students (Martin Kazembe) is a well-known singer in Zambia and has recorded several records (he sings Acapella which is quite popular in Zambia). He recently sang at the Kombani Radio Music Awards (held at the New Government Complex). Not only did he sing several songs (after which he was given a standing ovation), but he was given an award (CNN Monze Best Gospel Song Award).

An article about Martin and the award he received was featured in the national newspaper, along with a picture of him receiving his award. The article states that he is “always preaching about salvation” and that he has temporarily stopped recording songs so that he can focus on his studies at Daybreak. The article goes on to say that he “is currently pursuing a three-year degree in pastoral and agricultural studies at the prestigious Daybreak Bible College.”



### **Update: Finances**

I am **most thankful** to all of you who responded to our appeal for additional contributions (last Newsletter) so that we could complete the necessary preparations to add the third-year to our college program. As a result, we have been able to complete **Block E** and have the funds necessary to complete the **final apartment block** (five apartments) for student housing which must be completed by April 15 when the first-year student wives will be arriving. We were also able to complete the **Chicken House** for the third-year students (capacity for 2500 chickens), and we were able to buy all the necessary drip-kits and agricultural supplies necessary for the new incoming students.

Although I was quite worried in November (when we did not have the necessary funds to move forward with the third-year program), I determined to move forward in faith that God would provide. Indeed, **God has provided** what was needed for us to move forward as planned!

### **Agricultural Ministry.**

As just mentioned, we have now purchased all the drip kits and agricultural supplies needed to start our new students with their gardens and chicken. We have also negotiated a new contract for the students so that they can start selling their chickens (3500 every six weeks).

Unfortunately, we have had to put a temporary halt to our Daybreak Chicken operation. For the past two years we have experienced many problems in establishing a reliable buyer (contract) for our chickens. The buyers have failed to

pick up the chickens on time, have failed to provide transport as promised, failed to pay, and have found many other ways to cheat us. So, we have decided that we need to focus just on the students' chickens as we need to make sure they are able to secure a reliable contract and earn a profit (especially with the addition of the third-year program which increases the number of chickens by another 2500). Once we get the students' chicken business established, then we will turn our attention back to developing the Chicken Business for Daybreak (which is part of our efforts to become more self-supporting).

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

As we already announced on Facebook, Kerin is now expecting her second biological child. She is currently in her 25<sup>th</sup> week; but there have been some complications, and we are now trying to avoid any type of infection. Her pregnancy has basically become high risk and we are now working through a very critical phase. It is doubtful she will make it to full term, but we are hopeful she will make it to at least week 33 (which is the critical week). A premature delivery after week 33 has a much higher positive outcome.

So, we would very much appreciate your prayers on behalf of Kerin during the next few weeks. We will post updates on Kerin's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/kerinskids](http://www.facebook.com/kerinskids)).

### **Education Ministry.**

As previously reported, we have completed construction on three new classrooms. Now with the beginning of a new school year, we are increasing our enrollment. We expect to enroll more than 200 children for this next school year. Lorie has been quite busy reorganizing the school, hiring a new teacher, and conducting some teacher training during the past few weeks. In fact, the delay in the beginning of the school year (due to cholera) has actually proven to be a blessing as Lorie has had more time to make these improvements.

### **New Staff Member: Michelo Maambo.**

We have finally hired a **properly trained, qualified financial person** to handle our finances at Daybreak. Her name is Michelo Maambo. Due to the cost, we have tried for several years to use various staff members to handle the finances; but as our ministry has developed and become more complicated, we have finally decided to hire a qualified, experienced Financial Officer. This has already made a huge difference in our operations and has increased our efficiency (better organization).