

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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Despite the pandemic, the ministry in Zambia is proceeding as normal. The only part of our ministry that has been hindered is the students' ability to go out into the local villages to engage in practical ministry. Everything else is going on as usual. Although Lorie and I have not yet been able to travel back to Zambia due to the pandemic, we have the best staff we have ever had, and they are doing a fantastic job.

We will celebrate the graduation of our fourth class of students at the end of this month. This is the fourth group of students to complete our 3-year training program since we moved to our new campus in 2015 and implemented our new and much improved training program.

Although there is much I could report about the work in Zambia, I would like to focus this Newsletter on providing a brief summary of what this ministry is accomplishing in Zambia. I think it is important for all of you who are contributing to the ministry to hear what your support is accomplishing.

Our mission statement states that our purpose in Zambia is to "develop self-supporting, spiritual leaders who are equipped for holistic ministry and to provide whatever humanitarian assistance we are able to deliver."

## **Making A Difference: Spiritual Leadership**

What does your giving to this ministry accomplish? (1) Your support goes to training men and their wives to be spiritual leaders. This is the greatest need in Zambia. Although Zambia is one of the most Christianized nations in Africa, it is perhaps the most superficial in its application of Christian faith.

This is lack of spiritual depth is due to many factors, such as the lack of leadership training. This is related to another factor which has to do with the lack of missionaries. Because Zambia was merely a province of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) with a very rural population and important to the British only for its copper, most of the missionaries ended up in the much more developed provinces of Rhodesia. Zambia was somewhat ignored. Most of the missionaries in Rhodesia traveled up into Zambia only for short trips to plant churches but few chose to live in Zambia for very long. And it is for this reason

that less attention was given to developing training programs to develop spiritual leaders who knew the Bible and understood what Christianity is really all about. Thus, the churches of Zambia did not have leaders who were spiritually mature and had a good knowledge of the Bible. Spiritual superficiality became the norm.

Whenever this sort of thing happens, Christianity ends up being absorbed into the prevailing religious culture. Thus, in Zambia, Christianity was understood and adapted to African Tradition Religion. I won't go into all the details of how this undermines biblical faith, but it ends up producing a view of Christianity that is all about doing what will appease God so God will bless the Christian worshipper. Most Christians in Zambia now think that Christianity is about going to church, worshipping God, throwing some money into the collection, and participating in a few other such Christian rituals that will appease God and persuade God to bless them; however, there is no real change in the way one lives since ethics have never been part of African Traditional Religion.

Nor does this view of Christianity eradicate the practice of witchcraft and the beliefs of African Traditional Religion. Thus, it is not uncommon for Christians to go to church on Sunday morning and then visit the witchdoctor on Sunday afternoon. This also explains why the "Health, Wealth, and Success Gospel" has flourished in places like Zambia. It is all about doing what will persuade God to bless us with material prosperity.

It is for this reason that Christianity has had little positive impact on the people of Zambia. If Christianity is to mature and ever have a positive impact on the country, then it must start with developing spiritual leaders who know the Bible and whose lives have been transformed into the image of Christ. This is the greatest need in Zambia, and this is what our ministry in Zambia is seeking to accomplish: develop spiritual leaders.

## **Making A Difference: Equipping Leaders**

(2) Your support equips our students with the skills needed to support themselves in ministry through drip-irrigation so that they can engage in ministry without being a burden to their congregations (which do not have the means to support them) and enable them to raise foods that will be more nutritious for them and their families. It also means that they will not go

hungry during the drought years (which occur in Zambia more often than in past years). This training also equips our students in their ability to engage in holistic ministry (cf. below).

(3) Your support equips our students to engage in **holistic ministry**. The agricultural training enables them not only to support themselves in ministry, but it also equips them to teach others how to grow food using drip-irrigation. In addition, our training equips our students and their wives in how to start a Primary School in their churches and how to serve as community teachers in these village schools. Also, our program trains our students to minister to orphans and vulnerable children and teaches them how to develop community programs in their villages to respond to the needs of others (especially children).

### **Making A Difference: Saving Children**

(4) Your support helps **save and improve the lives of children** (who are the most vulnerable people in Africa). We have developed two ministries that we believe enable us to accomplish the most good with what resources we have.

First, there is **Kerin's Kids Children's Ministry**. It is estimated that one-half of the children who are born in Zambia die before they are 12 years of age, but looking more closely, it is evident that most of the children are dying in the first 3 years of life due to malnutrition. Zambia is the most malnourished country in Africa, and this is why so many mothers die young or are too malnourished to adequately nurse their children. There is no substitute for nursing children if the mother is unable to do so. This is why so many children get sick and die in the first three years of life. Not only this but many mothers have HIV-AIDS, which undermines their health and leads to increased deaths among children due to having been infected from their mothers.

Kerin's Kids is a ministry that provides baby formula to mothers who are unable to nurse their children and to families where the mother has died. In some cases, Kerin's Kids provides food and other assistance to mothers whose health is of serious concern. Kerin's Kids also provides medical assistance to children who are sick or need hospitalization. And, in certain cases when the mother or family is unable to care for an infant, Kerin's Kids provides temporary care (housing) for these children until the mother or the extended family is able to take responsibility again for the child.

The second children's ministry we have developed is the **Primary School** (Grades K-7). This is another great need in Zambia. The educational system of Zambia is quite inadequate. Teachers are poorly motivated and frequently do not show up for work. Classes are over-crowded and may have just one textbook for the whole class. In addition, Zambia is still using the old British rote-system.

It is difficult to see how Zambia can ever prosper from such an educational system. It has always been our philosophy that the best way to help people is by equipping and empowering people to take responsibility and do for themselves. It is the old adage, "teach a man to fish." Thus, we believe one of the best things we can do for the children of Zambia (and for the country) is to give

them a good education with a Christian foundation. This is what our Primary School is designed to accomplish.

I should also mention that our Primary School provides a nutritional, protein-enriched lunch every day. According to the U.N., Zambia is the most malnourished country in Africa. Most of the children attending our school are coming from several commercial farms surrounding our campus, and they are among the poorest of the poor. They are severely malnourished. This, of course, seriously undermines their future health and academic performance. Providing a nutritional lunch everyday costs us only about \$10 per day to feed about 120 kids and this makes a significant difference in the health and academic development of these children.

### **Want to Make A Difference in the World?**

If you are someone who wants to make a difference, then I truly believe this ministry is worth your consideration. I'll give you several reasons why I believe this to be true: (a) This ministry is dedicated to developing the leadership that Zambia most needs: spiritual leadership. This is the most effective means of making an eternal difference for the people of Zambia. (b) We are empowering these future leaders with the ability to support themselves in ministry so that they can carry on the work of God without financial support from America or even from the Zambian churches. (c) We are equipping these leaders for holistic ministry so that they can minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of the people. These leaders will bless their churches and the people of their villages for many years to come. (d) We are saving and enriching the lives of many children through Kerin's Kids and the Primary School. (e) This ministry has been based on a mission philosophy that has been learned from many missionaries of the past and now has gained a great deal of experience in knowing what is effective and culturally appropriate for Zambia. (f) Finally, this ministry is quite cost-effective. We have developed a campus and a staff that is designed to require the least amount of long-term support from America as possible. I do not believe you can get "more bang for the dollar" than this ministry.



### **Construction and Development.**

We are coming close to the end of our construction on the new campus at Daybreak (Zambia). By the end of 2021 we should have completed all the necessary infrastructure that will be needed. We have almost completed construction of the Primary School with five new classrooms (see picture above). We are currently building housing for the off-campus staff (which will reduce our long-term expenses for staff housing). Construction for 2021: (a) build two small classrooms for the Bible College (28 x 28 feet) so that each class will have its own classroom. (b) Complete off-campus housing (apartments).