

Zambia Newsletter

September 2004

Dear Friends

Although it is always difficult to determine whether or not one has raised enough support, we do believe we have now secured most of the support that we will need for Zambia. We do not yet, however, have all the funds that we need for our "Initial Setup Fund," but we have now bought our tickets and will depart for Zambia, Lord willing, on October 29!

We were somewhat uncertain over the past few weeks about our departure as we were hoping that Lorie would finish her Masters thesis before we left. Unfortunately, this will not happen. Several unexpected events (e.g. change in her thesis chair-person and the move of the graduate department to a new building at UNCW) have seriously delayed her progress. As a result, she will have to defend her thesis at a later date when we are back in the USA. This whole experience has put Lorie under a great deal of stress these past few months.

The next 5-6 weeks are going to be extremely busy for us as we prepare to leave. Presently we are busy preparing the things that we will ship to Zambia on October 15. We must, then, store or sell all our furniture/belongings and move out of our apartment here in Memphis. We do plan to make a quick trip to Wilmington, NC to visit our son and his family (grand-baby!) one more time. Even now our apartment is full of boxes and suitcases which we are packing in preparation for our departure.

We will arrive in Zambia during the hot, rainy season. We did receive some good news this week. The car we bought from Japan (1997 Toyota) has now been cleared through customs and will be ready for our use the day we land in Zambia. Upon our arrival, the first task will be to secure housing. Simultaneously, I will begin planning and advertising the beginning of the school for May 15. I will begin visiting churches throughout Zambia in an effort to recruit students and build rapport with the churches throughout the country. I will also begin scheduling some seminars and workshops for conger-gational leaders.

Progress continues in the construction effort to prepare the Central church building in Lusaka for the beginning of the school next May. The roof on the classroom wing of the church is finished and they are now working on other necessary installations (e.g. bed, desks, showers, toilets, a simple kitchen, and a security fence).

With our fund-raising efforts for personal support and working fund now drawing to a completion, it is now time for us to announce the beginning of a new fund-raising effort to raise money for school operations and to support students in school. This will be called the "**Mapepi Scholarship Fund**."

I will not, of course, be the only one raising funds for this scholarship fund. Sunset in Lubbock, TX will also be raising funds for school operations and student scholarships. Obviously, as Dean of the school, I will be intimately involved in this effort. There are many school operating expenses that I will be able to pay for out of our Working Fund which I have now raised. Much of these funds will be devoted to leadership training seminars and workshops that I will conduct throughout Zambia when the school in Lusaka is not in operation (e.g. Rainy season). There will also be many evangelistic campaign efforts that I will engage in using students from the school. All these efforts will be funded from our own support (working fund) which those of you reading this Newsletter are contributing to.

However, there is another large area of funding that must also be raised. This financial support will go specifically to funding the school and will cover expenses such as teacher salaries, electricity and utilities, student meals, school repairs and maintenance, school office supplies, transportation costs, etc. Although we do not yet know what it will cost per student, we are estimating that it will cost about \$150 - \$200 per month per student. Once the school is in full operation, we will be better able to assess the exact cost per student /per month. Nevertheless, it is necessary that we begin now raising these scholarship funds so that we can begin

...nonetheless, it is necessary that we begin now raising these scholarship funds so that we can begin operations this coming May.

Thus, we are asking churches and individuals to consider supporting 1-2 students (i.e., \$150 per month to support one student in school). The number of students that we can allow to attend school (starting in May) will be determined by the number of scholarships that we have funded.

If any of you (or your congregation) would like to support one (or two) students in school, then please send your contributions to the **"Mapepi Scholarship Fund"** and mail it to our address in Memphis (Zambia Missions, 1910 Sycamore View Rd, Memphis, TN 28134). These funds will be forwarded on to Sunset School of Preaching which is responsible for the overall funding of the school itself.

Please keep our family in your prayers as we make final preparations to depart for Zambia. The next few months are certain to be challenging months for us as we work to adjust to a totally different way of life.

Lorie's Reflections

On Saturday, during our survey trip to Zambia last August, David and I were in a meeting with the elders from several of the congregations in Lusaka and the board members for the Mapepi Bible School. The small concrete-walled classroom was furnished with one church pew which ran along the wall, a hand-made wooden table under the one window, and a few chairs.

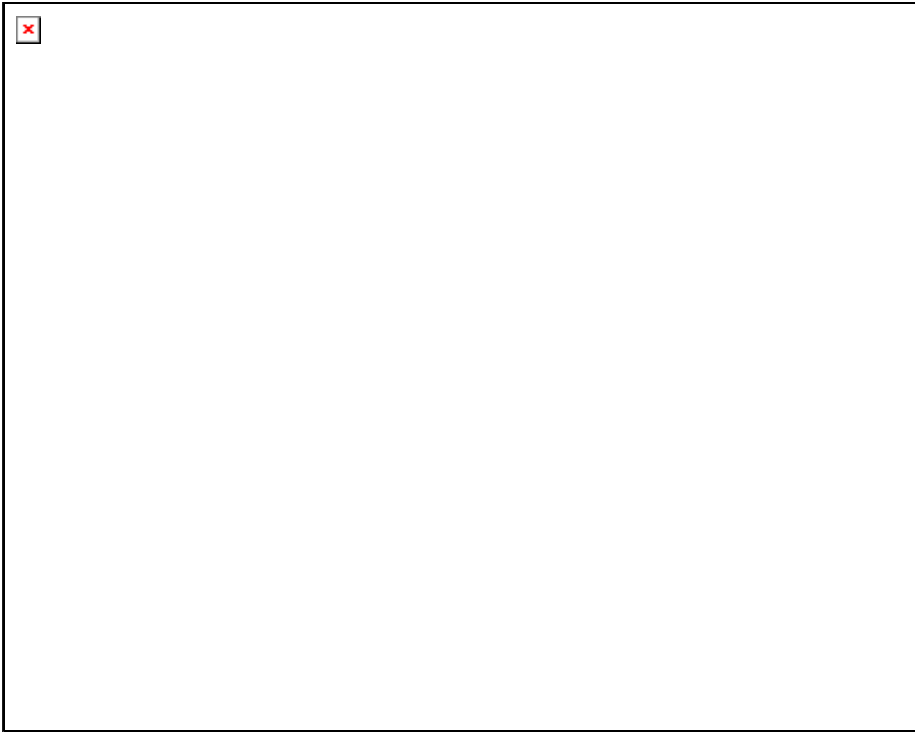
The only light came in through the open window. I listened as the men discussed with David the many aspects of their vision for the leadership training school in Lusaka. The expressions on the faces of these men, as they shared the vision and spoke of the need for leadership, seemed to light up the room with excitement and anticipation. The enthusiasm in the room grew as the men asked David questions and discovered that they all shared the vision for leadership training in Zambia.

A large group of people began to pass by the door to the small room which opened into the auditorium of the Central church of Christ. One of the elders commented that this was a group of young people who meet together every Saturday for fellowship at the building. The meeting continued but soon the entire area was filled with the voices of these young people praising God in song (see picture below). Their voices seemed amplified by the tin roof of the classroom wing where they were worshipping. I couldn't help thinking about how heaven will be thousands and tens of thousands praising and saying "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain."

Our meeting finished and we all walked out into the large auditorium (which still has no roof). The young people were still singing. The elders and David wanted to have some pictures taken together. I stood across the auditorium with my back toward the classroom wing on the opposite side of the auditorium (where we will start classes in May, 2005). It was then that I saw the faces of the young people in worship and the wisdom on the faces of the elders who were planning for the training of future leadership that is needed to guide these young people in useful service in God's kingdom.

In five short weeks, our family will join these brothers and sisters in Christ as we work side by side to train the future leaders for God's kingdom in Africa. I especially ask you to all be continuing in prayer for this transition for our entire family, that God will deliver us daily from the evil one as we work for His glory, and that God will raise up leaders for His work all over Zambia. Thank you all again for helping make it possible for us to be a part of this vision in Africa.

- Lorie



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