

# Zambia Newsletter

December 2004

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from Zambia! Yes, we are finally here! As you will remember from our last Newsletter, our plans had been to depart on Oct 29. Two days after I had written that Newsletter, I was loading up our shipment for Zambia into a container (4 feet off the ground) and the ladder I was using fell out from under me. I fell backwards onto concrete, using my right arm to brace my fall and to prevent a serious head injury. Unfortunately, my wrist could not take the load and I broke both the two primary bones in my right wrist. I had to have surgery the next day to insert a metal plate into my wrist.

The doctor recommended that I remain in the USA for four weeks so that he could feel confident that my wrist was healing appropriately. Thus, I gave the doctor what he wanted and we left for Africa the next day after my final doctor's visit (Nov 16). Although this only delayed our arrival in Zambia by only 12 days, it has made life much more complicated for me, having only one good arm/hand to use.

### Housing

We are now staying with our Zambian friend, Patrick Kawinga . Patrick is one of the primary people in Zambia who has been working to get the school going here in Lusaka. We will stay with Patrick until we can move into a very tiny little house (about 800 sq feet) after the first of December. Work has already begun on building our permanent house at Mapepi (where the school will be eventually built).

As I reported in a previous Newsletter, we decided it best to build a house at Mapepi since rent in Lusaka is extremely high (see last Newsletter for a discussion of this matter). Besides the long-term savings this will provide us, there are two other reasons for doing this that I did not mention last month: (a) building this house will benefit the school for many years even after we are gone (as we will turn

(a) building this house will benefit the school for many years even after we are gone (as we will turn over the house to the school to use as a dorm or classroom building); and (b) building this house will ensure that the church in Zambia will be able to maintain “ownership” of this 22 acre plot of land. Certain land in Zambia is “sold” to certain groups and individuals contingent on the fact that the land is developed and used for the purpose that it was bought for. The leaders of the church have been quite concerned that, if the government should make an inspection, they might very well lose the land (and the money paid for it) since there is no school currently in operation at the property and there has been no development of the land. By building our house at Mapepi, we will ensure that the church is about to maintain ownership of this land.

As you can probably imagine, it was quite exciting for us to go out to Mapepi, the day after we arrived, in order to stake out the foundations for the house. We are quite uncertain as to how long this will take, especially since it appears the rainy season has now begun (will continue through March).

### **Resident Visa**

Most of our time, since arriving last week, has been spent trying to secure all the paperwork that we need in order to apply for our resident permit (which will allow us to stay in Zambia). We don't anticipate any problem with this, but it is a major/urgent task that must be completed within 30 days. Meeting the requirements has required us to even have certain documents faxed over from the USA.

We have also been busy trying to set up a bank account (so we can transfer money from the USA), order a phone line for our house, transfer the title of our car into our name, buy car insurance, secure duty-free status for our shipment from USA, etc, all of which are tasks that require that we have a resident permit first. Thus, we cannot make any progress in any of these areas until we get our resident visa. This process has also required that we drive all over Lusaka as we attempt to collect all the required documents, forms, applications, and signatures.

### **Cost of Transportation**

Perhaps you are among those of us who have complained about the high cost of gasoline in the USA? Well, in Zambia the cost for petrol is 5240 Kwacha per liter (i.e., \$4.50 per US Gallon)! As I reported in a previous Newsletter, we bought a 7 year-old Toyota Camry from Japan and had it shipped here to Zambia (in good condition with only 45,000 miles). We are very happy with the car and the way this whole deal worked out. Of course, a Camry gets pretty good gas mileage; but, you can imagine my surprise when I filled up our gas tank for the first time and had to pay 300,000 Kwacha (\$68 dollars for a tank size that costs me only \$25 in USA)!

The value of the dollar continues to decline as it has for last two months. This means our mission funds are now less than what we anticipated. This is also compounded by the sharp increase in fuel prices. Since most goods in Zambia are imported (by truck from South African ports), the increase in fuel has really ignited inflation in Zambia. Thus, as are now being hit with a double-whammy financially: decline in the value of our US dollars coupled with a sharp increase in the cost of material and goods.

### **Future Plans and Tasks**

Our plans are to start school on May 15. This doesn't give us much time. There is so much to do in order to get ready for classes to begin. First, I must get the church building at Central ready for operations. While the building is now completed, there is nothing inside our school rooms. We must attain desks, chairs, and blackboards for the classroom, student beds for the dorm room, and office furnishings for the office. In addition we must still build some kind of a kitchen area out the backside of the building and we must build a security wall around two sides of the building.

Second, I must finalize our schedule of classes for the first semester and begin advertising our school and recruiting students. In Africa (where communication and transportation are so difficult), accomplishing these tasks will require major time and effort on my part. I am also needing to find someone who can assist me as an administrative assistant (someone who can manage the roles of Dean of Students, Registrar, Business Manager, etc).

Finally, Lorie and I must also get ourselves settled in Zambia. Besides completing all the government requirements to stay in Zambia, we must also complete our house at Mapepi and establish our own routine of life (not so simple to do as in the USA). Then, I must also prepare myself to teach six, three-week courses beginning in May. Indeed, there is much to accomplish in the next 5 months!!! – David

### **Reflections From Lorie**

As the plane began the descent into the Lusaka Airport, I looked at over to the row across the aisle where our girls were sitting. Though they were tired from the approximately 27 hours we had been in transit from the USA, they watched attentively out the windows of the plane (first one side then the other) as we came closer to our new home.

A flood of emotions rushed through me as the wheels of the plane came in contact with the runway. “We are home”, I said to the girls through tears of excitement. Natasha’s wrinkled nose and forehead let me know that she was not as convinced of this fact as I was!

Our arrival here would not have been possible without the months of prayers, encouragement, and support that all of you have given to our family. For this, our family is eternally grateful. We are co-workers in God’s Kingdom with all of you. We will be praying daily for God’s work where you are. as you pray for His Kingdom to advance in Africa.

In this season when we reflect on the blessings that God has given to all of us, I feel most thankful that we have a God who loved us enough to leave His home to come near to us and friends who are willing to send us to a new home so that others can come to know God’s love. – Lorie

***From our family to yours, we wish you a happy holiday season with your friends and family.***

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