

# Zambia Newsletter

January 2004

A great deal has happened since our first newsletter in which we announced our plans for going to Zambia. Since that time we have visited the following congregations to make presentations about our work (fund-raising efforts): Roosevelt Dr. (Jacksonville, NC), Pine Valley (Wilmington, NC), Central (Wilmington, NC), Cherry Point (Havelock, NC), Archdale (Charlotte, NC), Jericho Road (Mocksville, NC), Shelby (Shelby, NC), Brunswick (Southport, NC), St. Andrews Rd (Columbia, SC), Sugar Creek (Charlotte, NC), Bell Fork (Jacksonville, NC), Central (Spartanburg, SC), Hazel (Hazel, KY), Puryear (Puryear, TN), Dover (Dover, OH), and Bates Hill (Sarahsville, OH).

The following congregations have agreed thus far to provide monthly support: Roosevelt Dr (Jacksonville, NC), Pine Valley (Wilmington, NC), Shelby (Shelby, NC) and Dover (Dover, OH). Several other congregations have indicated the likelihood of support but have not yet finalized their budgets. In addition, the Cherry Point congregation contributed a one-time contribution of \$2020.

Several individuals have also made contributions to the work: Karl Steakley (Nashville, TN), Christina Grey (Wilmington, NC), Thomas and Catherine Hokanson (Duncan, SC), Ricky Hooper (Havelock, NC), and James Essic (Havelock, NC). Several individuals have also indicated that they intend to become supporters of this work. I will not list all of these since many have expressed a desire to remain anonymous.

The Pine Valley congregation (Wilmington, NC) has agreed to continue our salary at least through March. We are deeply appreciative of this assistance as it will greatly help us in the financial transition from Pine Valley to our missionary support (which will take time to raise). Our course, if we do not raise enough support by the end of March, we will be in serious difficulty. However, we are confident that the Lord will provide, although we may go through some "lean" months after March. I estimate that we currently have secured about 30% of the monthly support that we will need. We need, at least, to reach the 60% mark by the end of March or we will be in difficulty.

We officially completed our tenure at Pine Valley on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. Consequently, we are now in the process of moving to Memphis to continue our fund-raising efforts and to be near our sponsoring congregation in Memphis (Sycamore View congregation). Currently we are staying with our parents for a few weeks; but our plan is to move into an apartment in Memphis that we can use as our home base during the next few weeks. Of course, our plan is to complete our fund-raising efforts by August/September so that we can then move on to Zambia and begin the work next Fall.

These past few months have been somewhat difficult for our family. I have been surprised to discover how much more difficult the logistics of making this move to Zambia are this time around than they were twenty years ago when we went to Kenya. Of course, twenty years ago Lorie and I were younger, somewhat naïve of what we were "getting into", owned nothing to store or dispose off, and had only one small child to take care of. The hardest part was leaving our parents. But now, we have four children and one grandchild, too much stuff and responsibilities to take care of, older and very much aware of what we "getting into". Not only must we leave our parents again this time; but, perhaps the most difficult part, we must also leave behind our two older sons and our new grandchild, Gabriella. Our two girls found it especially difficult to leave Gabby after our last Sunday in Wilmington (Dec 21<sup>st</sup>). I think I now understand why so few older guys go back into the mission field. Things are much more complicated than when we were 25.

So, why do this? It is because we are driven by the desire to do something meaningful with our lives and to

make a difference for good in this world where it is needed most! It is because we are drawn by a vision of how God can change people's lives when they are receptive to His word (as they are in Africa). And, it is because we want to see the Kingdom of God advance so to cause more and more people to abound in giving thanks to God – all to increase the glory of God on earth (2 Cor 4:15). This is, afterall, the true reason for missions: to increase the glory of God on earth among men. Lorie and I want to do what we believe will bring more people to become worshippers of the true God. I can think of no greater way to accomplish this than that which we are planning to do in Zambia!

There are two ways that you can really help us. First, you can help us by talking to the leaders of your home congregation about setting up a time for us to make a presentation at your church about our work in Zambia (if we have not already visited). Second, you can help us by talking to friends and family members in other congregation about visiting their congregation to make a presentation. This is one of the best ways that you can help us get to Zambia (along with your prayers for the success of our effort). If you need to contact us, you may do so through whatever means best suits you (contact information below).

For His Kingdom,

David and Lorie French

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