

Zambia Newsletter

May 2004

Dear Friends,

I think we are now starting to become more anxious and impatient about our move to Zambia. The time for our departure is now close enough that the reality of it all is finally starting to sink in. Already we are beginning to address those initial tasks that must be accomplished in the last few months of our time in this country. The pace of the next few months is certain to pick up as the time approaches.

Our progress in securing our monthly support continues slowly but steadily. We now believe we have passed the 60% mark. Although we are spending more than we are receiving, it is turning out not to be as bad as I had once feared – thanks to so many of you who have stepped forward to help us! We no longer have any doubts about our being able to raise our support. It now is just a matter of when. And, Lord willing, that will be Sept!

Since our last Newsletter we have visited the following churches: Crooked Creek (Lobelville, TN), Hoover's Grove (Tullahoma, TN), New Bethel and Springville (both near Paris, TN), Big Sandy (TN), Liberty (Fayetteville, TN), Odd Fellows (Pulaski, TN), Lois (Lynchburg, TN), Booneville (Fayetteville, TN), and Capitol Hill (Winchester, TN).

The following churches have now agreed to become monthly supporters of this work: Wildwood Valley (Waverly, TN), Horse Mountain (Shelbyville, TN), and New Bethel (Paris, TN) and Cane Creek (Petersburg, TN). In addition to this, several individuals have also committed to sending monthly support.

Generally I have tried not to name individuals who give contributions as I am always fearful that I may name someone who wants to remain anonymous. However, I just can't help from mentioning two contributors who each sent a substantial contribution to our work this past month. The first is Jason Snyder. He is a young married man in Ohio who sent the largest contribution we have yet to received from any one person or congregation. He recently received a settlement for an injury he suffered and wanted to give a portion of that to advance the kingdom of God in Africa!

Another couple that I just have to mention is Andy and Irene Jarrett who sent a large contribution in memory of Irene's father, Corbet Asbury, who recently passed away. Andy is the preacher for the Spann congregation near Waverly, TN. Incidentally, the Spann congregation also sent a large contribution. These three contributions (from Jason, Jarretts, and Spann) together now represent 75% of what we have received for the "Initial Setup Fund" for Zambia.

They are not the only ones, of course, who have contributed sacrificially. I would love to tell you about certain small country congregations who have committed to giving monthly contributions that are huge in portion to their number. I would love to tell you about certain individuals who gave several hundred dollars and who I know were giving beyond their means, sacrificially. I would love to tell you of many others who have committed themselves to \$50 or \$100 a month – an expression of faith that requires dedication and a love for lost and suffering people in Africa. I dare not, however, name these individuals since I know they gave not for notoriety and would likely be feel embarrassed if I did so.

One of the greatest blessing about doing mission work is seeing the faith and dedication of Christians across the country who have a heart for God's work and show it by giving sacrificially. I have, in essence, seen the widow give her "mite" to the Lord and it is what encourages me most. It is also that which motivates me to work harder and do my best to make sure all these contributions accomplish as much good in Africa as possible. It is also what makes me think twice before spending any money – not just because it is God's money but because I know those who gave it and why they gave it.

Lorie and I will be traveling to Texas in the next few weeks. We are going down to visit a church in Terrell, TX where a good friend of mine preaches. We will then travel up to Lubbock to visit Sunset School of Preaching and to begin making specific plans for the beginning of the school in Lusaka. Lorie and I will then attend Mission Seminar which is a program designed specifically to help missionaries prepare for the mission field. I will also make a quick trip up to visit a church in Connecticut where another friend of mine preaches.

Finally, I would like to ask you to begin praying about our move to Zambia. There is so much that must yet be done and so little time left in which to do it. I also would ask you to continue praying for the remaining portion of our monthly support. And, then finally, please pray for Lorie as she labors to finish her Masters thesis and defend it in late August.

For His Kingdom... David

Lorie's Reflections

The meeting at the Mapepi church building had ended. I rose from the split rail bench (where I had been sitting as the leaders and David conducted a meeting) and followed the elders, board members of the school, and David, out of the one room building.

The decision was made to walk the entire parameter of the 22-acre property, which we will soon call home. Bro. Kawinga turned to the oldest (nearly 90-years old) of the church elders (see picture to the side) and asked if he was able to walk this distance. His reply was immediate and simple. He told us that this was God's property and that he had been praying for years for God to bring workers to build the school there. "God has brought workers, therefore, I will walk because I know this property best".

The somewhat cool August breeze brushed across the tall grasses causing them to bow as our procession passed. I was fascinated with the beautiful countryside and with its rolling hills, but my focus was on the sandal-clad feet of this elder as he walked that dusty, footpath. His face was beaming as he proudly showed us "God's property." And, then, I realized that the real beauty of Mapepi was this elder with his prayerful, patient heart which had not wavered in devotion to God as he petitioned God and waited for God to send workers for the Mapepi Bible Institute.

What a tremendous lesson on what the "fervent, effectual prayer of a righteous man" can accomplish. He continued to pray fervently even though much time passed before the prayer was answered. I was reminded of how God answered the prayers of Simeon and Anna who prayed day and night for the coming of the Messiah. And, perhaps because of their prayers, God allowed them both to see the Messiah before they died!

Perhaps you don't realize it, but you have played a vital role in God answering this man's prayer, for without your support and prayers, our efforts to start this new school in Zambia could NOT be possible. Thank you all for being the answer to this brother's prayer. It is YOU, through your prayers and sacrifices, that that his prayers will now be answered.

*"When you have done it for one of the least of these my brethren,
you have done it unto me..."*

– Lorie



[Return to Home Page](#)