

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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Covid continues to be a challenge – one I am sure that we are all tired of dealing with. It has certainly made international travel much more difficult. Nevertheless, Lorie and I were both able to travel back to Zambia and so far, we have managed to avoid catching the Omicron virus.

We arrived back in the country to find that the rains had not yet started, thus raising concerns about a drought (famine) and reduced electrical power for the country this next year. Although the rains have now come to our part of the country, there are areas of the country that have yet to see rain. This will now result in crop failure and famine in part of the country. The lack of rain has now affected the ability of the country to provide sufficient electrical power to the country. Our electricity now goes off and on constantly.

We celebrated our fourth graduating class from our new, three-year training program in November (see below). Our new students for the new year have now started arriving and we are looking forward to the start of a new school year on Jan 24 which is three weeks later than normal. With the spread of the Omicron virus in southern Africa, Zambia felt it was necessary to delay the start of schools this year.

### **Bible College: Graduation**

As mentioned above, we celebrated our fourth graduating class from our new three-year training program on Nov 24.



More graduation pictures below (next page).

### **Practical Ministry.**

Although the government has ordered schools closed 2-3 times over the past two years, these closures have only lasted

about 3-4 weeks; thus, Covid has not really had any negative impact on **our college operations**. There is, however, one area that has been affected. Due to covid we did not feel we ought to be sending out students out into the community to engage in practical ministry. We have now changed our minds about this (as Covid has not affected Zambia as it in most of the world). We decided in July to return to normal operations as practical ministry is a very important part of our training program since students learn to do ministry by doing it (experience), not by sitting in a classroom.

### **Agricultural Ministry.**

Communication in Zambia is very difficult and expensive. This has made it very difficult for us to stay in touch with our past students (graduates). Most of them come from very remote, rural areas which makes it very difficult for us in trying to obtain any information about how they are doing once they graduate. We have really tried to work on this problem over the past 3 years and we are starting to hear more from some of our graduates and, what we are hearing is very encouraging.

Remember that our first graduating class from our new training program graduated only 3 years ago, so it will take a little more time to evaluate the spiritual impact of their training; but one thing is very clear: they are succeeding in becoming self-supporting through agriculture. We are hearing great reports from our past students about how well they are doing in raising and selling vegetables. We are also hearing very encouraging reports about what they are now beginning to do in ministry. It is difficult to share all these reports through this printed email (as they usually involve pictures), so I would encourage you to sign up for our digital newsletter (which you can do by going to our web page at [www.zambiamissions.org](http://www.zambiamissions.org)) and/or by following us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/zambiamissions](http://www.facebook.com/zambiamissions)).

### **Primary School.**

Lorie has been working VERY hard with the teachers at the Primary School as we endeavor to raise our academic and spiritual standards. The government order to delay the start of the new school year has provided her with extra time to work with the teachers. She has been doing training every morning. We are trying to teach our teachers a more effective approach to education. Zambia is still using the old British rote system which

involves little more than memorizing information and passing tests. It is a relic of the past that the British abandoned a long time ago. It does nothing to teach critical thinking skills nor teaches students how to learn on their own.

Our school is starting to be recognized for its academic excellence and the number of parents wanting to send their students to our school is increasing. Lorie and the teaching staff have made tremendous progress over the past year. Below is a picture of our Primary School teachers.



### **Endowment Fund.**

We met and surpassed our goal of raising \$30,000 in matching funds for the Endowment Fund. The anonymous donor of the matching funds has also agreed to match contributions over the \$30,000. Although the final amount has not yet been determined, it appears that the total amount raised for the Endowment Fund will be about \$88,000. Thanks so much for all of you who contributed to this effort as it will provide long-term sustainability of the ministry in Zambia.

### **New Students (Freshmen).**

It is the beginning of a new school year in Zambia, and we now have 10 new students (see picture below) who have arrived on campus for the start of the new year. Due to Covid and other transportation issues, we have 7 more students who are yet to come and are expected to arrive within the next week. I will include student profiles of these students in future newsletters.



### **Finances.**

As I had feared, this year is proving to be a financial challenge for reasons I mentioned in the last newsletter (e.g., drop in the exchange rate, increase in minimum wages/salaries, etc.). Thankfully, we are almost finished with all our construction projects. We should be finished by the end of the year as we

have just one classroom and small library to complete. I also am happy to report that we have now finished the classroom for the women's program. This is a big improvement as they were having to meet in the unfinished kitchen of the Auditorium (which still does not have any windows or doors).

### **More Graduation Pictures.**



*Student Wives who completed Women's Program*



*Bible College Teachers*



*Charles Phiri (Chairman of the Board) speaks to students*



*Student and his wife who both graduated*