

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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The last two months have been a busy time, but it has been very rewarding and profitable. Both Lorie and I taught several classes in Zambia and we both spent time working with the various ministries at Daybreak in order to encourage the staff and address various issues that needed our attention. Lorie spent a great deal of time working with the Christian Primary School which is making great progress in its development.

Daybreak Bible College.

Things are going very well in the Bible College (DBC). Lorie and I both taught several classes at DBC. I taught three classes (Mission of God, Essence of Christianity, and Principles of the Restoration Movement). See picture.



Lorie taught her class on “Where There Is No Doctor.” Lorie also taught the students’ wives how to cook certain foods (see picture to the right) as we continue to encourage the students to eat more nutritional foods (vegetables), something more than nshima (corn) which makes up about 85% of their current diet. Lorie is trying to teach the students how to cook certain foods that will make these new foods taste better and perhaps encourage them to eat other foods.

Lorie shared with me her opinion that we have one of the best groups of students that we have ever had at Daybreak. I share her assessment. It just feels like our training program at DBC has matured and has now “hit its stride.” We have a very good teaching staff who has now gained experience training and developing the spiritual lives of our students. They are doing a great job teaching and mentoring the students.

Our recruitment efforts are also improving so that we are now recruiting a better quality of students every year. Also, based on the feedback that we are now getting from our graduates, it appears that our former students are doing good work in ministry. They are succeeding in becoming self-supporting and are planting and/or helping churches to grow spiritually. They are also becoming very successful in applying the agricultural training that we have taught them.



Agricultural Ministry.

The students are doing well in the gardens. We are now entering into the long dry season which will increase the value of their fresh produce. Francis (our agriculture teacher) broke his leg in early June trying to move a water tank. It was a serious compound fracture. He has had to have two operations, but now appears to be slowly recovering from his injury. He continues to work though on crutches. We are grateful to all of you who heard of this accident and contributed to pay for the two operations that he had to have.

Kerin’s Kids (Orphans).

Kerin recently added two new babies to her list of infants receiving baby formula: Venus and Vanessa (picture on next page). They both live in Serenji (Central Province north of Lusaka). Their mother died 2 months ago, and their father works far away (although he sends what money he can to help the babies). The babies are living with their father’s sister, Grace (who is the adult in the picture holding the babies).



Primary School.

There has been a lot of activity at the Primary School this past month. Along with the other schools in Zambia, we also celebrated "**Heritage Day**" (which encourages the students to dress up in their tribal dress and share certain traditions of their tribe). Pictured below shows the children from the Lozi tribe dressed in their traditional clothing.



The Meal Program is proving to be a great blessing to our students. We provide all the children a nutritious breakfast and lunch. This is making a major difference in their health, and it has reduced absences due to sickness. The students also appear to be doing better academically. These meals are far better than what any of them ever get at home. Also, since we started serving breakfast, we no longer have a problem with the students coming late to school!



Our school has also made significant progress academically. We now have the best teaching staff (cf. pictured below) that we have ever had, and our students are showing significant academic progress. All of our Grade 7 students passed their Grade 7 Exams (national exams that each student must pass to move on to Grade 8).



Finances.

I really hate talking about financial matters, but I think I need to share some of the challenges that we have faced this year. It appears that the economy in the U.S. has somewhat discouraged giving this year. Inflation has become a serious problem not only in the USA but especially in Zambia where it appears to have doubled (15-20% inflation). Because of inflation in the U.S., the dollar is no longer gaining against the Zambia Kwacha (which has helped adjust for Zambia inflation).

As a result our current contributions are barely able to meet our expenses, and we are finding that we are lack the funds necessary for unexpected, extra expenses (e.g, below). I have been trying to figure out where we might cut expenses, but there isn't anywhere we can cut without seriously hurting one of our four main ministries. Because I have always kept expenses at a minimum for each area of ministry, there just isn't any "fat" to cut!

Although we are pretty much finished with construction, we have experienced several unexpected problems this year. We have overloaded our electrical grid. We have just one meter box for all the buildings on our campus, and this has now exceeded the capabilities of our electrical grid. We are now experiencing frequent loss of power on campus as fuses trip and sometimes damage some of our electrical equipment. We need to upgrade our electrical grid.

During my inspection of the campus last week, I discovered two other big problems. Married Student Block A (first five houses built on campus) are needing repairs. The ground has settled beneath this building, and the walls have developed some serious structural cracks that need to be repaired.

Termites have also eaten huge sections of the Singles Dorm. In trying to save money, I built the interior walls of the Dorm with cheap particle boards. I underestimated the damage that termites in Zambia can do in such a short period of time. These walls now have to be torn out and 4 inch concrete blocks have to be used to replace the interior walls. We also have 3 broken down vehicles which we hope to repair and then sell so we can replace them with two used vehicles that we think will hold up better and are cheaper to maintain.