

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Things are going well with the work in Zambia. We got a slow start to the year due to the heavy rains in Dec-Jan that hindered our students from coming. Our new students have now planted their gardens and are harvesting vegetables. We finished the Library for the Bible College, and we have finally succeeded in registering the Primary School with the govt.

Daybreak Bible College.

We are fast approaching the end of the first term (first of three terms). Our new crop of freshmen students is a little smaller this year than usual (especially when compared to the class that will graduate this November and numbers 16). There were over 20 new students who had enrolled for this year, but only 8 managed to find transportation.

The rains in Zambia were very heavy this year (Dec-Mar), and many of our students were cut off from the main roads due to all the flooding in the country. Most of these students will re-enroll and try to come next year and since we have extra used student housing, we will we have the space next year to enroll more students than we normally do. Pictured below are the new students who managed to find transportation.



Visiting Teachers.

I did not have room in our last newsletter to tell you about one of our visiting teachers. Each year we are blessed by the willingness of several people to come and teach classes for our students. In January we were blessed by the visit of Anthony Oben (standing in the middle of the picture to the right), who is a Cameroonian living in Nigeria. Oben taught two classes during his visit: African Traditional Religion and Christian Entrepreneurship.

The main reason for Oben's visit, however, was to see what we are doing at Daybreak in our Bible College. Oben has

started a Bible College in Nigeria to train Cameroonians for evangelism in Cameroon. Political violence in Cameroon has made it very difficult to operate a school there, so Oben has crossed over into Nigeria where he has the freedom to safely operate a Bible College. It is for this reason that Oben wanted to come to visit us so that he might learn what we are doing that might be of help to what he is trying to do in Nigeria to train evangelists for Cameroon.



Fielden and Janet Allison are also scheduled to visit us in April. They will teach the second part of a Marriage Training class to some of our Bible College teachers and then they will teach two classes to our students: Conflict Resolution and a class on Marriage. We have been especially blessed each year (since 2007) to have the Allisons come to Zambia. They have been serving as missionaries in Africa since the mid-1970's and are especially well-suited to teach a class on marriage.

Oben and the Allisons are not the only visitors who are planning to visit us this year. There are at least 2-3 others who I am working with to schedule trips to teach at Daybreak this year.

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

Kerin continues to add more babies and in some cases, adding both the mother and baby to her list of people she is assisting. Our goal is to save the life of the baby and keep that baby in the home of their mothers or extended families. It is extremely important in Zambia that children be raised in a home with their extended family since one's identity and survival are so closely dependent on the extended family network.

There are lots of situations in which Kerin provides assistance to both the mother and baby. This is particularly true in cases involving a teenage mother. Most women in Zambia do not have control over their own bodies. Young teenagers are often given (sold) to older men and forced to have children, and rape is very common. It is not uncommon to find young, teenage girls giving birth to premature babies who die or struggle to survive. Many of these teenage mothers find themselves abandoned by their families or husbands.



Pictured above is a teenage mother (Susan) who is only in grade 9. Her son (Zebrone) is just 2 months old and weighs only 3.75 pounds. He is also blind. Kerin is providing assistance to both the mother and baby. The goal is to get the baby to a healthy weight and then have Drs to check his eyes to see if there is anything that can be done to correct his blindness. Kerin will work with this mother and child for several years in an effort to get them to the point that they are healthy and can support themselves. This often involves helping the mother to finish her education.

Primary School.

The Primary School is the third main component of our ministry at Daybreak in Zambia. It is also the last of the three to be given special attention so as to fully develop it to its full potential. We (mainly Lorie) have been working hard to increase our spiritual and academic standards. We hired a very capable administrator (Jacob Likando) two years ago to assist Lorie in this effort. We built 5 new classrooms so that each grade would have its own classroom and we hired 5 new teachers for these separate classes.

We have now finally succeeded in registering the school with the government under the name, "Aurora Christian Academy" (ACA). Now we are preparing to add grades 8 and 9 (which will greatly help our students since few of them will be able to afford the cost of going to any school once graduate from ACA). In order to add these extra two grades, we need to build 3 more classrooms (one of which has to be a science and computer lab in order to meet government requirements).

I doubt any of us here in America are able to realize what a great blessing ACA is to the children attending our school. Very few of these children would be able to go to school if it was not for ACA (as most of them come from families working on commercial farms and are among the poorest in Zambia). More than this, ACA is now becoming an exceptionally good school both academically and spiritually. ACA also feeds students breakfast and lunch which is

high in protein and rich in nutrition. These children are healthier than most children in Zambia. They get sick less and are less likely to die young. The cost for all this is surprisingly very little.

Construction and Development.

We are now almost finished with our construction at Daybreak. We just finished the Library for the Bible College and once we complete the 3 new classrooms for ACA, we should finally be done with all our construction projects!

Meet Our Graduates.

Periodically we get news from some of our former students (graduates). One of our teachers recently got a report from Lucky Bbeneya who sent us the following messages with the attached picture below:

"These are Grade 6 students, after learning about the birth of Jesus Christ and the importance of his birth to the world. I am here by thanking the institution of Daybreak Bible College for the job they are doing of imparting knowledge to the students spiritually and physically. Above all I greatly extend my appreciation to the president of the college Mr David French, his wife madam Lorie French, and madam Karen French for their heart and support they are rendering to the institution. It is because of them and the entire faculty of DBC that today I am serving as a spiritual Chaplin, teaching Bible from preschool to Grade 9 and in charge of all spiritual affairs at the school. I thank you. [The school is called, Siabalumbi Basic School.]"



Another graduate from 2020 (Meshack Kapalandanda) is now working with a church in the Southern Province (cf. picture below). He reports that the church has been growing and has now begin building a new church building as a result.



He is supporting himself through agriculture and teaching others in the church how to do likewise. He wrote to say, "I am no longer the same Meshack people used to know before I attended DBC but a transformed person. I have learned the love of God and how to love others."