

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

1700 Goodman Rd E
Southaven, MS 38671
(901) 574-9552

Web: www.zambiamissions.org

David & Lorie French

P.O. Box 350070
Lusaka, Zambia (Africa)
zambiamissions@gmail.com

June 2024



I am thinking about the future, and I have one big problem that I have not been able to solve: What happens to the work in Zambia after I am gone? I have not found anyone to take my place nor found any way for the ministry in Zambia to become self-supporting. Zambia is just too poverty-stricken.

Church Closures.

Many of the churches that are supporting this work in Zambia are small, rural churches and a few of them have now made the painful decision to close. I fear there will be several more who will end up doing so in the next few years. As this happens, it will begin to put stress on our work in Zambia.

I would like to ask, therefore, **if your congregation should be forced to close, that you consider donating some of the proceeds to the Endowment Fund for Zambia.** Doing so will ensure that the legacy of your congregation will continue to make a difference in the spread of the kingdom of God.

Africa is now the most Christianized continent in the world with an estimated 700 million professing to be Christian. Lifeway Research and others estimate that this number will increase to 1.3 billion people by 2050!

I cannot think of a better place to invest the Lord's resources than in Africa. Africans frequently ask me about what is going on in the USA morally/spiritually and they are shocked by my answers. They almost always end up saying, "Well, one day we are going to send missionaries to America."

Endowment Fund.

It is for these reasons that I have set up an Endowment Fund that will be available to provide some support for the work after my departure. I have no plans to retire and plan to continue raising money for Africa as long as I am able. Maybe the Lord will give 10-20 years, but one day I will not be able to continue, and I have found no one willing to replace me.

There are **two things** I would like to ask the churches and individuals supporting this work to consider: (1) I would ask that you continue to support the ministry after Lorie and I are gone. I have been developing long-term plans for several years now, and we have put in place procedures that will enable the funds to be forwarded on to Zambia (and ensure their proper use) after we are gone.

(2) I would also like to ask you to consider contributing to this Endowment Fund over the next few years. These funds are being invested in mutual funds so that they will increase in value and will be available to help support the work after Lorie and I are gone.

You can contribute in two ways: (a) Donate online by going to our webpage and clicking on the orange "Give a Donation" button at the top-right corner; or (b) Mailing a check to Zambia Missions, 1700 Goodman Road E, Southaven, MS 38671 (and write "Endowment Fund" on the memo line).

We have invested a great deal in developing this work in Zambia over the past 20 years, and it is now really making a difference as we send 15-20 students out each year to be good spiritual leaders and evangelists in Africa. I would really like to see our investment continue for another 30-50 years. By that time we will have trained more than 3000 leaders. Imagine the impact that all these leaders will have on the kingdom of God in Africa!

Drought and Famine.

We did not have good rains this year in Zambia and most of the maize/corn crop has failed. This means that there will be a famine this year and the price of food will skyrocket as maize represents about 80% of the Zambia diet. It's going to be a tough year and we just hope that this drought does not continue through the next rainy season (Dec-April). If you think inflation is bad in the USA, you haven't seen what it is like in Zambia!

In order to help our staff and students, we go out each year to the local farmers and buy about 600 bags of maize (100-pound bags) which we are then able to sell to our staff and students at a price that is much less than that which is bought in the stores. Furthermore, when the price increases later in the dry season, our price does not go up. We also have a grinding machine which enables us to grind the maize into mealie-meal (which is the actual byproduct that Zambians use to prepare meals).

Daybreak Bible College.

We have now started the second semester of the year. The Freshmen have all planted their gardens and are now harvesting vegetables (along with all our students). Because we use drip-irrigation, our students have food to eat despite the drought and famine in Zambia.

We are now making plans for our **first lectureship** at Daybreak in August. Our hope is that this will give reason for our past students to come so that we can continue to provide some training and can learn from them how to improve our training program.

Two of our students' wives were baptized a few weeks ago. It is not uncommon in Africa for Christians to marry non-Christian (or Christians in name only) since people don't really get to know each other before getting married. Africans have not yet developed dating customs as we have in the West. Marriages are still arranged by the parents even though the two may have met and agreed to get married.

This is why we often have students whose wives are not Christians nor members of the Church of Christ; and this is why we insist that married students bring their wives to Daybreak and that the wives go through our women's program. We believe it is very important that husbands and wives grow together in their spiritual development and, hopefully, become united in serving the Lord. If the wife is not a Christian, then we hope that they will be before their husbands graduate from Daybreak.

Zambia Youth Conference.

Dennis Sabelo (Director of the Bible College) was invited to speak at the National Youth Conference in Zambia in May. The conference was held in Solwezi which is in the northwest part of Zambia (copper mining town). [Note: In Zambia "youth" is a term used in reference to unmarried adults - not kids under 18 years of age].

On Saturday, Dennis wrote: "This morning I had a privilege and honor of baptizing eight youths during the going 27th National Youth Conference for the Church of Christ. The meeting is taking place at Solwezi Technical Secondary School under the theme "Be the Light" taken from Matthew 5:13-16. To God be the glory."

On Sunday, he wrote: "It was another rare privilege and honor for me to baptize 13 youths today, being the last day of the 2024 National Youth Conference for Churches of Christ that was held at Solwezi Technical Secondary School. The attendance was 1,500 plus. To God be the glory and honor."



Primary School.

We have finished adding Grades 8 & 9, and we are now in the process of building a Vocational Training Center at the Primary

School. While some of our students will go on to Secondary School, most of our students will not. Either they will not be academically capable of going on to Secondary School or they will simply not be able to afford going beyond Grade 9.

While a good Christian education is of great importance in Zambia, it does not train the students for most of the jobs that are available in Zambia. It is for this reason that we believe it is vital that we provide some vocational training as well.

Kerin's Kids (Childrens Ministry).



Susann (left) was the first infant that Kerin took in back in 2005 which was what started Kerin's Kids (cf. picture with Kerin in 2005). Kerin ended up adopting Susann a few years later and, then 3 years after that, Kerin adopted Zainne.

Lorie and I brought Susann and Zainne back with us to the USA in 2022 so they might get their American citizenship. While here in the USA, Lorie (who is a schoolteacher) has been homeschooling them and taking them to a local church so that they could be part of a youth program.



Susann just turned 19 years old, and it was with great joy that we witnessed her High School graduation this past month (May 11). Although being homeschooled, both Susann and Zainne have been registered as students of Chestnut Ridge Academy in Fayetteville, TN which not only is able to award her with a High School diploma but also allows her to attend an official graduation ceremony (which was held on Saturday, May 11).

Susann graduated Magna Cum Laude with honors/awards: Bible Scholar Award, Christian

Service, Volunteer Hours, Leadership, and Visual Arts.

Susann does plan to go to college, but we are unsure exactly where she will go as the cost of attending one of our Christian colleges is quite beyond our financial ability. She has a desire to major in something that will be of service to others, both in Zambia and here in the USA. She has considered counseling, social work, or business -- all of which would be very useful in Zambia. She is a dedicated disciple of Jesus. We are very proud of her and who she has become.