

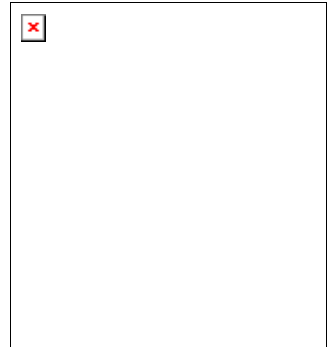
Zambia Newsletter

July 2005

Zambia Missions
1910 Sycamore View Rd
Memphis , TN 38134
(901) 372-1874

David & Lorie French
P.O. Box 36893
Lusaka , Zambia 10101

Web: www.zambiamissions.org



Dear Friends,

This has been the busiest two months of all! I apologize for not writing this newsletter until now, but I have been busy teaching, completing our house at Mapepe (and moving into it), and a host of other duties to numerous to mention.

School News

I reported in our last newsletter that we had just started classes at Mapepe Bible College. We have now completed six weeks of the semester (four classes). Thomas Simubali taught one class on "Spiritual Formation," Jerry Hogg (missionary from a Preacher Training School in South Africa) and Doug Reeves (USA) taught a one-week class on "Spiritual Leadership," and I taught two classes: "Biblical Interpretation" and the "Pentateuch" (the last one involve teaching six hours per day for two weeks). We have 32 students (13 from Luapula, 4 from Angola, 1 from Congo, 2 from Northern, 7 from Central, 4 from Lusaka, and two from the South).

Most all of these students are from mission areas in Zambia and Central Africa! Last week a Congolese evangelist challenged our students to help him plant churches in the Congo and 28 of our students signed a paper pledging to go to the Congo! Not only this but several of our students have gone (on their own initiative) and planted a new church in the Kanyama township of Lusaka! We are MOST encouraged by these initiatives as we have been emphasizing that we are a school dedicated to training church leaders to become church-planting, African missionaries. Many of our students have also been involved in the Lusaka prison ministry and most of our students are going out to preach on Sundays to area churches.

Mapepe House

Although our house in Mapepe is still under construction, we decided to go ahead and move in last week. Of course, we have had to rough it a little (e.g. no hot water, stove doesn't work yet, no toilets for the first two days, holes in the wall for the plumbing which has allowed the field rats entry into the house, etc). Nevertheless, we are most happy to be in our house after having lived 8 months in a tiny 600 sq foot house. We had naively thought when we moved to Zambia that the house would be finished by March, but instead it has taken eight months. The two guest rooms (attached building) are still incomplete (only concrete walls up) and the security wall around the house has yet to begin.

We did manage finally to get our electricity connected after waiting 9 months! This was the first thing we paid for back in October 2004. Lorie and I finally went to the electric company (Zesco) with the Zambian who has been going everyday in an effort to get this done. The manager began to give us the usual run-around. In the past he has blamed the

lack of available workers, broken-down transport, no cables, etc. On this day his excuse was that all the workers were out on assignments. We returned just after lunch in an effort to catch him with his workers at the station, but we failed to catch them and he again gave us the same excuse. We then decided to see his supervisor and explained our 9 month ordeal. He went to see the manager who soon came to inform us that “we were in luck... some workers had just returned and could go to connect the power.” Most interesting how they just suddenly happened to become available! In any case we went to the house and it took them just 20 minutes to connect a wire from the pole to our house 25 feet away.

Arrival of My Parents

Lorie and I are extremely happy to have my parents here for this month. My Dad (Parker French) will teach a three-week class beginning July 11th on “Old Testament History” (Joshua through 2 Samuel) while I will be teaching an afternoon class on the “Gospel of Matthew.”

Luapula Mission Trip

School is now in the midst of a two-week break (due to national holidays). My Dad and I (along with Thomas Simubali) will be traveling on Monday (July 4) to the far north of Zambia (Luapula province) for a week of evangelism. We will be preaching at 3-4 churches each day throughout the province until we return on Saturday (July 9).

Richard Waggoner

Just as my parents are leaving to return to the USA, Lorie’s parents will be arriving to work with us for 6 weeks. Lorie’s Dad will teach a three-week class on “Conflict Resolution” and will conduct several evening seminars for the students on a wide range of topics (e.g. treating alcohol addiction and ministry to families, etc). Drunkenness is a major problem in Africa and, thus, in the church also. Instead of just condemning drunkenness, church leaders need to learn ways to help new converts deal with their addiction to alcohol. I was surprised (in talking with our students) to discover that they know very little about the alcoholism and how to treat it.

Government Corruption

I guess I had had hopes that Zambia might be different than the norm, but government corruption is epidemic here just as in the rest of Africa. At least Zambia is not suffering from a war or violent crime, but corruption is quite evident (although nothing like it is in Nigeria where I have traveled many times – and for that I am most thankful). Much of the money intended for building infrastructure and social programs (helping the poor) gets diverted into the pockets of politicians. It is clearly evident that most all of the money coming to Zambia stays in Lusaka and does not trickle out to the provinces. Taxes on people’s income is about 35% and sales tax is 17%. And, for the last two years the government has not hired any school teachers (even though more than 10% of their teachers are dying from AIDS each year). Thus, we are now finding schools with 700 children being taught by three teachers (and with just 5-6 textbooks)!

Corruption is most evident in the behavior of the police who set up road-blocks and speed traps in order to fine drivers. It is a most profitable means of raising money (although very little of it ever makes it into the govt treasury). I have been stopped and fined for all sorts of things (e.g. not having emergency triangles in my car even though it isn’t required of non-commercial vehicles, having a supposedly “bad tire,” etc). Although we could challenge the charge and go to court, doing so would require us to sit in court for 7-14 days waiting for our case to be called.

Lorie and I have also been stopped frequently for speeding even when we are not speeding. They hide behind trees and pick places where the speed limit changes (and then shoot you with their speed gun before you even enter the reduce speed zone)! I even got a radar detector sent from the USA to help deal with this problem and that is when I discovered that the police often don’t even bother to shoot the radar gun – they just stop you for speeding regardless of your speed! It’s just frustrating, but it’s just part of living in Africa these days. I always remind myself that it could be much worse (e.g. Nigeria, Congo, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Sudan, etc). There are many good things about Zambia, but this is not one of them. I guess the two things that I struggle with the most in Zambia has to do with the corrupt police and the insane traffic around Lusaka.

Another Way You Can Help

If anyone would like to donate English Bibles (used or new), song books and/or communion trays, then please do so. Mail them to: Mapepe Bible College, P.O. Box 36893, Lusaka, Zambia. Declare the contents as “donated church

supplies and Bibles” (list the price at yard sale value). The people of Zambia are so poor that we are finding that most people do not have a Bible. We are constantly be asked for Bibles that we don’t have.

A Word From Lorie

Greetings from Zambia. We have all been very busy with a variety of tasks. Kerin has made several trips to help in the baby orphanage at Namwianga. Natasha has been busy with her old friends and continues making new friends. We were blessed to have a visit from some friends from North Carolina and Minnesota.

We are all glad to finally be at home at Mapepe. It has been a bit like camping out in the winter (minus the snow). We have already made friends with some of our neighbors and are excited about the possibilities which the Lord has planned for the school in the future. We are all so thankful to be a part of what God is doing here in Zambia. We and the Zambians know that all of you are praying for us and the work here. Your Zambian brothers and sisters in Christ thank God for you at almost every worship service.

We have also been distributing the children’s teaching materials to various churches that were donated by the “Kids Helping Kids” group from Sycamore View (a group of girls who acquired a number of children’s Bibles and medical supplies). The Zambian children have really enjoyed them.



###

Return to [homepage](#).