

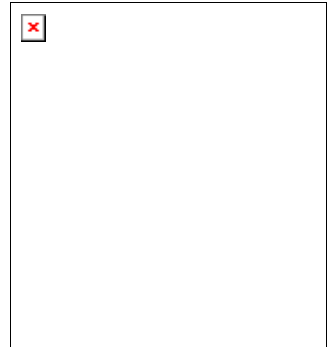
# Zambia Newsletter

August 2005

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Dear Friends,

We couldn't be more pleased with the way things have been going. The students are making incredible progress as they continue to study God's word. It is amazing to see the power of God's word upon those who have had little exposure to it! These students are not just learning the Scriptures, they are being changed by them! This is, of course, one of our primary goals here. Our purpose is not just to give them a knowledge of the Bible but to develop their character and facilitate their spiritual maturity through the study of God's word. Our utmost prayer is that our students leave MBC as "mature, servants of God" who "live" the truths taught in Scripture.

## **Mission Campaigns**

As I have already reported, we have a ten-day, church-planting campaign planned for early Sept (Luapula province along the Congo). We will be transporting all our students 500 miles north in an effort to give them some practical experience in evangelism and planting churches. Our school is not just a "classroom" school. We are a school dedicated to training church-planting leaders and missionaries for Central Africa and to do this we must integrate the classroom into the real-life world through practical application and experience.

We have four Angolan students who will be returning to plant churches in Angola in October (a country that has just ended a 40 year civil war and where we have only 3-4 churches). However, these men have no experience in evangelism or planting a church. Thus, Thomas Simubali and I decided that we needed to do more to prepare and assist these men (along with other men like them).

Subsequently, we decided to increase our evangel-istic activity and training in the next few weeks and we planned another mission campaign for August in preparation for the Sept trip (a kind of precursor or trail-run). We are taking the students to Kapiri Mposhi for a 4 days campaign (175 miles north). This is an area in the center of the country where the church is few in number. We have one church in this area and we want to help this church to grow and begin planting new churches in that area. We are planning to make this an area for our school to concentrate on in an effort to build up the church in this region. This is also a strategic decision since this is a major commercial town in Zambia (where the only road going north in Central Africa forks and where the railroad coming east from Tanzania ends/unloads).

## **Mission Trip To Luapula**

Three weeks ago my Dad, Parker French, Thomas Simubali, and I made a one-week trip to Luapula to encourage the

new churches in that area. We visited 3-4 churches each day and were invited to speak to the churches. We had some car trouble (which I told about in my *Zambian E-Bulletin*) but still had a great trip. My Dad taught classes for the next three weeks and then returned home just this past week. Lorie's Dad, Richard Waggoner, has just arrived and has begun teaching a class on "Conflict Resolution."

### **Plans For Next Year**

We are already very busy making plans for next year. This is going to be a major challenge. In essence, it means that we must double our operations from this year and come up with a way to accommodate twice as many students. The reason is due to the fact that we will be adding the second semester to our program. Not only will we be continuing with this year's program (with a new batch of students), but we will be adding the second semester to our school for this year's students who will be returning next year. Thus, we must prepare for 50-60 students!

The problem, however, is that we do not have enough space for this many students nor the financial support to do this. We are now exploring two or three options that will allow us to expand our program and I have already hired another teacher: Herbert Mhango (who has been serving as an evangelist for the Chilenje church in Lusaka, one of only a handful of full-time evangelists in Zambia). I will also be flying down to South Africa in one week to interview two other Zambians in school there as possible teachers (as we need one more teacher). Even though we don't know quite how we are going to accomplish this huge task, we are nevertheless launching out in faith that God will provide a way.

### **Return to the USA**

Unfortunately, these new challenges necessitate that I return to the USA to raise money for the school. We are basically starting from scratch (nothing). As I reported in a previous Newsletter, the expected financial support for the school did not materialize this year (and what we did receive will end at the end of this year). The only reason we made it this year was due to my borrowing \$20,000 and supplementing the school from our own support. Last year Lorie and I raised only enough funding to support ourselves and certain mission projects. We did not raise any funds for the school as those funds were to be provided from another source (which turned out to be woefully insufficient).

Clearly, as you can now understand, the future of this school will not survive if I do not return to the USA to raise long-term support specifically for the school (as there is no one else to do it). This support will, of course, be separate and apart from our current support and will not change anything for all of you who are currently supporting our work here.

My sponsoring congregation in Memphis has now agreed now to take on this additional responsible (collecting and forwarding the financial support on to Zambia). This new support that we will begin raising this year will be specifically contributed to the Mapepe Bible College for "student scholarships."

### **MBC Student Scholarships**

We have basically figured out what it will cost to run the school (60 students in Program One and 12 resident students in the full-time program). On this basis we now can determine the cost per student per month to full fund the school. That cost is \$75 per student (per month for twelve months). Thus, we will be returning the USA in October to begin asking churches and individuals to support one student in our school for \$75 per month. Our goal is to find 72 churches and individuals willing to do this. These funds will be given specifically to Mapepe Bible College and will be kept separate from our present mission support.

I must tell you, however, that none of us are happy about having to leave Zambia in order to do this. Both our girls and Lorie have voiced to me many times that they are hoping we are able to raise the money quickly so we can return home soon as possible. For me, however, having to return to the USA is just frustrating. There is so MUCH to do here and things are going so well that I hate to stop. It's like getting on the interstate to make an 1200 mile trip and (upon getting up to speed) you have to stop at the next exit because one of the kids in the backseat needs to go to the bathroom! There is so much great work to be done here and we are on such a roll that I hate to exit right now! So, on behalf of Lorie and I (and the girls), let us ask you to be praying that our upcoming, fund-raising efforts in the USA will be completed in record time so that we can be on the next plane back to Zambia as soon as possible!

### **Zambian E-Bulletin**

Periodically (once or twice a month) I send out an email (newsletter) about our work in Zambia. This is different than the Newsletter and in it I share lots of bits of information about the culture, our experiences and news items that I don't

have room to share in the monthly Newsletter. If you would like to receive this, just send me an email stating that you would like to be added to the Zambian E-Bulletin.

### **Reflections From Lorie**

We decided on Sunday to have a Women's Meeting on Thursday. It was announced at four churches. Over 80 women walked from as far away as 12 miles to attend lessons on the Christian Home taught by David's mom, Joyce French. There is an African proverb which says, "Leave a little wood for the fire after you have visited somewhere" (i.e., conduct yourself in a way so that your influence for good continues after you are gone). The comment was made by Brother Siakalima that that is exactly what had been done because several women who had attended the meeting were restored to the church the following Sunday after the Women's Meeting.

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