

Zambia Newsletter

[Jan 2006](#)



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Urgent request: Please send me your email address (if you have one) as my computer crashed four weeks ago and I lost my address book (and all of your email addresses). This is so I can send you the e-bulletin (*which I send out once/twice a month with prayer requests, cultural news, ministry updates, and information I don't have room to put in this monthly Newsletter*). **Email me:**

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Christ! We have now begun what I believe will be a GREAT year for the Lord's work in Zambia and Central Africa. May the Lord bless this work for His glory and for the advance of the kingdom in Central Africa! May this be a great year of success in spreading the gospel to those areas of Africa where the gospel has not yet gone! And, may the Lord send us students (church leaders) with a sincere heart to learn God's word and plant new churches. This is my prayer for 2006.

Financial Assessment.

My best estimate of where we now stand in our efforts to raise 70 student scholarship is that we have received commitments to fund about one-half of the 70 scholarships that we needed to raise. I guess this will have to do as the time has now come that we need to return back to Zambia. We are now trying to wrap up things here so we can return home to Zambia as soon as possible (in February). Despite the fact that we are still lacking the support that we need for this year, we are confident that the Lord will provide somehow and enable us to make it through this year just as He did last year!

If there are any of you that would still like to make a contribution to support our work this year, please let us know of your desire. It costs \$75 per month (on a 12 month basis) to support a student. If you can't support a full scholarship, then perhaps you might consider supporting one-half scholarship (\$40 per month). In fact, any amount would be greatly appreciated, especially this year considering our insufficiency. If we can get through this year, then that will give us enough time for Lorie and I to return next October to raise the rest of the monthly support that is needed for the school.

News From Zambia.

Thomas Simubali reports that he has already received 44 student applications for this coming year! Many of these are from the Copperbelt which is also located along the Congo border in northern Zambia. We did not have any students from this province last year and we determined that we would focus on this province this next year as this is the economic center of Zambia with all its copper mines.

Thomas also reports having established good working relations with the churches in this area so that we can plan some campaigns and workshops with these churches this next year. The churches in this province have somewhat lost their “fire” and are no longer growing since a former missionary left a few years ago. We, of course, want to change this and bring about a renewed zeal for evangelism and church planting!

Thomas informs me that most of our students from last year have been very active in evangelism since returning home in September. We received a report from an elder in the Mansa church that Felison (one of our students) has been doing a fantastic job working with the two new churches that our students planted in Mansa (Luapula) last September. The churches continue to grow and mature.

Two of our four Angolan students have returned to Angola and have been active in efforts to plant new churches in that country where we have only about three churches. The other two Angolans should return to Angola shortly to join them. Thomas also plans to make a trip to visit them in the next few weeks to encourage them and to consider ways that we might better assist them in their work.

Our two students from Kapiri Mposhi (Mulenga and Godfrey) have been extremely busy in God's work there. The church is growing and there are plans to start a new church soon. Thomas traveled in December to assist them in a leadership workshop that they conducted there. And, there is great news to report about this church: the church installed an eldership for the first time. Some of you may remember that Lorie and I conducted a leadership seminar there last May. Some of you may also remember that this is the church that our school has taken on as the focus of our efforts in church development (this is the commercial town where the AIDS epidemic is worse than anywhere else).

Thomas also writes, *“The group of our students from Samfya on the shores of the Lake Bangweulu in Luapula province are also not resting. They have planted more than 7 churches, and recently held a leadership meeting in the area. These hard working students are Grevasio Mwelwa, Anthony Chibesa and Dominic Mwila.”*

Kunda Friday (our one student from the northern province where we have very few churches) has been active in leading a group of brothers to plant a new church 20 kilometers from his home in Mpika. And, our three students from Lusaka are continuing to work with the new church our students planted in Lusaka last June/July.

This past Fall Thomas also taught an evening class at MBC (Mapepe Bible College) on evangelism. This was primarily offered for church leaders in Lusaka who are unable to attend our normal program because of their full-time jobs. There were about 20 who completed this course.

Presently, as I write this newsletter, Thomas is away on a trip to the Luapula province. I am especially anxious to hear an update on the progress of our students there and to hear whether or not any of them have dare yet to travel over into the Congo to begin efforts in planting churches in that country!

Indeed, great things are happening in Zambia which makes it all the more frustrating for Lorie and I not to be there! But, it is news like this that makes it worth it all. And, what is most exciting is that this is all happening without our even being there! This just goes to show that with a little teaching and guidance, Africans can advance the kingdom without us Americans with God's help!

New Faculty: Dennis and Herbert.

Dennis Chielbo (along with his wife, Muka, and their 5 year old daughter) has now returned back to Zambia from South Africa to begin work with us at MBC. Dennis graduated from South African Bible College in December. He is about 32 years old. He officially began work with MBC on Jan 1. Herbert Mhango (graduate of Manzini in Swaziland) will begin working with us at MBC on Feb 1. Together with Thomas, they will be working to recruit students and to conduct leadership seminars and mission campaigns in the next few months.

Plans For This Coming Year.

We expect to begin this coming school year with 60 or more students (about 25 from last year who will begin the second-year program and about 35 new students who will begin the first-year program). Although most of our students will come from the Luapula, Central and Copperbelt provinces (which is the primary focus area of our ministry), there will also be students from every province of Zambia, Angola, and even from the Congo.

It is important to understand that our school is a "*Mission School*." In other words, our goal is to train men who will go out and plant new churches in areas of Central Africa (Zambia, Angola, and Congo) where there are presently few churches. We are training men who will be prepared not only to plant a church but will also have the ability to nurture those churches to maturity in Christ (i.e., churches that have capable leaders and are planting other churches). Our goal is to plant churches that plant churches, for this is the mission of God! Our mission is not to train preachers who will merely return home to work in already existing churches. Although some of our students will undoubtedly do this, our goal is to train church-planting leaders (African missionaries)!

Thus, it is in this effort, that we will be taking our students out for practical ministry and evangelism on a regular basis. With our new bus that we hope to purchase in the next few weeks, we intend to take the students out for ministry/evangelism in the late afternoon/evenings. We will also be taking 25 students out on 10 long-weekend mission trips. Every student will be required to go on 5 of these trips. In addition, we will be taking all the students out on two 10-day mission campaigns to the north to plant new churches.

There are also some American brothers who are planning to come over for our first Medical Mission Trip and some others are planning to come over to help with some construction work. Oops, out of space!

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