

Zambia Newsletter

[March 2006](#)



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Dear Friends,

We have returned back to Zambia at the end of February and are busy getting things ready for the next school year. We found most everything at home in good order and have pretty much gotten everything back up and running.

We are still in the midst of the rainy season and everything is very green and muddy. Unlike last year when we had a short rainy season, the rains this year have been very plentiful (in fact, too much). Construction on the school building has been badly delayed because of the rains. We are still hopeful that the two buildings will be finished in time for school, but it will be a challenge.

New Faculty.

Our faculty has doubled since last year when it was just Thomas Simubali and myself. We now have Dennis Chelibo and Herbert Mhango who began working with the school in January. We have now had two long, faculty meetings dedicated to defining our mission as a school and how we plan to accomplish that mission. I was most encouraged by their comments and excitement about this work.

Our Mission.

Our mission is to train church leaders who will be prepared to go plant and mature strong churches in areas where there are few/none. The areas where we want to plant churches is huge! It covers an area the size greater than Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana combined! Because this is such a huge area, we have decided to break it into separate phases so that we can concentrate our efforts.

Consequently, we have decided that before trying to launch church-planting efforts in the far northern province, we should concentrate first on the area between us (Lusaka) and the northern province, namely the Central and Copperbelt provinces. This will also reduce the cost of transportation (as our support is still inadequate) and give us time to build our team of faculty and trained students (sufficient manpower to tackle this huge, remote province). Although we are hopeful that our Luapula students will begin planting churches across in the Congo (who we will assist in doing so), we have decided it best to delay a little before we launch campaigns into the Congo.

Having now identified our primary focus area, we have now planned a survey trip to this area. Tomorrow (March 11) the four of us (teachers) will travel to the Copperbelt and Central province for about five days in an effort to familiarize ourselves with this territory and to find what few churches exist in this area. We hope to meet as many leaders as we can from these churches, build relationships with them, discuss how we can help them grow and mature, and see if we can recruit students from these churches. These churches will provide a base from which to begin our work. Our Zambian teachers will then divide up the target area among themselves so that each of them can specialize on smaller areas.

Our plan is to begin working with these few small churches in order to build them up and to train some among them who can become church-planters in the home area. We will, then, begin taking our students up to these areas on campaigns to help these churches plant and mature other churches in their area. In the off-season (when school is not in session at Mapepe) our teachers will make many trips to their respective focus areas to assist in the work and in training leaders among these new churches.

Medical Mission – July 2007.

We are now planning a Medical Mission Trip to Zambia for the first two weeks in July 2007. Africans are very suspicious of anything new, especially when it involves people coming into their area from the outside. They will frequently regard such groups (including churches) as “Satanists” and/or witches who have come into their area to inflict suffering. It has been discovered, however, that going into a new area with a medical mission trip will calm their fears and convince them that we have come among them for good, not evil. We are planning to take this Medical Mission into the area that I have mentioned above (our primary target area). This will help introduce ourselves to these people in a positive way.

Do you want to join this effort? Of course, we first need anyone who has worked in the health care field (doctors, dentists, nurses, etc). But, we also need people to conduct a VBS for the children, do Bible studies with the adults, and support people to assist in the cooking and organizational work. The date is tentatively set for the first two weeks in July of 2007. If you have any interest, then you should send me an email (or letter) so that we can begin communicating about this. There is no commitment at this point. Just let me know if you are interested.

Shipping Container to Zambia.

We would like to especially thank all of you who donated items for the work here in Zambia. The container was shipped out on Feb 28 and should arrive by May 3. We are planning to ship another container in Nov/Dec and we will publish a list of things we are needing within the next month or so.

Student Recruitment.

We have received more than 50 applications from church leaders wanting to attend this year. We have just mailed acceptance letters to 20 new students and will send out another 10-15 within the next few weeks. We also have invited most all of our students from last year to return for the second year of their training. Thus, we are planning for 50-60 students.

Finally, let me express our deepest appreciation to all of you who have contributed to this work. It is our sincere prayer that God will give us wisdom so that we will use this support to accomplish great things for God here in Central Africa! – David

Lorie's Reflections

After around 36 hours in transit, we heard the pilot say that we were only 20 minutes from Lusaka. We all hurried to pack up the items that we had taken out of the carry-on bags during the flight. I could see that the same excitement that I was feeling, was dancing in the somewhat sleepy eyes of our girls...we were almost home.

This time when the plane touched down onto the Zambian soil, things were familiar. We entered the airport and proceeded to the shorter immigration line which was for those holding a work permit. When the immigration officer saw that the girls and I were wearing chitanges (the fabric wrapper skirt worn by women in Zambia) they greeted us warmly and rushed our paperwork through.

We then proceeded to get our luggage, which all arrived, and then made our way to the customs counter. David and Natasha passed through customs quickly and without incident. However, my welcome home began when I was detained. The customs officer wanted to see the 5 boxes of crayons (school supplies) which I had brought for the Mapepe children. School supplies must be approved by the government official before entering the country. Thomas Simubali (Operations Manager for the school), and Patrick Kawinga (Chairman of the Board) met us and brought us home.

My excitement kept growing as we passed the lush, green fields sprinkled with the people that God loves. I was overcome with intense emotion and gratitude to God and to all of you for allowing me to be God's servant here. How can I thank you enough for everything that you have done and sacrificed to make this possible for us.

When we arrived on the compound we were greeted by all of our friends. Mbulu (Night Guard and Farm Manager for the school) had planted an herb garden which spelled out "WELCOME". Our entire family exchanged greetings Zambian style with our friends and I couldn't help but think that this experience must resemble the joy of heaven when we are reunited with loved ones.

I also pondered on what a joy it will be for dear brothers and sisters like Myrtle Betts (one of our prayer warriors in Ohio who recently went to be with the Lord) as they are warmly greeted by their Zambian brothers and sisters who were converted to Christ because you all also cared for these souls that God loves. Ray Boltz sang a song a few years ago which expresses my gratitude to you, "Thank you for to the Lord, I am a life that was changed". One day you will be able to see for yourselves the lives that have been changed by your generosity. Thank you!!

— Lorie

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