

# Zambia Newsletter

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## So Many Deaths

As those of you who receive our e-bulletin already know, our School Director (Thomas Simubali) suffered the sudden death of his two-month old child on July 4. What makes this even more tragic is the fact that he also lost his six-month old daughter just last year! We don't know exactly what caused the death of either child, but we do know that they both died because of inadequate, negligent medical attention at Lusaka Hospital. His child died in his arms waiting for medical attention.

This is not the only death we have experienced within just the last month. The following students have all had to make quick trips home to bury family members: Calister (father died), Emanuel (mother-in-law, neighbor), Philemon (uncle), Abnet (aunt who raised him, uncle), Mike (niece), and Stephen (brother-in-law, aunt). It is amazing how many people die prematurely here in Zambia. Not a week goes by that we don't hear about a death in the family of someone we know.

## Revised Web-Page

We have made a major revision of our web-page. This is a great tool that can keep you informed and updated about our work. We have also greatly increased our picture gallery so that you can actually see recent events! We have all of our newsletters posted and there is a menu listing all the different ways that you can assist in this work. It is our hope that this web page will answer any questions that you might have about the work. In fact, if you have any suggestions for what we might ought to include on the

## July Mission Campaigns

In July we include a two-week mission campaign into our program. This year our students went out to plant new churches. One group of 16 students went to Kapiri Mposhi to assist the church there in planting a new church five miles to the east. A second group worked to plant a new church in Chipapa (a very desolate area 20 miles out into the bush southwest of our campus). A third group worked to plant a new church at Chipongwe (heavily populated village 15 miles southeast of our campus). Both the Chipapa and Chipongwe teams found places in these villages to secure their bikes at night so that they could use them during the day for evangelism. A fourth group traveled each day out on bikes to Lililya (five miles northeast of our campus). And, finally, a fifth bicycle brigade worked in the area of Mt Makulu (seven miles northwest of our campus).

These efforts resulted in the planting of four churches and a fifth at Mt. Makulu is scheduled to begin this next Sunday! Of course, we have had many baptisms (although this is not something we keep records of since we focus on success in terms of long-term, church-planting). Our students are now focusing their efforts on maturing and stabilizing these churches.

web site, then please let us know. We will also be adding a new section shortly that will show all of our students (with a short biography). Keep checking this site regularly as we will be constantly adding new things and pictures to our web page ([www.zambiamissions.org](http://www.zambiamissions.org)). We especially would like to thank my nephew, Ben French, who has worked hard to make this site. Also, if you would like to receive our e-bulletin, email me ([zambiamissions@gmail.com](mailto:zambiamissions@gmail.com)).

## Medical Mission 2007

Our first medical mission is scheduled for June 3-16 of 2007. We have chosen an area in northern Zambia where the church is very weak and where our school is now focusing our church-planting efforts for the next five years. Not only is this area central to all Zambia but it is also just south of the Congo border. We believe that this is most strategic area in Central Africa for future church-planting works and we believe that future medical mission trips to this area will help introduce and promote the church in this area.

If you have a healthcare worker of any sort and have ANY interest in going on this mission, please email me at [zambiamissions@gmail.com](mailto:zambiamissions@gmail.com) immediately. Not only will you make a meaningful contribution to helping people, but your efforts will also make a great contribution to our efforts to plant churches in Africa!

## Expansion Of Our Program

George Benson College GBC is a school located 200 miles south of us at Namwianga Mission (which is a great ministry of the churches of Christ in Zambia). One of our greatest challenges in training church leaders and evangelist is the problem of support. The churches of Zambia are too poor to support full-time evangelist and, because it is NOT a good thing to support indigenous preachers, this presents a serious problem for any of us who would

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### Expansion (continued)

train evangelists in Zambia. It was for this reason that GBC developed a program for training school teachers (something to support themselves in ministry). This is also why we at MBC have developed a program that operates in the dry-season so that rural church leaders (most Zambians are farmers) could come without having to move their families to Mapepe. Thus, our students have their farms to return home to and do not become dependent upon us for financial support. We are seriously opposed to putting nationals on support. This is also why we are developing some vocational training programs (e.g., agriculture, tailoring, small business, etc). We must find

ways to teach skills that will enable our students to adequately support themselves in ministry.

Both of our programs at Namwianga (GBC) and MBC do a great job at our respective programs; but there is a weakness in both. We at MBC are struggling to provide job skills. GBC, on the other hand, is struggling to provide sufficient ministry training (since a teacher training program doesn't leave a lot of time for Bible and ministry training). Thus, we and GBC have decided to join our respective efforts in order to produce church leaders who are well-trained and able to support themselves in ministry. This is a perfect match since graduates from GBC must wait a

whole year before their degrees are registered and they can be given a teaching job. This, therefore, gives us at MBC the perfect opportunity to supplement their training from GBC while they wait for their new teaching jobs. Thus, we plan to offer a new program of study for these GBC graduates -- a program that will run from January through September!

We are MOST excited about this new program as it will utilize the best of what GBC and MBC has to offer in producing church leaders who are well-educated and well-trained in ministry and will be able to serve as great church leaders in the future.

## Lorie's Reflections

The morning began in much the way any other Sunday begins at Mapepe Bible College. We woke up early and began to prepare for worship (which begins at about 7:30). We made the communion bread and got the grape juice ready. Then we all walked across the farm to the dorm building. Natasha carried the communion to the student in charge of preparation, Kerin was "backing" (carrying on her back) with a chitenge, and I was carrying the grass mat that the girls and I sit on for the worship here. You may think that sitting on a grass mat doesn't sound very comfortable. Quite the contrary, we find that sitting on the mat with our backs against the wall is a great way to corral an almost 2-year old during longer worship times than we have in America.

It was refreshing to celebrate worship for the first time in the partially finished classroom building at Mapepe Bible College. The students were raising traditional hymns of praise and thanks to God as we looked at the incredible blue of the African sky. We completed the worship service in the usual way by shaking hands with every other member as we exited the building singing a Bemba song of thanks to the Lord for blessing us with everything that we have.

David's Mother, the girls, and I hurried home to prepare for the children of the Mapepe village to come to the house to receive the shoeboxes that a number of you had sent in the shipping container. The experience that followed is one that I wish each of you and your children could have witnessed personally.

Boys and girls ranging in age from 3 to 13 filed into the yard in graduating order of height. One by one they received the shoeboxes and waited on the grass mat until every child had their boxes. Kerin then told them that they could open their boxes. Within just a few seconds the tape and rubber bands that held the boxes tightly closed were off, the box lids were off and yard was filled with sounds of delight as the children

began to pull the contents out of the boxes. One of the older children discovered that he had a Bible in the bottom of his box, He shouted with delight "My own Bible". In a flurry of digging into the boxes each child



discovered that they each had "their own Bible". The youngest little boy who is barely 3 years old (and can't read yet) was delighted as he pulled his Bible from his box and proclaimed "this Bible is for me"! Thank all of the children and adults from America who took the time to bless these precious children. Remember, Jesus said that when you do it to one of the least of His brothers, you do it to Him (Matt 25:40).

