

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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

David & Lorie French

P.O. Box 36893
Lusaka, Zambia 10101
dfrench@zambiamissions.org



Web: www.zambiamissions.org

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Dear Friends,

Lorie and I have pretty much spent the last eight weeks on the road traveling all over the country visiting churches in search of additional funding for the work in Zambia. In some ways there is not a awful lot to report this month as our time has been pretty much filled with nothing but driving, meeting with churches, calling and writing letters in search of additional funding. Nevertheless, there is some news to report from the ongoing work in Zambia. Even when Lorie and I are not in Zambia, the work there continues on as we now have Zambian co-workers who are continuing on with the work in our absence.

Report From Angola

We've been waiting for almost a year, but we finally heard news from two of our four Angolan students who attended school last year. You may remember that Angola is a country to the west of Zambia that has just ended a 40-year civil war. We have only a few churches in this country. We were, therefore, delighted to hear that these two students have now successfully planted two churches in central region of Angola (area most affected by the civil war). They and others are working on registering the Church of Christ in Angola and we are feel quite optimistic about the future of the work in this country.

Reports From The Five New Church-Plantings

Several of our students from this past year asked to remain behind for a few weeks in an effort to stabilize the four new churches that were planted by our students this past summer. The news from each of these new churches is quite positive as they continue to grow and develop leaders who can take over in the near future. Two of our students have now moved down to live and work with the church at Chipapa and one of our construction foremen (who is also a strong member of the church) has moved to work with the church at Chipongwe for a few months. Our two new staff members (Samuel Nkando and Masauso Moonga) have been working with the two

churches at Mt. Makuru and Lilyia. Two others students from the Kapiri Mposhi area have taken responsibility

for working with the new church at Kapiri Mposhi which our students planted on our July Campaigns.

Construction Works

Before leaving Zambia a few weeks ago, I bought most all of the materials that would be needed to complete the construction works being done on several new buildings that were started this past summer at Mapepe. Although the works have not quite kept up with the plan I mapped out (not a surprise), all works are on schedule to be completed by the time Lorie and I return to Zambia on Jan 4th. The house for our School Director, Thomas Simubali, was finished on Nov 10th so that Thomas was able to move in the following day. The roof to the dorm has now been repaired (the original builder who we terminated in June had done such a poor job that it was not ready for the rains which finally began this past week). Three of the six staff houses (250 sq feet each) are now finished and they are presently installing the roof on the classroom building.

New Program To Begin in January

Thomas Simubali (Director) has been very busy traveling throughout Zambia over the past few weeks recruiting students both for our normal summer program and for the new program that we now plan to begin on January 8th. I have already spoken of this new program in a previous Newsletter (a program to training college graduates with a degree in secondary education). Thomas informed me just this morning that he has already registered 32 students for this new program. In addition, we are planning a "Seminar in April" which is designed specifically for those who already have teaching jobs throughout Zambia. During April teachers get a whole month off (school holidays). Thomas reports that he has found

great interest among teachers to come to this April program in Bible and leadership. This means that our school operations for 2007 will basically double over that of last year. We will likely enroll about 35 students for the Jan-April semester, another 35 for the April Seminar (meaning we will have about 70 students for the month of April). This also means that our capacity for 72 male students will be totally maxed out for the summer semester.

Women's Program

We have now given Lorie the "green light" to finally begin a program in Women and Children's Ministries. Very little is being done for our women and children of the church. Very few churches have any type of Sunday school program and not many more have any programs or ministries for women in the churches. As Thomas began recruiting teachers for our new program in January, several female graduates (future teachers) also expressed interest in attending. It appears now that there are about 10-15 female teachers who now plan to attend beginning in January. This now brings up the need to build a small women's dormitory. We will temporarily house these female students in two of our six new staff houses until we can build this new dorm. We are very excited about this new program for women as it will begin the process of developing Zambia women (with teaching ability) to serve as future women leaders in the churches of Zambia. This will hopefully help in meeting some of the many needs that our women and children have in our Zambian churches.

Agricultural Training Programs

The White's Ferry Road congregation has given us a matching grant of \$50,000 for our agricultural training program and farming operations at Mapepe. This means that we have about 12-15 months to raise the other \$50,000 in matching funds. A certain portion of these funds have already been released to us (on faith) which has enabled us to go ahead and buy a tractor and several implements to included in our upcoming shipment next month (Dec 2007). Our plan is to develop 12 of our 15 farming acres for raising food year-round (once we raise enough funds to buy the irrigation equipment). Not only will this allow us to raise all the food we need to feed our students, but it will also give us some produce to sell on the marketplace (a positive step in empowering the school to develop some self-sufficiency).

However, our plan is to leave some of the land as "low tech" for farming. We will use this land to teach the students how to raise vegetables year-round using drip irrigation. We will also teach them some

new farming skills, new types of crops they can raise, and learn how to grow crops without the need for expensive fertilizer (using crop rotation and compost piles). In addition, we are developing a chicken run and other livestock operations for teaching purposes. Our hope is that we not only will be able to teach our students skills that will better enable them to support their families as self-supporting church leaders, but will also endow them skills that they can teach to others so that the churches and villagers will benefit wherever our students out to serve the Lord.

Healing Hands International (HHI) in Nashville has agreed to help us in several of these projects. Richard Myers from HHI has agreed to come next year to help us in developing our agricultural program and to conduct two drip-irrigation workshops for students and others. Using drip-irrigation (which is a very inexpensive way to irrigate crops) our students will learn how to grow vegetables year-round.

Prison Ministry and World Bible School

There is yet another ministry that we are already developing: prison ministry. We were contacted last year by Ruth Orr and the Lewisburg congregation (TN) about helping them in reaching some World Bible School students they had from a prison in Zambia. It just happened that our Head Cook (Melvin) was already involved in prison work. Melvin has since made several trips to contact these WBS students in prison and we are now planning (upon our return) to re-organize and intensify this Ministry. We are also looking at ways that we can begin a program to follow up on some of the many WBS students that have completed WBS throughout Zambia.

Present Financial Needs

As many of you consider your personal and congregational budgets for 2007, I hope that you will give consideration to the needs of this work in Zambia. There are several financial needs that I would like to highlight for your consideration: (a) Student Scholarships (\$75 per student for 12 months). With our dramatic increase in students for next year, we are in serious need for churches and individuals to take on a student scholarship. (b) Women's Dorm (estimated \$20,000). (c) Campaign Bus which is needed to take students out on church-planting trips (estimated \$20,000). (d) Support for Mission Campaigns (our biggest monthly expense as fuel costs about \$7.00 per gallon).

Lorie and I would like to wish you all a happy holiday season and a blessed new year. Please keep us in your prayers as we launch out on faith in many new ways this coming year. It should be a great year!