

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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**Back in Zambia.** Lorie, Natasha and I are now back in Zambia (departed USA on Jan 4<sup>th</sup>) and already well-underway with the new school year. We do not yet know how well our fund-raising efforts were this past Fall (as we have yet to hear from most churches), but we will trust in the Lord to provide what we need for this new year.

We returned to find many unresolved problems awaiting us. The construction works were not as far as advanced as we had hoped they would be and three of our vehicles were in the shop undergoing major engine repairs (e.g. the so-called Christian man who sold us the 2-ton truck lied about having overhauled it and would not honor his warranty when the engine had to be overhauled). Getting everything back in working order and the construction works jump-started has completely depleted all our financial funds. Such is life in Africa and the challenges of trying to start a new work from scratch.

**Two New Programs of Study.** We arrived back in Zambia on Saturday and on Monday classes for the new school year began. We have now have 35 students (which includes five females students). This represents about a 150% increase in our operations for this year over last year. In 2005 we began with one class of 32 students for five month program (May-Sept). In 2006 we doubled our operations (and moved to our new campus at Mapepe) with two classes of students ( and a combined total of 55 students). This year we are doubling the number of months we will be in operation (Jan-Sept) and introducing two new programs: college students and women.

This new program seeks to provide Bible and ministry training to those having just graduated from college and/or those just fixing to enter into college next year. Most of these students will soon secure jobs as secondary teachers and will be able (having a job skill) to support themselves in ministry. Our goal is to prepare them for future leadership (Bible and ministry skills).

## Upcoming Trip To the North.

My brother, John (who is also an elder at our sponsoring congregation in Memphis) will be arriving

on Jan 30 to see the work that we are doing here in Zambia. On Feb 3 we will be traveling north, along with Oliver (our new coordinator for humanitarian works) and two church leaders from Kapirir Mposhi. Our purpose will be to pick six sites for our Medical Mission campaign in June and to make the initiate arrangements. Oliver will, then, take over the arrangements from here on. We are also going to pick five-six sites where we want to plant churches with our students this next year. We will be traveling far out into the bush on mud roads in rainy season and up very near to the Congo border. Upon our return we will be meeting with our Zambian leadership board and visiting with several new candidates who have been nominated to join our Zambia board as we are in the process of reconstituting that board this year.

**Increased Staff.** With our dramatic expansions this year, we have had to hire quite a few new staff members. We now have a full-time staff of thirteen and about five part-time workers. This does not include our construction workers who presently number about six (temporary). Thomas Simubali is our School Director. We have three Mission Coordinators (graduates of from our program who are working with the students in our mission campaigns and on their student spiritual growth). We have just hired a new driver, Daniel, who will be running errands for the school, taking students out on campaigns (as well as providing transportation for our American visitors) and handling office work for Simubali. We also just hired two more people: Oliver (who will be overseeing the administrative needs of the school and heading up all our future humanitarian works) and Thomas (another graduate from our program who is going to be serving in our prison ministry and WBS follow-up program). Sydney is our maintenance supervisor (handyman). Melvin is our Head Cook and Dorm Supervisor. We are presently in search of a Farm Supervisor (to oversee our farming operations and vocational training works) and a Farm Worker to assist him in the farming operations.

**Financial Need: Campaign Bus.** I thought (as I departed the USA) I had enough money to finally buy the campaign bus, but the unexpected, urgent needs that greeted me upon my arrival (e.g. three vehicles requiring major repairs and unfinished construction works running over budget) has pretty much destroyed what cash reserves we had (and then some). Hence, my efforts to raise money to buy a bus (to carry students out on campaigns) has yet to prove successful. We are expecting that we are going to be at total full capacity this year (80-85 students) and we are desperately needing to buy this bus ASAP. This is our most urgent need, should anyone want to know how best to assist us right now. (No subtle hint here!)

**Future Plans and Financial Needs.** We still are in need of securing funding for at least 40 student scholarships (\$75 per month). We will still invite these students to attend school and trust (next column)

the Lord to provide. We still have just a few more buildings to build (e.g. small women's dorm, library, vocational training building, and orphanage). We also need some funds to buy and install an irrigation system so that we can grow crops year-round.

**Orphan Care Ministry.** Many of you (during this last trip to the USA) expressed great interest in helping the orphans of Zambia. One organization in South Carolina expressed great interest in helping us to raise the money to build an orphanage. Your great interest has inspired us to go ahead now and begin plans to develop this ministry now rather than later. Hence, we have hired (noted above) a Zambian named Oliver who has extensive experience in this type of humanitarian work to help us to develop this ministry this year. I will tell you more about these plans in our next Newsletter. David

## Lorie's Reflections

**Greetings:** From an incredibly green farm in Zambia. The welcome tapping (and sometimes) thunder of the rains on the tin roof is our current house guest. For this we are very thankful.

The evidence of God's faithfulness greets me each morning as I walk down the muddy path to teach the women students. The farm is alive with color. The deep green of next year's food is accented with the vibrant colors of the African fabrics worn by the families who are working together in the cool of the early morning. They know that the weeds have to be removed for the tender young plants to grow and flourish. So there they work side by side in their small plots to nurture the young plants. Father and sons, mother and daughters, sisters and brothers all working together for a common purpose. A short walk to class takes a bit of time since there are many greetings all along the way.

Perhaps the most beautiful sight awaits me in the classroom, God's precious young women. Two have just graduated from secondary school and three are graduates from George Benson Teacher Training College. The diversity of their gifts and talents mirrors the multiple colors found in Zambian chitenge fabric. These are the tender, young plants that you and I have been blessed to nurture together. On a daily basis, I am amazed and excited about the thirst that these girls have for learning more about God's word, not for selfish reasons, but to be able to minister to the dear women and children who are often victimized here.

One day in class I asked them to tell me why they wanted to be students at Mapepe Bible College. One of the girls responded, with these words, "It is so rare for any women to be invited to study God's word in depth at any of the ministry schools and I want to learn much more about the word of God."

Three of these girls are orphans themselves and yet all of them want to minister to children in need. Join with me each day in prayer for these precious young ladies by name (left to right in the photo below) Carol, Siang'andu, Jane, Susan, and Shirley. Pray that evil will stay far from them, that they will become the women that God created them to be, and that they will always be as hungry for God's word as they are now.

What a blessing we have to be the ones to nurture these tender, young plants for our Lord. Pray that God will send us more and more young women to train for His glory! May our teaching fall like the rain upon these tender plants.

