

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Injuries & Sicknesses. One of our three Mission Coordinators, William Siangandu, was seriously injured on the highway in late February. He had been suffering from a bad case of malaria and apparently got up in the middle of the night (delirious from high fever) and walked out to the highway where he was hit by a passing vehicle. The police assumed he was one of the highway bandits that frequently jump up on the slow moving trucks in order to throw things off to gather afterwards to sell. The police assumed he was a thief that fell off a truck in the process of stealing. Thus, he was badly treated both by the police and the hospital (which totally ignored him). When we could not find him the next morning, we began a search that took us to the police. Thomas Simubali (our Director) got the police to write a letter to the hospital stating that he was not a thief and took it to the hospital where they finally began to treat William. He has sustained a broken arm and collar bone, a serious head injury (that required about 20 stitches in his forehead), and many other deep bruises. Frankly, when I first heard the report (knowing what I know about Zambian healthcare), I did not expect him to live. I sent out a e-bulletin to all those on our Zambian e-mail list asking for prayers. Those prayers were answered as William did survive and is now back at Mapepe recovering from his injuries.

We have also been overwhelmed at Mapepe by some kind of a flu-cold virus. Almost all of our students have had it. Lorie and I (and our girls) have also had it and it is the worst case of the cold (or flu) that I have ever had. I wasn't able to teach for a whole week. Lasts about 3 weeks.

Purchase of Buses. I reported last month that we had finally purchased a bus in which to take students out on mission campaigns. This purchase was made possible by two individuals who gave generously for this purpose. One of the contributions was also for construction works; but after discussing the matter with the donor, a decision was made to go ahead and buy a second

bus and a used 4x4 Landcruiser which we have done (delivery should be 6 weeks). This decision was made since our primary

objective for this year is to gear-up and begin in earnest our church-planting efforts to the area north of Lusaka.

There are two main areas to the north that we are going to focus on for the next 3-5 years. The first area is the Central Province which runs across the center of the country. We are going to focus first on the area between Kapiri Mposhi and Serenje (200 miles between these two towns). We have already been working for the last two years with the church in Kapiri Mposhi and have planted a second church there. This is the area in which we will conduct the Medical Mission in June. Our plan is to preposition groups of our students in each of the villages where we will be conducting the medical mission clinics. These students will work in these villages for two weeks during the medical mission in an effort to plant five new churches! We will, then (following the medical mission), continue to run our students back up to these village each weekend (in our new bus) to continue working with these new churches in an effort to stabilize and mature them. Several students will locate with these churches (once school ends in Sept) to continue working with them. Then, next year, we will use these churches as bases from which to network into still other nearby villages to plant more churches! We believe that after 3-5 years of doing this, we will end up planting no less than 35-40 churches in an area where currently there are no churches at all!

We needed the second bus for church-planting efforts closer to home in the Lusaka province where our school is located. There are about 12 churches in Lusaka, but once you travel to the north, east or west of Lusaka city-limits, you will be very hard-pressed to find a single church of Christ. Thus, we have decided that while we send one bus north to the Central province each weekend, we want to send a second bus of 25 students to the areas just to the north, east and west of Lusaka to plant churches. This year we want to focus on the area north between Lusaka and Kabwe (80 miles). Next year we would like to increase our efforts to the east of Lusaka. Our goals is to plant no less than 40 churches in

Lusaka province over the next five years (an 80-mile area surrounding our school here at Mapepe). This means that every weekend, every one of our students will be out doing church-planting and maturing work with new churches that we have planted!

What this does not include, however, is the work that our students will be doing on their own when they are not here at Mapepe. It is our hope that (having trained our students how to plant and mature churches while here at Mapepe) they will return home to continue planting churches in their home territories. And, based on the reports that we are now getting from our past students, this is **EXACTLY** what they are doing! We estimate that our past students from the first two years of our program have now planted more than 25 churches! In fact, we now believe that if we here at Mapepe are able to plant 5-6 churches per year, our students will end up planting

an additional 20 churches on their own in the next two years after having come to Mapepe! In other words, our students will exponentially increase what we are able to do here at Mapepe. Imagine what this will result in after ten years!

Financial Challenge. As you can see we are gearing up in a serious way to increase our mission works for this year. There is one major question/challenge that now presents itself: Do we have sufficient support to buy the \$7.00 gallon gas that we need to run two buses every weekend? I really don't know yet how much it costs to send a bus out full of students for a weekend campaign. I know that transportation is our biggest expense. We have enough support to operate the school at full capacity this year, but do we have enough to fund all these campaigns this year? Well, we will just have to trust in God to provide!

Lorie's Reflections

The first leg of the bus ride began at 4:30 A.M. in Lusaka and ended at 6:00 P.M. in Chipata (near the border of Malawi). Then Stella got on a smaller bus to take her to a remote area of Zambia called Mfuwe. Her adventure had just begun. Rainy season had washed the dirt roads away so badly that a 1-2 day trip took 4 days. The last morning the bus drove around a bend in the road and the passengers found themselves in a river instead of a road. The bus driver informed the passengers that they would have to get out and walk. They were given their bags and walked 20 minutes through the water. The walk for Stella (to the remote village where her daughter had been sent when she lost her home) took 2 ½ hours more. Stella arrived in the village and found herself following a large group of village children coming from school.



(Stella and Latisha upon their return to Mapepe)

One tiny figure turned and started to run back toward a now exhausted Stella. Stella and the large suitcase suddenly felt a renewed energy. Stella said that she ran as if on the wings of eagles. Mother and daughter

met in the middle of the road and both wept. Latisha simply said to her mom "I knew you would come!" We thank God for reuniting Stella and Amon (Stella's son) with Latisha. I know they were not alone rejoicing on that remote African road!



Joy comes to children in Zambia rarely. They spend most of their time doing chores to help out with family responsibilities.

However, Mrs. Lena Daniels and Mrs. Cheryl Waggoner (both of Fayetteville, TN) brought great joy to a

number of vulnerable children by making over 50 yarn dolls (see picture above). Each child that received one put it around their neck and wore it with pride. Many of the children who were given a doll are orphans or dependents of extended family members. One child said that those ladies must love them a lot to make those beautiful dolls for them. The children are very precious in God's sight. Continue to pray for them daily. I would like to extend a very special thanks to Mrs. Lena and Mrs Cheryl for caring about the vulnerable children in this special way.

– Lorie