

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Prison Ministry and WBS. This past month we were privileged to have Ruth Orr (Lewisburg, TN) and David Harper (Nashville, TN) here with us. Many of you may already know Ruth as she is well known for her work with WBS (World Bible School) in Africa. In past years her work was primarily in Nigeria and Ghana; but, in more recent years, the number of WBS students in Zambia has increased quite substantially. And, because many WBS students are also prisoners, this work has expanded to include a Prison Ministry. The Church St. congregation in Lewisburg, TN has provided a great deal of the financial support for these ministries. Last year when we were in the USA, Lorie and I visited with Ruth and the Missions Committee at Church St. and a decision was made for us to work together in developing the WBS and Prison Ministries here in Zambia.

It also just happens that a previous WBS convert of Ruth's from prison, Thomas Sakala, has been a student here at Mapepe. Hence, it was decided that we would train Thomas for this ministry which he will do full-time upon his graduation this coming Sept. It also happened that our School Cook and Dorm Supervisor, Melvin Kalimashila, has already been working as a deacon in the Prison Ministry. Thus, Melvin is now working with Thomas as a co-worker in these two new ministries (WBS follow-up and Prison Ministry).

Ruth and David were here for just over two weeks in order to meet Thomas and Melvin and to visit as many of their WBS students in Zambia as they could. As a result they were able to report before heading home that they had had 14 baptisms, 16 restorations, and about 30 who have asked to be baptized at the Maximum Prison in Kabwe (prisoners must first obtain permission from the prison before they can be baptized). In addition to this, they were able to meet and minister to the families of some of her students who are in prison (life becomes very difficult for the families of prisoners in Africa).

Other Visitors. We have also been blessed to have several other visitors who have been here to teach various classes. Keith Fussell (Family Minister from our sponsoring congregation in Memphis) was here in June to teach a class on Marriage and the Family. This is an urgent need here in Zambia with sexual promiscuity being so rampant and HIV/AIDS killing whole families as a consequence of this behavior. This year Keith was able to come with his wife (Kim) and family. Kim taught a women's class to our female students.

We are also blessed to have my parents (Parker & Joyce) here with us again this year. This is the third year that they have been here. My Dad is teaching two classes this year for six weeks (Old Testament Historical Books). My Mom is teaching a women's class on the "Christian Home." My Dad is almost 82 year old now and is living proof that old age doesn't have to be a barrier to mission work! They will be with us until mid-August.

There are several other teachers who will be coming to assist us in the next few weeks. Thayer Salisbury (former missionary to Nigeria and Swaziland) will be here in August to teach the "Minor Prophets." Lorie's Dad (Richard Waggoner) will be here in August to teach "Conflict Resolution," Brian Davis (fellow missionary working in NW Zambia) will be here to teach a class on "Mission Work in Africa," and Don Boyd (co-worker of Brian Davis) will teach a class on "Pastoral Epistles."

Reconstituted Board of Trustees. This past month we reconstituted our Zambian Board of Trustees. Over the past few years (especially this past year) several of our older board members have died or have had to resign for various reasons. This left us with only about four board members and our school registration with the government requires 7-10 board members. We also felt it was time to recruit some men who have experience in education and/or expertise in running an operation in Zambia as big as ours has now become. After a six month process, we finally selected and ratified a new board consisting of ten members from all across Zambia.

Recruitment of American Missionary. From the very beginning, the demands of this work have been far too much for Lorie and I to bear alone. We thought that things would begin to even out, but the opportunities for this work just keep coming and we have now reached a point of utter exhaustion. We have trained and developed an excellent Zambian staff, but this has only increased our ability to do even more! And, how do you say no? This past year we more than doubled our operations (increasing our student number to more than 70), began a women's program, began a Prison Ministry and WBS follow-up program, dramatically increased our mission campaigns, and sponsored our first medical mission! It is hard to realize how much God has accomplished here in just two years!!! But, we are just worn out and greatly fatigued. I have frequently had to double up and teach two three-hour classes per day – this on top of all the other works going on. Lorie has greatly assisted me by assuming the financial management of the construction projects and handling all the daily problems that arise, but there is just

too much for the both of us. Hence, we have determined that we need to recruit another American missionary to come help us with this work. We are looking for someone who can either teach in the school and/or can focus on the missionary outreach component of our ministry that is now growing like a firestorm.

We specifically need someone who can work with our staff and students/graduates throughout the country who are now beginning to plant churches at an increasing pace. We have now had more than 175 students who have attended Mapepe (70 graduates after Sept) and we now need to begin working with these students and mentoring (assisting) them in their church planting efforts. Our role is not to do the work for them, but to facilitate (coach), encourage, and provide problem-solving assistance (in addition to doing some ongoing leadership training). Recruiting this person will be one of our goals on our upcoming trip to the USA this coming Fall. Please keep this and our work in your prayers. David

Lorie's Reflections



“Older women by their reverent behavior are to teach the young women to love their husbands and children ...to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind and submissive so that God's word will not be dishonored.” (Titus 2: 3-5)

A giggle rolled through the classroom as Mama Joyce (Joyce French) taught the women students about “In-Laws”. One of the students mumbled something in Tonga to her fellow classmates. When she inquired what was funny, she was told that the future mother-in-law of one of the girls didn't like the girl. A burst of laughter followed. This can be true in many cultures, I imagine.

The girls were blessed with teaching on many aspects of making a Christian home. The students shared their hopes, dreams, and intense desires for the future. Perhaps the strongest indication of their conviction to glorify God both before and after their marriages came at the end of that course as they vowed to remain pure before the Lord.

The room was totally silent as the purity ceremony began. In the center of the room there was a table containing a veil, a ring, and two pink roses for each student. The mood remained sober as I read several passages about the importance of vows and purity. Each girl was given a chance to come forward and in her own words pledge her vow to God in her own words.

As the first precious girl came forward and I placed veil on her head. She pledged her vow of purity before the Lord and I was greatly touched with the devotion to God which her words portrayed. The ring was placed on her finger and the blusher of her veil brought forward to cover her bowed head. Mama Joyce gave her the two roses which were symbolic of her presenting herself to her husband with a pure heart.

We as Christians have been so blessed to be precious children of a Heavenly Father who invites us to be holy and pure as He is. Let us encourage each other in our daily pledges of holiness to God. Let us thank Him for the dear-ones He has sent to teach us by word and deed.

