

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Communications. Over the past few months we have developed several ways to keep you more informed about the work here in Zambia. We have totally revised our web page so that it is now up-to-date and contains twice as much information as before. I am confident that just about any question you have can be answer there: www.zambiamissions.org

Email. We have also been given access to use a sophisticated email program that will allow me to send out our monthly newsletter and occasional e-bulletins which I send out once or twice a month. All I need is your email address and I can add it to this mailing list (just drop me an email – dfrench24@gmail.com – and I can get your address from that email. It is also very easy for you to unsubscribe from our mailing list any time you want to as every email provides that option at the bottom.

I know, however, that many of you do not have email and that is why we continue to mail out our monthly newsletter by regular mail. However, I would like to ask that each church select someone with email to sign up on our list so that they can receive and print out the emails we send so that your congregation can stay better informed and up-dated about the work.

Lorie and I also intend to begin writing up stories (with pictures) that tell about how our work here is making a difference in people's lives. Lorie already does this every month on our newsletter, but we intend to do more of this and to send out these stories by email (and post them on our web page).

Back In Zambia. Lorie, Natasha, and I, of course, are now back in Zambia (we left USA on Jan 1). Here to greet us at the airport were our daughter, Kerin, and her two orphan children (Susann and Zainne). They were most happy to see us as it was a lonely past months for them here alone. Nevertheless, Kerin did a great job standing in for us in our absence; however, she did tells us that she didn't want our job and was happy to turn all things back over to us! "Too many problems to solve everyday," she said.

Focus For 2009. As I have reported in my past few newsletters, we are now going through a self-examination period which as led us to make several important revisions which we are just starting to

implement now that I am back in Zambia. We are in the process of creating a new ministry that will be called the "Center For African Missions" (CAM). As our ministry has grown, we have added several new projects that are beyond the scope of our mission statement for Mapepe Bible College (MBC) which is about training missionaries to advance the kingdom of God in Central Africa. These new ministries include the prison ministry (that has seen more than 200 baptized in the last two years), the annual Medical Mission, an agriculture ministry (that is now going off campus and is proving to be a very effective tool in church-planting ministry), the beginning stages of a new orphan care ministry, mission campaigns, etc. Because these ministries involve much more than training missionaries, we felt it necessary to divide our work into two distinct branches: MBC (training) and CAM (mission efforts off campus and anything that doesn't involve training future missionaries). You can read more about this on our web page.

And, as I explained in our August newsletter, we have also made some major revisions in our training approaches at MBC. We will now conduct a five-month program (May-Sept) in which we will invite up to 90 men and women to attend. The focus of this program is on character and the basic fundamentals of what it means to be a Christian (e.g. ethics, obedience to scripture, etc). From this program we will be able to identify the men/women of character who have a passion for missions and the gifts to do it. We will, then, invite these students to enroll in our new three-year training program that will involve them moving onto campus with their wives and families (so that we can also train the wives). This training will be extensive and quite comprehensive (e.g. Bible knowledge, character development, practical training in missions and being a servant to others, and teaching them job skills that will enable them to support themselves in missions). We believe we will be able to handle up to 25-30 families at a time in this program.

Consequently, one of our primary objectives this year is to train our staff for these new programs. Hence, we have basically designed a special training program for our staff that began last week. Presently they are spending about 3 hours per day in class and will shortly begin going out to practice what they are learning. One can teach others what one hasn't done himself. We feel very good about these new directions that we are now implementing as we believe we have learned much from our experience over the past four years that will now enhance our ability to train missionaries and to advance the kingdom.

Major Initiatives For 2009. As we have for the past two years, we will again conduct the "Seminar in April" which is for secondary teachers of the church who have teaching jobs in mission areas. Besides that involving our own staff, we will conduct three church-planting seminars with former and new students this year (Jan, March and April). This seminar is to teach them some new church-planting strategies that we have developed over the past four years. And, of course, we will begin our regular classes on May 4 of this year.

As I write this newsletter, our staff has just finished the first seminar in church-planting and they have now left the campus to put into practice what they have learned. It is a strategy that requires about 26-30 weeks to complete, so our staff will be on and off the campus for several days each week as they each learn to plant churches. Once they have learned how to do this, then they will be prepared to teach others (students).

We have our third medical mission planned for the first two weeks in June which will again be conducted in the Central province where we are seeking to plant new churches. Our plans also include conducting at least six agriculture workshops this year which we are now using as a church-planting strategy.

In March a group from the Springfield congregation (TN) will be coming in March to do some construction on the campus. Guest teachers who will be coming this year include Tom Torpy (from the Jericho congregation in Mocksville, NC), Marty Brownfield (elder from Goodman Oaks in Southaven, MS), Eddie & Carol Hendrix (Richmond, VA), Parker French (Arlington, TN), Fielden & Janet Allison (Swaziland), and Richard Waggoner (Fayetteville, TN). Other visitors who plan to visit us this year include John French (elder from Sycamore View) and Grant McDaniel (elder from Jonesboro, AR) will be coming to visit in late February. Ruth (Lewisburg, TN) who works with our Prison Ministry and WBS will likely come in June or July. There is a young married couple (Josh & Alisha Tucker) who are students at Sunset who will be coming in July. We have hopes that they might come to work with us here at Mapepe in a couple of years. And, in July, Dick and Suzi Stephens who have worked with the Malawi Project in Malawi will be coming to visit us in an effort to help us implement some of the projects that they have been able to do in Malawi to help the people of that country. Should be a busy year!

Lorie's Reflections

Home Again!

The long flight was over. The plane landed in an ocean of darkness. We three weary travelers gathered our belongings and descended the staircase to the ground. David was walking fast to get to the immigration line quickly. I was looking up to the balcony where people can go to view the planes that are landing. There was a small silhouette waving to me from the window. It was great to be home in Zambia again.

We finished at the immigration desk quickly and went to retrieve our many bags. I could hardly wait until I could hug Kerin, Susann, and little (well not so little anymore) Zainne. As the bags rounded the carousel my excitement grew. I could wait no longer...I slipped away and motioned for Susann to come to me. She started toward me and the airport guard tried to hinder her from entering the baggage area. Now protocol is protocol, however, no one's protocol should keep me from my grandchildren. I moved closer to her and she ran to hug me. Even the guard had to smile at the reunion he was witnessing. There is something incredible about being reunited with people that you love and cherish.

The entire first week was filled with sweet reunions with our Mapepe family. How blessed we are to be united as a family of Christ in this place and time. He has brought us from many different backgrounds to be the music video of His love for even the unlovable. Remember, don't you let protocol keep you from sharing the light of His word. Just run forward, hug, and watch the guards smile!



This is the first month of a new year in which we are promised "new mercies" from our heavenly father each day. This is the year for us to pray for His glory to fill the whole earth. This is the year for us to wear His armor and stand ready to hear His call to service. How many lives can He bless with our hands this year? Can we make a difference to one child who has experienced loss? Can we carry some of the burden for a widow who struggles to feed her children? Can we minister to prisoners who have been confined to life in prison? Can we spread God's precious word to people who live in a world of darkness? Can we be instruments of God's peace? Will the world see us and glorify our heavenly Father? Remember, "His mercies are new every morning". "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength". Let's pray that God will open the eyes of our hearts to His daily adventures this year.