

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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April 2008

Church-Planting Initiatives. For the past three months we have been focused on training our staff and some of our former students in some new evangelistic strategies. We began first with our own staff and they have now been going out for more than two months in an effort to implement these new strategies. They returned in February for a week so that we might assess and refine their efforts. We were encouraged to hear that our group of 12 had successfully initiated more than 20 group Bible studies, two of which had had several baptisms and were forming into a new church. This effort is continuing on.

For the past three weeks we have been re-training some of our former students who we invited to return to campus for this additional training. About twenty students paid their own way to get here and have just today completed the training. We are anxious to hear how they do as they return home to implement what they have learned. Most of these students are from the Central Province where we have very few churches and where we have conducted our medical missions over the past three years.

We have another group of students coming in two weeks who will also receive this same training. This next group will be made up of secondary teachers who are graduates of Namwianga Mission and have taken teaching jobs in various mission points throughout Zambia as a part of the Northreach program. Many of these students have attended our past Seminars in April which we conduct each year. It is our hope that these teachers will learn these new church-planting strategies and will be able to enhance their efforts to plant new churches throughout northern Zambia.

Visitors From Springfield, TN. We were greatly blessed this past month to be visited by a group of 13 members from the Main St. congregation in Springfield, TN. This group came not only to learn more about the work here in Zambia but also to assist us in several projects (construction, medical care, education, etc). The group contained several nurses who conducted a medical clinic on our campus and visited several nearby compounds to treat people who were sick. The group also contained several school teachers who visited the our community school here on the Mapepe campus. Most of the men worked on two of our current construction projects and helped build a house for one

of our workers (Mary) who is a widow and is trying to follow Stella's example (another one of our workers who is a widow). The Springfield group volunteered to purchase most all of the concrete blocks and cement that Mary will need to complete here house in the next few weeks. This was not something that we had planned to do, but it was something that greatly blessed Mary.

Suicide of Mary's Father. I regret following up the previous story with new that Mary's father killed himself yesterday morning by jumping out in front of a truck on the highway. He had been commissioned by the local water department to collect fees from people using the 3-4 water pumps in the compound near our house. Unfortunately, he began to pocket some of the money (something that people do quite frequently here) and was just recently "found out." The government was beginning to come down on him and threatening to send him to prison. So, it appears he decided to escape his fate through suicide. It was also most unfortunately that Mary came upon the scene (coming to work with Stella) and saw her father's broken and torn body lying in piece in the middle of the highway (as no one will touch a dead body here). What a tragic story of what sin does to destroy people's lives.

Silent Angels - Orphan Care Ministry. We were also blessed this past month to be visited by Richard Waggoner (Lorie's Dad) and Raymond Smith (Spartanburg, SC). Richard and Raymond were here to meet with our Board of Trustees and to officially launch our efforts to start a new ministry called the Silent Angels Juvenile Rehabilitation Center (JRC). Construction began two weeks ago on a duplex capable of housing about 20-24 juveniles between the ages of 8 and 14.

Zambia does not have any juvenile detention centers or prisons for children caught in crime; hence, young offenders (often guilty of little more than stealing food to eat) are imprisoned with adult prisoners as there is no other place to send them. The intent of the JRC is to find and rescue those young offenders who have been caught in minor offenses and demonstrate the potential to be salvage (rehabilitated). JRC sits on five acres of land that will be used to teach these young boys how to farm, make bricks, do construction work, etc. The goal is to teach them a skill and to assist them in completing their education so that they can go on to become productive citizens and future servants in the kingdom of God. To the best of our knowledge, we know of no other ministry in Zambia that is seeking to do this. So, this will be the first.

Kerin's Orphan Ministry. Now that the orphan care ministry (above) is now underway, we are making plans to build a "Baby House" for a new ministry that our daughter, Kerin, is going to begin next year. Besides the above mentioned orphan ministries, there is a need care for sick and abandoned orphans. It is quite common in Zambia (when the mother dies in childbirth) that a family will throw the newborn in with the mother's grave and bury the child alive (as there is no one to care for the child). Occasionally, if someone is present at the grave (and either is willing to assume responsibility for the child or knows someone who will) they will step in and rescue the child. Kerin's desire is to provide a temporary care facility where these orphaned infants can be nursed to health for several months until the family is able to assume responsibility again for the child. There are also situations in which a child becomes seriously ill and needs special assistance and medical care that the family cannot provide. Kerin's desire is to provide a temporary care facility where these children (usually orphans) can be nursed back to health until the family can again care for the child with their limited resources. This ministry will not require much money as it will be limited to one small house that will house no more than 10 children and require the services of only 2-4 staff members (who will likely be widows who are themselves in need of assistance). Kerin already is raising two orphans and has assumed several responsibilities

that has greatly helped us in the work here (e.g. Kitchen supervisor over all student meals being cooked, assists Lorie and I with many different administrative responsibilities, etc). She also intends to work with the orphan-care program as it expands out into nearby villages in the future.

Missionary Seminar. Lorie, Kerin and I traveled to South Africa two weeks ago in order to attend a Missionary Seminar being conducted by Intermission (a ministry started by Beth Reese and others in the US to encourage and assist missionries throughout the world). John Reese (head of World Bible School), his wife (Beth), Fielden & Janet Allison (long-term missionaries to Kenya and Tanzania), and Kent & Nancy Hart (former missionary to Australia and currently a missions teacher at Oklahoma Christian University) served as the speakers and facilitators for this Missionary Retreat. In attendance were about 30 other missionaries serving in South Africa, Zambia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

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Lorie's Reflections

"God has shown His grace in many different ways."
(1 Peter 4:10)

Upon our arrival home to Lusaka from the Missionary Seminar in South Africa, we were greeted with the news of our newest blessing to our Mapepe family. Little Thomas Sakala had been born (his father works in our orphan care ministry). We rejoiced greatly that God had shown His grace through the healthy birth of this precious little one. Holding him, enjoying him, and wondering what plans God has for him really refreshes my soul. He was a much awaited 3.5 kg bundle of great joy. Pray for God's grace to be with him each day of his life and that he will be an awesome man of God.



Kerin came in running into the house out of breath. The last thing that she did before leaving for the Mission

Seminar was to go check on "her baby" who happened to still be "in the oven". She was anticipating that this precious bundle of blessing would come while we were in South Africa. Much to our surprise we found that this little man was waiting for his second mother to return to Zambia. Yes, later the very same day that we returned, Little Nathaniel (3.3kg) joined our Mapepe family as well. Michael (our mechanic), Michelo ...and Kerin were delighted. Kerin was given the honor of naming the baby (which is a special blessing here). His name means "God's gift" and he definitely is just that. Pray that he will be a great warrior in God's army and that his life will reflect God's grace.



God has shown His grace to us in different and marvelous ways. Rejoice with us!