

# Zambia Newsletter

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Graduation - Class of 2009. We celebrated our fifth graduation ceremony on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> (see pictures below). We had 30 students who received a "Certificate of Completion" for having attended (and passing) the Semester in Spiritual Formation.



There were also another nine students who completed the two-year program in Bible and Ministry. Among them were four students who had completed their first year at Zambia Christian Institute which merged with us one year ago. Having completed their second year at Mapepe, they also received the diploma from Sunset along with the four remaining students who completed their first year at Mapepe. Pictured below is are the nine students during the Graduation Ceremony.



Pictured below is a group picture of the nine graduates taken after the ceremony (along with Kennedy Mukuka and Thomas Simubali).

This now completes the two programs that were offered by Mapepe Bible College and Zambia Christian Institute prior to Sept 2008. We have now revamped and reconstituted our whole approach to leadership training and will now enter a new phase in our work. There are now three programs at Mapepe: First, students must attend and pass the Semester in Spiritual Formation. Enrollment is open to all (although they must still meet certain qualifications) and the focus is centered around what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ (i.e., the fundamentals of Christian faith). Because we do not intend to empower men/women without character, this program does not provide any ministry training.



Only those students who have demonstrated character and a sincere desire to glorify God are invited to enroll in the second program which is a one-year program in Church Leadership. In this program, students are trained both in Bible and ministry. The goal is to provide students with the basic knowledge and ministry skills that they will need to be a self-supporting leader and preacher in a local church.

Finally, those students who have both character/faith and a passion for advancing the kingdom (and have the gifts of a missionary) are invited to enroll in our three-year, missionary training program (Bible and Missions). These students will be required to move on campus with their families so that both they and their wives may be trained as self-supporting missionaries.

Church Planting Efforts. Our church-planting efforts continue to expand each month as more and more Bible Study groups are being started all over the country (which lead to church-plantings). Now that we have four years (classes) of students (graduates) that we have trained, those students are also planting churches. Our graduates from the Central province have already planted 19 churches over the past three years! Thomas Simubali and his missionary staff (C.A.M.) ministry are also conducting church-planting seminars in various regions of the country which will lead to even more church-plantings (beyond that of our own students). Now that our school is in recess for the next three months, Simubali and his staff at C.A.M. will be able to increase the number of church-planting seminars that they will conduct throughout the country.

Silent Angels. The orphan care ministry (Silent Angels) is now beginning to really take shape. Construction on the new Juvenile Rehabilitation Center (JRC) has now reached the halfway mark. When completed this will provide housing (two apartments) for young boys (about to be sent off to adult prisons) in the home of a Christian family. The JRC is located on a five acre plot of land that will teach the boys farming, block-making, bicycle repair, etc. In addition, we have now completed the organizational phase in our new "Adopt-An-

Orphan" Program and are now recruiting families in the USA who would like to sponsor an orphan for \$25 per month. Unlike many other such programs (with large overhead), our ministry will be able to see that 100% of the money people contribute actually goes to helping the children. If your family would like to adopt an orphan (or would like to contribute to the JRC program), please call (615-433-8710) or email Richard Waggoner for further information (jrugg@vallnet.com).

Back in the USA. Lorie and I are now both back here in the USA and back on the road traveling in order to visit supporting congregations and in search of additional funding. As I outlined in our last newsletter, we are needing to raise additional funds to cover the increased cost that will come with housing/feeding whole families (in our new three-year missionary training program), the increased costs being generated by our fast growing church-planting ministry (C.A.M.), and to cover the expected decline in the US dollar this next year (which we predict will likely result in a decrease of up to 1/3 of our financial support).

Reminder: Be sure to sign up for our e-bulletins. Go to [www.zambiamissions.org](http://www.zambiamissions.org) and click on the link "subscribe to e-bulletins" at the bottom of the web page.

## Lorie's Reflections

"Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all those who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy..." Proverbs.31: 8-9

The air was moist from the morning rains. The colors of creation were vivid and alive. A perfect blue sky was above us. Every color of green was all around us. Golden stalks of maize were sprinkled as accents throughout the landscape. We walked behind Brother Oliver as he showed us an old "abandoned" guesthouse, just five-hundred feet behind the Chilanga Post Office. The structure was very large and in poor repair. I was standing in the middle of the largest of the rooms looking at what had been an enormous rock fireplace; but now it was just a hole in the wall. I was thinking what a shame that it was that the building had been abandoned and left to ruin.

Then through the open hole of the fireplace my eyes came to rest on the most beautiful of all of the colors that I had seen all day...two wonderful, big dark eyes looking directly at me. Those eyes were filled with fear and apprehension. I walked over to greet the little one and he vanished. We finished our tour of this possible sight for a medical facility and walked back toward our car. There on the front porch was the owner of those incredible dark eyes and three other children. All of them were orphans who, like the building, had been left without care. The two older ones were caring for the two little ones. The youngest who was also the one that I had seen through the fireplace started waving his hands about in my direction. One of the older ones told me that he wanted me to take a "snap" of him. I shook my head yes and then raised my camera to take his picture. He motioned for all of the others to join

him. He moved himself to the front of the group and gave me a nod. I snapped the digital picture and knelt down to show it to him. His smile said everything.

You see this precious little one couldn't speak. He had been abandoned because he was mute. Suddenly that old dilapidated building seemed different to me for it was shelter for an unusual "family". Let us remember in our prosperity to defend the rights of those who have no voice – God's precious children.

