

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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January 2010

Beginning of New Semester.

The new semester has just started and, although some students are still arriving, we now have near 50 students (10 female students). These students are the first in our new one-year church leadership training program.

About 20 of these students are "Northreach" students from George Benson Christian College (GBCC). In an effort to develop self-supporting missionaries in Zambia, Northreach offers certain select students a full-scholarship to GBCC which (after completing a three-year teacher degree) will enable them support themselves in ministry as a Secondary School Teacher. As a condition of their scholarship, Northreach students must now attend our one-year church leadership program before going on to GBCC to earn their degree.

Kennedy Mukuka (Director of our college) has informed me that he already has over 50 applications for the upcoming second semester (five-month program called "Spiritual Formation"). Unfortunately, we do not have enough space to accommodate all these students; but, it is a good problem to have as it will allow us to select the very best candidates for training.

Kerin's Kids:

Over the past few months I have visited nearly 60 churches to talk about the work in Zambia. Those of you who have heard this presentation should remember the discussion about Kerin's Kids (which is a new ministry to care for sick and abandoned infants/orphans). Kerin has now started this ministry and has two small infants. Several of you have shown great interest in this ministry and, thus, I wanted to give you specific information as to how you can help. The O'Fallon congregation (O'Fallon, Mo) is one example of a church that has taken on this ministry in a major way. It is their goal to raise funds to build a "baby house" (facility to house up to 12-15 sick and abandoned children) and to raise funds for monthly operations of this ministry.

If you or your church would like to become a partner in this work, you can do so by mailing a check to "Zambia Missions" to: Zambia Missions, 1910 Sycamore View Rd, Memphis, TN 38134. Write a note on the memo line of the check that the contribution is for "Kerin's Kids." If you would like more information about this

ministry or would like to communicate to Lorie and Kerin, you can email them (loriefrench@gmail.com) or send an inquiry to the above address.

Women's Agriculture Training:

[The following update was written by my Zambian co-worker, Thomas Simubali] Last year was one of the best training years that we had. We trained six women's clubs in survival gardens and conservation agriculture. In these workshops we sang and rejoiced before God our maker, but we also shared valuable knowledge and skills on how our people in resource poor communities could have better lives through proven agricultural methods which could double their yields. We also talked about how to market and sell produce, and how to form cooperatives and so on.

In our involvement with the women we also introduced a sowing ministry in this region. The women were first intimidated, but after they started, they gained confidence and they produced very wonderful garments. We work with a number of widows that will be able to sew clothes for the orphans and hopefully sell a few pieces to raise money for the orphans to go to school. Eness, our instructor in this ministry, is hopeful that we can train 4 to 6 groups of 20 women each, within a 12 month period. We want to thank all the people that have donated fabric in the past and we pray that they will continue to assist us in this exciting project so that we can enroll more villages in this project. I have written a report (cf. <http://zambiafrenches.blogspot.com/>) about one group, the Tujatane women's club. Eness and Mustapha Sandie (one of our church-planting leaders) recently traveled out to this village to bring the course to a close.

In 2010, we hope to increase our workshops in sustainable food production and begin to drill shallow wells for clean water and small irrigation activities. We intend to double our sewing ministry and begin food processing and preservation classes. And, we plan to introduce basic health and sanitation training this next year as well. In all these endeavors we continue to teach the love of our God, who has lavished with so many wonderful blessings. Have a wonderful 2010. (Thomas Simubali)

Without Character Knowledge Is Useless:

As we begin this new year in missionary/leadership training, we do so with a much deeper commitment to develop spiritual and ethical character among our students. We are seeking quality, not quantity in all that we do, for it will accomplish us little if

our students go out with great Bible knowledge but don't apply it to their own lives. Neither will it advance the kingdom of God (rule of God) if our students go out and plant lots of churches but fail to instill within those churches a commitment to obedience and holiness. The kingdom of God is not about going to church (externals), it is about living holy lives that glorify and honor God. Without character and a sincere desire to glorify God, our students will most likely end up doing more damage to the kingdom than good.

It is because of this conviction that we are now in the process of revamping our training program (a process that began last year and will continue well on into this year). We begin our training with a five month semester in the summer called, "Spiritual Formation." The focus is on the student and the development of his spiritual life (not on ministry or learning Bible to teach others). Students that demonstrate character

and spiritual depth are, then, invited to enroll in our one-year leadership program (which began last week). The very best of these students (who also evidence a passion for God and advancing the kingdom) will be invited to enroll in our new three to five year missionary training program which will begin next January. Students in this program must be married and move on to the campus with their wives/families. Although Bible and continued spiritual development will continue, this program will operate more like an apprenticeship (working with our church-planting team in actual ministry/missions). The program will also contain a vocational element designed to provide our graduates with a way to earn a living in ministry.

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

Lorie's Reflections

The lights of Lusaka lit up the night sky as we approached the runway. People began stowing their carry-on luggage under the seats in front of them. We were almost home. Many things were running through my mind. The plane tires touched down and my heart smiled -- not because the life of a foreign missionary is easy, but because it is here that my heart was called long ago. It is because the people and their hearts are very dear to the Lord. We can always find some adventure in the everydayness of life here. I wanted to start our new year together by featuring some of the people who we all have touched and who can touch us with their stories.

First is Ntanda. She is a very special friend to our girls. She grew up in the south and came to boarding school in Lusaka. Her experiences while here are not uncommon to village girls who come to the city for the first time. When this picture was taken she was expecting her first baby (he has since gone to be with the Lord). She loves and speaks with the language of the heart and hands. Pray for Ntanda as she touches lives with the joy that God has given to her.

The young girl was running along the dark, lonely road. She paused to catch her breath and leaned over putting her hands on her knees. When a sound startled her, her feet immediately started to run again. The stones beneath her feet caused her to stumble and fall. Her body was still in motion going forward though now on one hand and her knees. Finally, she

reached the road and lights from traveling vehicles. She knew that the place of refuge was near. Across the road and down the path that led to the Mapepe Bible College compound. The night guard pointed the way to Kerin's house. She knocked. As the door was opening, her body and spirit breathed a sigh of relief. She was invited in and proceeded to tell the story of what had brought her there.

You see this young woman's mother was in the hospice very sick and dying with HIV/AIDS. She is only 15 years old. Her father had abused her in unthinkable ways in the absence of her mother and had just burned her school books and uniform the evening before. She was told that she had no choice but to become a prostitute and bring the money home to her father. She had also been told that Mapepe was a safe place with loving people. Though she had only heard of this place she was determined to get here. And so she set out running from the only home she had ever known to a place of refuge.

How wonderful it is when we as God's people can be known as a place of safety and refuge. May we all be known this new year as the people where hurting, damaged, abused, unloved, and abandoned people can run to feel the loving arms of our Father. Remember each time we touch such a life we do it to HIM! Thank God for every blessing and mercy He has given to us and let us pass on those blessings to those whether it is in Africa, Haiti or our next door neighbor.