

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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April 2011



### **Brief Trip to USA.**

Thomas Simubali and I will be making a brief trip to the USA in April (April 16-May 10). I have been wanting to bring Thomas to the USA for over two years (as money for this trip had already been donated), but securing a U.S. visa is not easy these days. In any case, Thomas was invited to speak at a lectureship in May which finally provided enough of a reason that the U.S. embassy finally granted his visa.

The primary purpose of this visit is for Thomas to visit our sponsoring congregation in Memphis and some of the other churches supporting this work. I think it is important for all the elders of our sponsoring church to meet Thomas as he has been my Zambian co-worker from the very beginning of this work. I think it is very important that people involved in this work get to know Thomas just in case anything ever happens to me.

I also believe it is important that Thomas see some of the people who are supporting this work. Africans tend to think that all Americans are rich and that all our churches are big and overflowing with money. Although I don't believe Thomas himself feels this way, I do want him to visit both large and small churches and to see that there are many people "**sacrificing**" to support this ministry. I think it is important that he be able to return to Zambia and be able to tell our students and others here from his own personal observations that the folks supporting this work are not filthy rich and that many in the USA are **sacrificing** that the students and people of Zambia might benefit from this ministry. – David

### **Report: Mapepe Bible College.**

We have 66 students this year. The school year began in January and will conclude in November. When these students graduate in November, it will put the total number of graduates from Mapepe at more than 400. Presently, this week, the students are out on three different mission trips.

### **Report: Mission Outreach Program.**

We are continuing to conduct two Agriculture Workshops each month. Our network our farmers who have been trained in our program is now more than 2000. Since we continue to work with these farmers and villages long after the first seminar, it means that

our network of relationships throughout Zambia (especially in the Kafue District) is quite extensive. This gives us tremendous opportunities to speak the Word of God.

### **Guest Writer – Jim Hinkle.**

The following article was written by Jim Hinkle who was a visiting teacher at Mapepe in March. I asked him to write an article about his visit to Mapepe.

"I see God at work." That's the phrase that grabbed my head and heart during my almost two week visit in Zambia. Everywhere I went, I saw that God was at work in some way. I had the privilege of teaching at Mapepe Bible College. My dad, James, and I really enjoyed teaching about leadership, spiritual formation, Paul, and the "I Ams" in John during our stay. The students (and staff) are so hungry for the word of God. They believe it is true, and they want to know so much. It was a joy to teach such eager learners. They not only wanted to better understand the word, but they were seeking an authentic, vibrant relationship with God.



Jim's Dad (James) teaching

The college faculty has tried to emphasize *transformation over information* recently, and that message seemed to be taking root. I was overwhelmed thinking about the 66 students taking their passion, newfound skills, and zeal across the country after graduation and affecting an entire generation of congregations and church leaders. There is so much rich potential within these students, and we must be committed to providing them with the resources necessary to feed their hunger to serve and lead in the body of Christ in Zambia.

I was able to spend time with the staff and French family. Again, it was easy to say, "I see God at work" when I shared life

with these servant leaders. These men and women have committed their lives to seeing the Church strengthened and God glorified in Zambia. I saw God at work in so many ways and in so many people . . . Thomas' confidence in God despite tremendous personal losses . . . Michael's joy and unending service as he tried to keep vehicles running and spirits high . . . Lorie's laughter and tears as she told stories about God changing lives that she, no doubt, had told dozens of times before . . . Samuel's passion and zeal as he led vernacular songs in spirited chapels . . . Cally's (A.I.M. intern) willingness to work in the garden, learn tribal languages, and give up many American comforts . . . the enthusiasm of two new staffers named Jonathan & Justina who, even though they have grown children, have just completed theology degrees and have a youthful zeal to disciple the Mapepe students . . . and the list could go on and on.



Student Chorus Singing in Chapel

Finally, witnessing the habits and culture on the campus made me proclaim, "I see God at work." Everywhere I went, people were friendly, hospitable, and productive. Whether someone was studying in the library, cooking in the cafeteria, leading a bible study in a village, playing volleyball, or working in the fields, there seemed to be a sense of joy and purpose to all the activity. Multiple times a day, worship would ring out from the dorms, houses, and chapel up on the hill. Bells would ring and excited students would gather to study their bibles. Staff and students would wait around for hours in the afternoon just to have conversations about scripture after most of them had spent the day in bible class.



Students Playing Volleyball

Assuming that most of the people reading this newsletter are American Christians, I want to implore you to pray for the community at Mapepe. I believe what the leaders are trying to do there is Satan's worst nightmare. Our brothers and

sisters in Zambia need us to intercede for them. If you ever have the opportunity to go to Mapepe, don't miss it. You will be used by God and you will be changed by Him. – Jim Hinkle

### **Cally Ward (AIM Intern).**

As most of you will remember, we invited some A.I.M. interns to come to Zambia last year. Cally Ward is one of these interns. I have included an excerpt below from her latest newsletter that talks about her recent trip south to work in a medical mission.

Some of you may know that I got to spend the month of February in Southern Province of Zambia helping with a mobile medical clinic. Medical Missions is both satisfying and heartbreaking. There are a few that you can help and many which you can't. A lot of people in the villages suffer from skin/fungal infections, especially the children. These infections are irritating, contagious and very treatable, if the medicine is available. Venereal diseases, arthritis, eye problems, teeth problems, diarrhea, parasites, worms, high blood pressure, chest infections and malaria are also rampant in the villages. We as westerners, see these as treatable diseases; but, in a village setting, these problems not only go untreated for long lengths of time, but some of them can even kill.

One of the things which I have the hardest time seeing is malnutrition, especially in the children. Their little pot bellies and old faces can break my heart. One village that we visited (Pukuma) was particularly full of malnourished children. My duties during the clinics usually included a children's Health Education class in the morning. It was usually filled with tons of practical examples and tons of singing and dancing. One of the examples that I used was to putt flour on my hands and shake hands with everyone to signify how germs are spread. On that particular day in Pukuma I was astonished to see that when I shook hands with them they started licking the flour off of their hands. I instantly felt like a big stupid American goon. Here I was using food as a disposable example in a village where you are lucky if you get one square meal a day. Sometimes the lessons that I learn are painful. I don't know a time when I felt truly hungry let alone starving. God is constantly growing me and stretching me here in Zambia. He even shows his face through the smiles of these half starving children. However hungry and seemingly miserable these children were, there was also a gleam joy in their eyes. They were still ready to giggle and laugh at any moment. Joy mixed in among uncertainty. Joy that doesn't come from anything on earth: inexplicable joy.

### **Financial Situation.**

We deeply appreciate those of you who have sent in additional contributions to help us during these difficult economic times. Although we are not quite sure how we are going to continue with our present number of students, we have decided not to send any of them home for lack of money. We are going to push forward in faith that God will provide.

It wasn't until the other day that I finally heard someone say what I already knew: the dollar has declined by 40% since 2002. That explains why it seems our support has decreased when it hasn't. I believe only one church has had to drop our support over the past seven years. Our support has remained pretty constant; but, it is the declining dollar that is killing us. Although this is not the best of times in which to try and raise funds, I do plan to make a concerted effort this coming Fall.