

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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September 2011

Financial Support

I try not to focus much on finances in my communications, but this has been a difficult year financial and it is having an adverse effect upon our work in Zambia. So, I feel it prudent to update you on the situation.

There are several factors that have all come together to create a difficult year: (a) The dollar has decreased about 40% since 2003 when we began this work. (b) We are experiencing 15% per year inflation in Zambia. (c) Several of our supporting churches have experienced financial difficulties and have had to cut or reduce their support this past year. (d) Fewer churches and individuals have been contributing any extra/special contributions (as in past years). And, (e) I have not been able to devote the time needed to raise additional or new support in this country for the past two years.

Realizing what was happening earlier this year, we implemented every cost-saving, cost-reducing option we could. We terminated 1/3 of our staff in the first three months of 2011. We reduced the number of students from 90 to 68 and cancelled the five-month semester for new students (May-Sept). We also stopped our farming operations on our campus since we were losing money trying to grow our own vegetables (of course, we continued our agriculture training programs as they are central to our outreach efforts). Although we were able to continue operations past May, we did finally have to shut down operations on Sept 1st for all students except those enrolled in the GBCC program (20 students who are on scholarship from George Benson Christian College in Namwianga whose expenses are being paid by another ministry called Northreach).

As best I can determine, we are running a deficit of about \$4000 to \$5000 per month. This is a pretty significant deficit and this is why we had to shut down operations in this past month so that we can try to pay off some debts that have now accumulated.

At this present time I am communicating with various people to determine what options we have for next year and for the future of the work. I have already informed Kennedy Mukuka that he should recruit no more than 20 students for next year; plus the 15-20 George Benson students from Namwianga whose costs are paid by a separate scholarship fund from Northreach Missions.

This means that our enrollment will have to drop from 68 students this year to 40 next year. Although we have also had to reduce our practical training (off-campus outreach efforts), we are continuing to do as much as we can as we believe this one of the essential components to leadership training. We would rather train fewer students and do it right than to graduate larger numbers of poorly trained church leaders and evangelists.

Report: Mapepe Bible College.

Our sixth graduation ceremony at MBC took place on Sept 3, 2011. Sixty-eight students walked through the graduation line. There were three graduating classes (pictured below). Although the 3rd year students and the GBCC students do not actually complete their degrees until the end of November, we did allowed them to walk through the line and participate in the graduation ceremony along with all the other students. They will complete their training in November.



First-Year Students



Second-Year Students



Third-Year Students

Kerin's Kids

I am so excited about coming to the states and sharing with everyone what we are doing with Kerin's Kids and our future plans. Since I will be away in the USA for the next three months, I have had to find someone to watch over the babies. Her name is Virginia. She just graduated from MBC a few days ago. During the year she and two other girls volunteered to help out on Sunday mornings in the baby house so that I could attend church. They came each Sunday morning at 7 am to bath the babies, feed them and get them dressed for church. As the weeks passed, I got to know the girls a little better and saw that they were very good with the babies. Virginia is an older woman. She has a daughter in high school, but unfortunately, her husband passed away a few years ago. She does such a great job with the babies that I asked her to work in the baby house while I am away in the U.S. and she eagerly agreed to do so. Thus, during my absence she will be living in the Baby House and seeing to the care of all the children.

Other great news: Susann and Zainne will officially become "Frenches" in December! The adoption will be final when we return to Zambia in December. In order to bring them with us to the U.S. this month, we had to go through a major ordeal to get them Zambian passports. It was easier for Susann since she has living relatives who could sign the paperwork, but we were really scared that we wouldn't be able to get Zainne's passport as he was abandoned and we have no proof that he is Zambian. We spent at least 3 days going from one government office to another, six hours per day. Finally, one of the social workers we know knew the head man at the passport office and she signed for Zainne to get his passport. We were so happy that we cried! We, then, were able to go to the American Embassy for get visas for Susann and Zainne – the final hurdle. It's amazing how difficult it is to adopt children in Africa and get all the necessary paperwork approved that is necessary. We are so thankful to God that we were able to get it all done. Kerin

Lorie's Reflections

It is time once again for us to return to the USA to visit churches about the work in Zambia. Each year it seems to come around faster and faster. We are very thankful this year that our two Zambian grandchildren will be able to come to the U.S. with us, as well as Kerin (our daughter) who has been on the field here for almost four years without a furlough. So many things have been happening here that I find it hard to believe that it is time to leave Zambia again.

So much of our life has been here for the last several years and it has in a very real sense become a part of us. There are so many blessings from living and working here.

Let me start with the morning sights and sounds. The mornings begin with the vivid colors of an African sunrise as the sun rises to a symphony of local chatter and animals awaking to be fed. This, then, is followed by the chorus of MBC students and staff voices being raised in vernacular praise to Our Precious Heavenly Father. One's spirit can soar freely above the white tufted clouds. How our souls rejoice with the new birth of each convert, and the smile on the face of a terminal AIDS patient in the hospice who sings with us about the wonderful riches of God and the blessings of being in His almighty care. Each morning we hear the sounds of joy from the vulnerable children and young children who have never had the opportunity to go to school who are now able to attend to our basic school and learn academics in a Christian environment.



We have begun a new teacher training program which is intended to train our students so that they might be able to go out and start community schools in their churches and/or assist other teachers with some tools to teach children and adults in villages that have never had the opportunity to attend school because of the high cost and unavailability of funds for schooling.



Staff Teachers at Mapepe School