

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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Lorie and I continue to visit churches in the USA. Since August we have visited about three-fourths of the churches that are currently supporting the work (although we were back in Zambia in Nov and Dec). We should visit most of the remaining congregations between now and May as we will return to Zambia at the end of April.

We will, of course, be focusing most of this year on trying to raise additional support (monthly) for the work and trying to raise the funds we need to build the new campus at Daybreak (which I have been speaking about during my visits this year to our supporting congregations). This effort is progressing but much slower than we had hoped.

Newsletters and Communication

Due to the ever increasing cost of postage (and our large number of subscribers), we have decided to reduce the number of newsletters we mail out (U.S. Postage) each year to four (i.e., quarterly reports). The mailed version of our newsletter has become extremely expensive and I believe that good stewardship would have us utilize other means of communication that are practically free (e.g. email and Facebook). Thus, in the future I will send out more frequent (and shorter) emails to those on our email list and rely more on Facebook. If you are not receiving our Email Newsletter, then please send me your email address (zambiamissions@gmail.com) or click the subscriber link on our web page (www.zambiamissions.org).

Be sure to follow our posts on Facebook (by clicking on the "like" button) as this has proven to be the best platform through which to upload pictures and short updates on the work. We have two FB pages:

- www.facebook.com/ZambiaMissions
- www.facebook.com/KerinsKids

Report: Bible College.

Classes at Mapepe resumed on Jan 6 and with our returning students came several new students as well. Several of our students are now also growing enough food in their gardens to bring their wives/families to Mapepe. This is something we have wanted to do for a long time since will allow us now to extend student training to more than one year and will enable us to train the wives in ministry as well (our program will now extend to three/four years). This also allows us to recruit older, more mature students (since they can bring their wives). This has always been a

hindrance to older students who cannot manage to leave their families back home in the village in order to attend Mapepe for an extended period of time.

Below is a picture of one of our students (Roby Chiluba) who has succeeded in growing enough food in his garden to feed and bring his wife (Tisa) and children to Mapepe. I have posted all the students pictures on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ZambiaMissions), along with pictures of our agricultural training, some staff members, and children in Kerin's Kids, school children, etc.



We have also started a new part-time program for local area ministers and church leaders. This program is primarily a Bible program and is intended to deepen the students' knowledge of the Bible. We have opened this program up to anyone who wants to attend and, thus, we now even have a number of ministers and church leaders coming from the denominations around Mapepe. Over the past ten years we have earned a great deal of respect in the local community due to all our work in the District and this has given us new opportunities to teach Bible and extend our influence into new areas of opportunity.

Classes for this part-time program will meet twice a week in the late afternoon. Because these students will not be boarding students, there will be no cost to us for this program. Thus far there are about ten students who have enrolled. We also have enrolled several of our staff members as we want to continue developing our staff so that they can all be more effective in the ministry that we are doing.

Agricultural Ministry.

Although the rainy season came late this year, the rains have been sufficient to produce a good crop of maize on both the Mapepe and Daybreak campuses. We have posted pictures of the student gardens and the maize crop at the Daybreak campus on our Facebook page. Be sure to "like" us so that you can follow future postings on Facebook.

Kerin's Kids (Orphans).

Report from Kerin. As of January 2014 we are assisting two children with baby formula who live with their families and three babies in the baby house. First, the babies who live with their families: Chipego (Chipo) is a baby boy who is 1 ½ years old. His mother passed away when he was one month old. He has lived with his grandmother ever since. Kerin's Kids has provided the formula every month since his mother died (his father passed away before he was born). In six months Chipo will be old enough to be weaned from formula and will not require assistance any longer (which will allow us to help another child in need).

Precious is also 1 ½ years old. She is being kept by her mother whose milk stopped producing after a few weeks due to health problems. The hospital sent her to me knowing that we help babies with baby formula. She also is within six months of being weaned from the baby formula.

The children we are keeping in our Baby House. While I know I shouldn't have "favorites," I can't help myself when it comes to Mary Alice (Ali). Ali is 1 ½ years old. Her mother is a now 17 years old and is a niece to one of the aunties who has been helping with Kerin's Kids. The auntie (who was caring for the mother) came to me in desperation fearing that she could not afford to send the girl to school and take care of the baby. The father is a married man who refuses to acknowledge that the baby is his. So, after talking to the auntie and the mother, I



agreed to keep the baby (Ali) once the baby was born so that the mother could finish her schooling. I remember that day Ali was born; I was anxious the whole day. I didn't know if it was a boy or a girl; but when the mother called from the clinic to tell me she had been released and they were both fine, I was so happy. When I got to the hospital, the young mother was waiting by the bed where under the blanket I found a beautiful baby girl. Now that beautiful baby girl is a walking

toddler who loves to bang on my bedroom door screaming until I come out and pick her up – even if it 5:00 am in the morning!

Lameck is ten months old. His mother is unwed with two other children to take care of and is desperately trying to finish her schooling as well. [It may sound difficult to understand, but women in Africa do not have the same rights and abilities to refuse men as in the USA; hence the number of unwed teenagers having children in Zambia is astronomical]. Lameck's mother comes to visit him like clockwork. She dearly loves her son but finds herself unable to care for him due to her financial situation. She tried to care for him when he was first born, but he lost a lot of weight the first week home due to the fact that she was not eating because she had no food. She is now trying to finish her schooling so hopefully she can get a job. Lameck, on the other hand, is doing well. Presently, he is working on crawling. He loves to crawl to the bathroom where he pulls all the toilet paper out and tries to eat it. He is also a baby who loves to scream. While all the other babies start with crying, Lameck goes straight to screaming!

Harriatte is also ten months old. Her mother has cancer and was in the hospital when her auntie came to me asking for help. Harriatte was quite small when I she came to us, but she sure has plumped up now. She is not crawling but loves to either scoot on her tummy or rolls across the floor like a wheel to get to where she wants to be! There are pictures of all these babies on Kerin's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kerinskids).

Education Ministry.

Our new school year at Daybreak Christian School is off to a great start. We have currently enrolled 67 students, most of them vulnerable children (orphans). There are 33 more slots that we plan to fill in the next couple of weeks. This will double our enrollment from last year. The children range in age from our baby class through grade four. We have openings for any of the MBC staff and student children who are in the grade levels we cover. Some of our MBC students will soon bring their families to Mapepe and these children will be given the opportunity to attend our school as well. We are still raising money to support our Teacher Trainers who are doing a tremendous job. Below is a picture of some of the students in their school uniforms. Continue praying for this ministry and the precious children whose lives we are touching. – Lorie



Construction.

Our Construction work at our new Daybreak campus continues to go well. We have now completed four staff houses, the classroom building, and are laying the foundation for Kerin's house at the new campus.