

# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

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As I believe most of you are already aware, we are in the process of transferring our ministry to a new campus (Daybreak) that will be more conducive to our long-term strategy and enable us to become far more self-sustaining. Thus, in this newsletter, I need to communicate what our **financial needs** are and I, then, want to provide you an overall **summary of our ministry**.

### Challenge Gift – Kerin’s Kids

An anonymous donor has pledged to donate up to \$25,000 in matching gifts in order to build a new facility for Kerin's Kids orphan ministry in Zambia.

In other words, for every dollar that someone donates toward building this new orphanage, this donor will give one dollar. Thus, if you give \$100, then they will give \$100. Thus, it will be like giving (\$200) twice as much!

We need to raise an estimated \$50,000 to build this new facility that will hold up to 30 orphaned babies. Thus, if we can raise just \$18,000 more (\$7,170 has already been given), we should be able to build this new orphanage for Kerin's Kids. We are 65% of the way there!

### Can you help turn this \$25,000 gift into \$50,000?

To donate: Make check payable to “Zambia Missions”, write “Orphanage” on the memo line, and mail to Zambia Missions, 1910 Sycamore View Rd, Bartlett, TN 38134.

### Other Construction Projects:

There are other construction projects that we are needing to raise money for to which you can contribute to:

- Married Student housing
- Administration Office and Storage building
- Staff and Teacher housing
- Pigs and Chicken structures

If you or your church would like to take on the challenge of building one married student house (\$4500), then you can do so (one-time donation or over several months) and we will name the house in honor of you or your congregation (plaque on house). See pictures on our Facebook page.

### Overall Summary of Our Zambian Ministry

In our last newsletter, I presented a summary of our **Bible College** and how it will operate in the future. If you did

not receive or read that newsletter, you can download it from our web page ([zambiamissions.org](http://zambiamissions.org)). I will not, therefore, repeat what I said there. The name will change from Mapepe Bible College to Daybreak Bible College (which is the name of our new 50-acre campus 7 miles south of Mapepe).

As I have stated many times before, our mission in Zambia is dedicated to a **holistic approach** – one that I have tried to explain in my past visits with all of you over the past 3 years. Twenty years of experience in Africa has taught me that we are unable to facilitate spiritual growth without also addressing the physical challenges that hold people captive to sin. It is near impossible to teach honesty and love of neighbor to people who are living at survival level where the “dog-eat-dog” mentality governs their thinking and behavior. We have found that teaching people to farm is the most effective way to empower people to feed their families and free them from the clutches of sin and its consequences (survival mentality).

Thus, one of our second ministries involves **agriculture**. Over the past ten years we have tried several different methods of teaching basic agriculture (involving drip-irrigation). We were surprised to discover just how difficult it is to get the local people to accept these simple strategies since there is great resistance to change. Working with Healing Hands Inter-national (Nashville), we tried teaching our students on campus and conducting one-week workshops in the local villages. We were surprised that there was almost no one who continued these strategies after six months.



Our research (cultural anthropology) strongly suggested that we needed to provide some kind of **demonstration** (successful model in the local village). Hence, we started a demonstration farm in a local village (left). Yet, after two years, we still did not see any progress (local adaptation).

I finally realized that this method failed primarily because it was too grandiose (large scale) and because it had American funding and expertise involved. What the local people need is the successful implementation of a local, poor Zambian like them (does it over several years with no foreign assistance).

Thus, we have now totally **changed our approach**. Instead of “us” (foreigners or staff) going out to the villages for short-

term workshops, we have decided to focus on training our students over 2-3 years so that they will be the ones to introduce the Christ-centered life and a knowledge of how to grow enough food to feed their families. It is they who will provide both spiritual and physical bread. *(Student gardens below)*



And, this is why we have shifted from a three-year training program (involving married couples). It is not we Americans nor an American-funded ministry that needs to be the bearers of this knowledge, it must be the local people themselves; but this kind of training takes time. Spiritual growth (maturity) and successful implementation of the skills we are teaching them take some practice to be fully understood and adapted. Such transformation does not happen quickly; but, once trained, these students will go forth to make significant lasting change.

We have also learned that this training **MUST** be put into immediate practice. Thus, our students are given time outside of class in order to practice doing or teaching what they have just learned in the classroom. And, in the same way, our students are not just taught how to farm, they actually are taught by doing it. In fact, their continuance at our college depends on this since after three months we no longer buy food for the students. They have to live on what they actually grow in their gardens (cf. student gardens above). This reduces our costs and ensure the students will, in fact, become experts in teaching others what we are teaching them.

A third component of our ministry is **Kerin's Kids**. Zambia has the 6<sup>th</sup> worst HIV-infection rate in the world. It is estimated that 25% of the population is infected. Most die within five years due to malnourishment and inadequate use of HIV-medicines. This has resulted in a huge number of orphans who have become the unwanted responsibility of their extended family (if the family has not already been wiped out by AIDS).

Even if their extended family is willing to take them in, the fate of these orphans is not promising. Most become "slaves" to the family and/or are rented out as farm workers or prostitutes in order to generate income for the family. They are poorly fed and rarely allowed to go to school. Many, however, die within the first year after birth due to neglect or abandonment (some are thrown into their mother's grave when the mother dies in childbirth). *[Current picture of Kerin's Kids below]*



My daughter, Kerin, has developed a ministry to save these babies. She takes in these newborn orphans when a family is

unwilling or unable to care for them. She, then, works with the family in order to place the child back with the family once the child begins to eat solid food (since families cannot afford the baby formula and are often unable to provide the level of care required for infants as their require constant attention).

She also works with mothers in order to get them tested for HIV and, if found positive, she works with the mothers to provide them baby formula so that they will not pass the virus on to their babies through breast-feeding (25% infection rate). We believe that caring for orphans is fundamental to the essence of Christian faith. The importance of caring for widows and orphans is mentioned more than anything else in Bible. We also are trying to impress upon our students the necessity of caring for widows and orphans by our example and by teaching them how to develop such a ministry when they return home.

The fourth area of our ministry is **Education**. One-half of Zambia is under 18. The government does not have the money to build enough schools nor train and hire enough teachers. Corruption and lack of concern has also seriously undermined the quality of Zambian schools (teachers don't care and often don't show up for classes as there is no local accountability). Yet, education is critical to the future of Zambia and the ability of these young people to care for their families one day. Especially needed is education that teaches critical thinking skills.

Thus, my wife (Lorie) has developed a ministry to address this need (using very little money). First, we started a **Primary School** (now has 85 students and costs only \$500 per month). Lorie (with the help of Mary Settle) trained three teachers for this school. The quality of the school is so good that we now have a huge waiting list of parents wanting to get their children into our school.

Second, Lorie has developed a program for training community school teachers (as there is no training program for such teachers) and is developing a curriculum to be used in community schools (community schools are built by local village who hire/pay their own teachers). Third, we now train our students and their wives (internship) to serve as community school teachers and teach them how to start a school in their church buildings when they return home.

The fifth area of our ministry involves **healthcare and nutrition**. This is primarily about prevention. The latest report by the U.N. (three agencies) lists Zambia as the most malnourished country in Africa (second in the world behind Haiti). Our efforts are primarily centered on teaching our students about basic healthcare and nutrition so that they will be able to teach others when they return home.

### **Facebook Pages.**

You can get regular updates and lots pictures from our two Facebook pages: [www.facebook.com/zambiamissions](http://www.facebook.com/zambiamissions) and [www.facebook.com/kerinskids](http://www.facebook.com/kerinskids) (which is dedicated just to Kerin's Kids). Be sure to click "Like" in order to follow. You can also communicate directly with Kerin through her FB page. You'll find lots of pictures and short updates (e.g. lots of pictures of progress in construction, baby pictures, etc).