

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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We have made a great deal of progress over the past three months addressing almost all of the challenges that I spoke of in my last newsletter. The new school year is well on its way, and we are very happy with the progress we are seeing in both the Bible College and the Christian School.

Solar Power Installations.

The rainy season here in Zambia has just ended and although there was normal rainfall in most of the county, there were still areas that did not get sufficient rainfall. And, as a result, the rainfall was not sufficient to raise the water level in Lake Kariba (which is the water used to generate electricity). Thus, we are still only getting about 4 hours of electricity per day (if we are lucky) which means there will be far less electricity later on in the dry season. It is a serious problem for Zambia.

As I reported in the last newsletter, we have decided to convert over to solar power. I want to thank all of you who responded and contributed money for us to buy and install solar power here on the campus. Thus far we have installed solar power at the Bible College (7 offices, the auditorium, 2 classrooms), the four bore hole pumps, the Christian School (18 classrooms and an auditorium), Kerin's house, the campus store, Guest House, and my house.

Unfortunately, we miscalculated the power needed for the booster pump (which pumps water from the storage tanks to the 11 water tanks up on 15-foot stands), but they will return next week to upgrade our system so that it can also power the booster pump (which will totally solve our water problem). We did, however, run out of money to install the equipment needed to power the hammer mill, but we will take care of this once we save up the funds to do so.

Daybreak Bible College.

We were blessed this past month to welcome three visitors to Zambia. **Marty Brownfield**, **Dr. Randy Frederick**, and **Zainne** (Kerin's adopted son) traveled with me last week back to Zambia. To the right is a picture of the four of us in March as we were about to catch the flight from Atlanta to South Africa and Zambia.

Marty is an elder at the Goodman Oaks congregation and Randy is an elder at the Sycamore View congregation. Marty has been to Zambia several times over the past 20 years,

although this is the first visit for Randy. Marty has come to Zambia to train our Bible teachers in the use of Logos Bible Program, which is a computer program that contains 12,000 books and has proven to be a great resource for our teachers in their studies and preparation for their classes. Logos recently made some major changes to their program which requires some additional training. Marty is also teaching a class on the book of Hebrews to our Bible students.



Jim Hinkle also traveled down from Ghana. Jim is a minister for a church in Memphis. Jim was here for a week and taught a class on John (morning) and a class on Spiritual Transformation (afternoon). This is Jim's second trip to Zambia, the first of which was in 2011 (when we were at our Mapepe campus), but this is his first visit to our new campus at Daybreak. See picture of Jim below.



I should also say something about **Zainne** (who is in the picture above) and why he has come with me on this trip to Zambia. Zainne is one of Kerin's adopted children. He has been living with us in the USA for the past 2-3 years in order to get his American

citizenship and to finish his High School education. Zainne turned 17 on March 22 and we only found out in January that Zainne had to return to Zambia before turning 17 in order to get his NRC (National Registration Card) which is necessary for him to keep his Zambian citizenship. We certainly don't want him to lose his citizenship, so he had to return in order to meet this requirement (deadline). Everyone has been super excited to see Zainne again!

The Piggery

We have been struggling to finish the piggery. With all the other pressing needs, our construction workers have not had time to complete much work on the building (cf. pictures below). However, once they finish with the Vocational Training Center (VTC), the workers will be able to focus solely on the Piggery and should finish it within just a few more weeks since the only major task is to put the roof on. The interior will not require much finishing work.



As you can see, this is a fairly large building in which to raise pigs. There are **two main reasons** for building this piggery: (a) It will give our students another way to earn money so that they can be fully self-supporting in ministry, and (b) Our students need another way to earn some money while attending our Bible College. The increased competition at the marketplace and the downturn in the economy (due to the drought) has created a situation in which the students can no longer earn enough money selling their vegetables in the local marketplace. We want our students to remain self-supporting while attending our Bible College and we believe this will enable our students to do so.

Once the building is completed, Francis (our agriculture teacher) will start by buying one board and 7-8 pregnant sows. Each sow should give birth to about 5-6 piglets which should result in our students raising about 35-40 pigs for market.

Christian School.

Enrollment at the school has increased significantly, and we have had to hire one more teacher. We also completed work on the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and began accepting students in January. We have completely filled the ECC to capacity and have no more room for any more students.



We are also almost done with the Vocational Training Center (VTC). See picture below. We have been working under a deadline of April 1 to finish and equip the facility in order to complete our registration and approval by the Ministry of Education. There are still a few finishing touches left to do, but we are already in the process of buying the machinery and equipment needed for the training. Our students who are enrolled in the VTC program have been limited to the classroom (theory), but one can't provide vocational training without the practice component.

Our students who fail to pass the comprehensive sixth-grade exam (which is required for students to continue their education) will now be able to get some practical job skills. This training will also be included for those students who do go on to grades 7-10. And we are also looking into how our Bible College students might also get some vocational skills training (after school hours). Obviously, this training will be a **GREAT blessing** to all our students since most jobs in Zambia are still manual jobs.



Zambian Citizenship

Now that I have been in Zambia 20 years (and have had a resident permit for 10 years), I am now able to apply for Zambian citizenship. This process may take up to 2-3 years, but once my application is approved, I will become a dual citizen. I feel this is necessary to ensure that my ability to work in Zambia will not be interrupted since a Resident Permit requires maintaining certain conditions.

I would like to thank all of you who have responded to our situation and have contributed extra funds so that we could finish all these urgent needs. We are so grateful!