

Zambia Newsletter

Zambia Missions

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The past few months have put significant financial stress on us as we struggled to finish the Piggery, Vocational Training Center, convert to solar power, and buy a 12-month supply of maize (corn) for our students and staff, and buy our first batch of pigs. But we have pretty much got these things behind us, finally! It has, however, seriously depleted our reserves; but at least we have “gotten over the hump.” We still have some solar equipment that we need to buy, but we can delay this until we are financially able to do so. Much of what I have to report in this newsletter has to do with these projects that we have now completed.

Daybreak Bible College.

We are now well into our second term of the year, and everything seems to be going well for all our students. We were most blessed by Fielden & Janet Allison who came to Daybreak and taught two classes (Marriage and Conflict Resolution) in last month.

These are two VERY important classes as marriages are under great stress in Zambia as the culture moves quickly from traditional, arranged marriages to marriages of choice (in which people have high expectations for love and romance). Such marriages require relational skills that were not needed in the past, but they are now, if couples are to have the kind of marriages they desire. Consequently, divorce rates have skyrocketed in recent years as couples try to navigate this new world of marriage.

The Allisons have been doing mission work in Africa since the 1970's in Kenya, Swaziland, and Tanzania. Janet has a master's degree from Harding University in Marriage & the

Family. I doubt anyone else is more capable of teaching on marriage than the Allisons, who have served as missionaries in Africa perhaps longer than anyone else and know the culture.

Piggery.

We finally finished construction on the piggery (cf. pictures below). We are now waiting for our first batch of pigs to be delivered. We paid the supplier half of what is owed, but they have failed to deliver for reasons that are unclear. They keep promising to deliver, but they are now two weeks overdue. So, we'll have to demand a refund and try to find another supplier. Nothing ever seems to work as it is supposed to here in Zambia.

I personally know nothing about raising pigs, but I am told that these eight pigs (six pregnant sows and two bores) should deliver about 60-75 piglets in about 3 months (once we get them). Our students will then begin working in the piggery and learning how to raise pigs. This will really help them in being self-supporting!



Fielden pictures with some of the students in his class

Note: Children from the Main St. congregation in Springfield, TN raised all the money that was needed to buy the 8 pigs necessary to start this project! They wanted to do something to help the work in Zambia and this was the project that they chose. We are **MOST** thankful to these kids.

Christian School.

The Vocational Training Center (VTC) is now complete, and we are now teaching vocational skills to our students (cf. pictures below). Students will be taught such skills as woodworking, metal work, and other such skills. The second picture below is a picture of the 9th grade students repairing some of the broken desks from the school (the rule is that all the students working in the VTC must dress in work suits).



We now have 317 students attending ACA (Aurora Christian Academy). There are 62 students in the Early Childhood Center (pictured below), 220 students in Grades K-7, and 35 students in Grades 8-9. We will add Grade 10 in January. There are 35 students who are enrolled in the Vocational Training Center (VTC), but we will be increasing this number significantly next year.



Kerin's Kids (Children's Ministry).

Kerin now has about 33 kids that she is helping with baby formula and other assistance. Most of these babies are living with widowed grandmothers and aunts or are young teenage girls (which enables them to stay with their babies).

Right now, Kerin has a waiting list of more than 15 babies that are in urgent need of assistance. Unfortunately, Kerin doesn't have the necessary funds to help. These are legitimate cases (as Kerin carefully screens the babies that she ends up helping). Kerin begged me for more money the other day to help a woman that she was interviewing at her office. Unfortunately, I had to refuse as our funds have been seriously depleted over the past few months. It really hurt to say no to someone in need sitting just outside her office.

I shared this information in a recent email newsletter, and I had 3-4 people who responded and contributed additional funds so that Kerin can help some additional families. I would really like to increase the support for this ministry in the next year or two as there are so many children (under 2 years of age) whose lives can be saved just by supplying them with baby formula.

I know that saving the lives of babies (Kerin's Kids) and providing a good education for very poor children (ACA) is not equal to saving souls (Bible College), but it is just as legitimate as it reflects the love and mercy of God. Jesus came to save the lost, but he also showed us the love of God in how he lived upon the earth.



Diana - Her mother has health issues and is unable to nurse her. She is 18 months old and has been on formula since she was born. She lives at the potato farm near our campus. The potato farm is a commercial farm

from where many of our ACA school children come. Farm workers on commercial farms are among the poorest people in the country (landless people working on someone else's land for VERY little income).

Update on Solar Power.

We now have electrical power 24 hours a day thanks to our four solar power systems. We still have a few bugs to work out (areas where we need to add more solar panels or batteries), but we are now operating sufficiently on solar power. What a difference this has made!

We still need to buy the solar power equipment for the hammer mill. We buy maize (corn) in bulk each year (enough to last the whole year) when it is harvested in June (when prices are lowest) – which we just did this past week. We, then, grind the maize into mealie-meal (which is the staple food in Zambia) and sell this to our students and staff at cost for the next 12 months. This really helps keep the price of food down for our students and staff as prices increase during the dry season later in the year. Mealie-meal (which they cook to make nshima) makes up about 85% of the Zambian diet.