

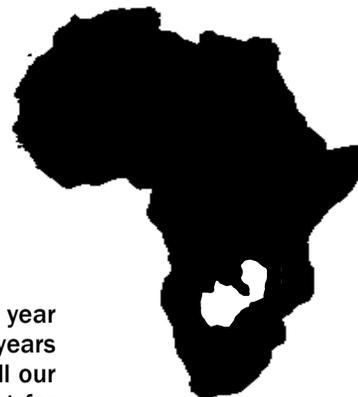
# Zambia Newsletter

## Zambia Missions

1910 Sycamore View Rd  
Memphis, TN 38134  
(901) 372-1874

## David & Lorie French

P.O. Box 36893  
Lusaka, Zambia (Africa)  
dfrench@zambiamissions.org



Web: [www.zambiamissions.org](http://www.zambiamissions.org)

August 2008

**President Mwanawasa Dies.** On August 19<sup>th</sup> the president of Zambia died in a Paris hospital where he was being treated for a stroke (from which he never recovered). Zambia is now observing a 21 day period of mourning. The Vice-President has stepped in as the interim president until new elections can be held in 90 days. President Mwanawasa was generally well respected both in Zambia and throughout Africa. In fact, just before his stroke last month, he had taken a major lead in opposing the corrupt government of Zimbabwe. He was on his way to an emergency meeting of African leaders called last month to address the crisis in Zimbabwe when he suffered his stroke.

During his seven years as a President, Mwanawasa had done much to fight corruption within Zambia and had made great progress in this regard. One noticeable difference I saw just within the last two years was the taming of the police who were largely barred from setting up roadblocks on the highways to “milk” travelers of money through fines and bribes. We can only pray that his successor will continue these same efforts in the future as it is critical to the future development and prosperity of the country.

We don't expect there to be any political unrest in the country. Zambia has never had a civil war and has successfully managed the transition of power from one democratically-elected government to the next three times previously in the past. We expect this to occur again in the next three months. Nevertheless, these are anxious moments in Zambia for now.

**Arrival in the USA.** I am now writing to you from here within the USA. I just returned from Zambia a few days ago and I have been busy visiting those churches and individuals who have been supporting the school in Kabwe that I informed you of last month (the school that we have merged with). Kennedy Mukuka has now moved with his family to Mapepe and will officially join our faculty on Sept 1.

As I wrote in the last newsletter, my attention this year while in the USA is going to be primarily devoted to raising additional, new support to offset the declining dollar, the 35% inflation of Zambia, increased fuel prices and increased efforts in our school and ministry. There are still a few churches that I was not able to visit

last year that I will be visiting this year (as I don't let more than two years pass before making a report to all our supporting churches). But, except for these few churches, most of my time & energy will be devoted to trying to raise additional funding for the work in Zambia.

Lorie and Natasha are still in Zambia and will remain there until after graduation on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> (arriving in the USA on the 13<sup>th</sup>). Due to our financial challenges right now, I felt it necessary to return before graduation this year to get a good start on our fund-raising efforts for this year.

**Self-Evaluation.** I know there is other news about the work that is ongoing in Zambia that you would like to hear about, but I feel it is important that I update you on some very important revisions that are taking place in our work right now. So, I hope you will please read the following “analysis” so that you might be better informed about what we are trying to do. I have promised to be totally honest with you in our shortcomings as well as in our successes because I believe you need to know exactly how well we are getting the job done. I also believe that you will come to appreciate that our work is well-thought out and continuously being perfected and improved. We will get better and more effective at our mission because we are passionately dedicated to fulfilling our mission and making a difference in Africa for the glory of God!

As I discussed in my previous newsletter, we are now engaged in a period of reflection, evaluation, and redirection. Thomas Simubali, Kennedy Mukuka, and myself now make up what is called a leadership team and over the past two months we have been doing a great deal of rethinking about our future efforts and goals at Mapepe.

Now that I am back in the USA, I have been talking to others involved in leadership training elsewhere in order to learn what I can from their experiences. I am also devoting what time I have to researching the challenges that we are facing at MBC, namely, how do we facilitate greater spiritual transformation and character development among our students. While many of our students flourish at Mapepe and grow to greater heights in their spiritual lives and character, there are still many others who just don't seem to grasp the Christian mindset.

In my last newsletter you may remember that I identified three essential components of effective leadership training: (a) knowledge, (b) experience (practical application), and (c) spiritual, character development. You may remember that we

even gave ourselves a grade on how we were doing in these three areas and that I expressed some dissatisfaction in our success with the third objective (character formation). I tend to be a harsh critic of myself (perfectionist tendency) and so I hope I didn't overstate this concern. It's just I tend to look at the glass as half empty and wonder how we can fill it back up and do things better!

Over the past few weeks I have come to realize an important dynamic at work in this effort: the quality of your final product depends a great deal on the quality of the materials you have to work with. A restaurant cannot serve five-star meals if the food they purchase is grade C quality. In other words, our success at Mapepe depends a great deal on quality of the "soil" (hearts) in which we are planting the seed (Mt 13). Five-star restaurants do several things to ensure the highest quality of the food they purchase. Some contract with suppliers who grow the highest quality of beef, vegetables, etc. Others develop elaborate screening processes to eliminate the poor quality. And, some even grow/produce their own. Well, in the same way, we have got to develop better processes for finding those students of potential who have good hearts that are truly open and dedicated to the will of the Lord.

If you think about it, Jesus did the same thing. He had the crowds, the 72 disciples, the 12, and then even the three. It was with the 12 that he really invested himself. I believe we also must follow the same approach as Jesus.

Hence, we have determined to restructure our operations so as to better achieve our mission. Remember, as I have said over and over, our mission is not just to run a school, teach Bible, or train leaders. Our mission is to advance the kingdom of God in Central Africa and one of our primary means of doing this is by training/equipping men and women of spiritual character and integrity to go forth as missionaries in Central Africa. In other words, our effectiveness must be judged by how effective our graduates are in advancing the kingdom of God - not by the number of students we graduate. And, as I have emphasized, our mission will not be realized if the students we train and send forth are not of the highest quality. If their lives do not reflect the message they preach, then there is no way that they are going to be able to make disciples (people who obey God) and advance the kingdom (rule of God) in Africa.

Instead of providing three semesters of training to a large number of students over three years (five months each year in the dry season), we are going to reduce this to just one semester. And, we are going to focus the training on developing the spiritual health and character of the students. The Bible knowledge we teach will be focused on that essential to developing the leader himself and greater attention will be devoted to applying that knowledge to their own life. We believe it is a VERY dangerous to graduate a student with a lot of Bible knowledge when his own life is not harmonious with God's word. Knowledge is power in Africa. Training a man with Bible knowledge whose own life and heart is not obedient to God's word will only empower unspiritual men who will go forth to do more damage in the kingdom of God than good. Thus, we have decided not to train men to be leaders until we are confident that they are truly men of God (quality).

We will still recruit the best students we can for this one semester and those who graduate will be given a Certificate of Completion in the Fundamentals of Christian Faith (or some such name).

But, it is from this first semester that we will be able to identify the men of faith and potential who we will then invite to enroll in our missionary training program (a full-time, 2-3 year, resident program). These students will be invited to move to the Mapepe campus with their families. This will, then, enable us to also train their wives as well and strengthen their marriages so that they can minister as a team and live as examples of Christian faith. These will be as the 12 disciples were to Jesus. It is into these students that we will invest the greatest portion of our time and energy. The goal? To produce well-trained, missionaries whose lives reflect the message they preach.

This will, of course, reduce the number of well-trained leaders that we will produce, but we are thoroughly convinced that training men/women with a lot of knowledge (when their lives are inconsistent with the word they preach) will only empower the wrong leaders for the churches and will do more damage than good!

This more intensive, 2-3 year, leadership program will be quite comprehensive. (a) Knowledge? We will lead them through an exhaustive study of the Bible. (b) Experience? This will give us much more time to mentor them in all aspects of ministry and to take them out (just as Jesus did) to do ministry and make disciples (missions). We'll even have time to send them out to train local leaders in the vernacular so that they learn not only how to plant a church but also how to mature that church and even develop leaders for those churches! (c) Character Development? Because we have recruited a higher quality of students for this program, facilitating their spiritual growth and character will be much more successful. This will still be a major focus of this program as well.

But, this program will enable us to do more. Not only will we train students (and their wives) in agriculture (so that they as a couple can feed themselves and teach others agriculture), but we will also be able to train them in some other skills that will enable them to minister in the cities of Zambia. Forty percent of Zambia now lives in the urban areas of the country and this trend is only increasing. Yet, we have very few churches in our cities of Zambia. We've got to train men for urban ministry as well as for rural life. Skills training will include auto mechanics, construction, welding, plumbing, sewing (tailor), micro-business (e.g. small grocery, hardware), shoe-repair, bicycle repair, small appliance repair, etc. And, what's more, we already have the staff in place to start providing this training.

There is, however, one major challenge that faces us that we've got one year to solve: housing. Within the next year we need to build about 20 small apartments for our students to live in with their families (small, two-room apartments). I estimate that each apartment will cost about \$5000 each to build. Hence, this is one of the reasons why I returned a few weeks earlier this year than usual since I not only need to raise additional monthly support, but I also need to raise money for these apartments. Please keep this need in your prayers.