

Greetings from Sunny Lusaka!

It is hard to believe we have passed the half-way mark of 2008. We are in the midst of our dry season which means sunny days, no rain (our last rain was March 25th), brown grass, and lots and lots of blowing dust. Of course like many of you, we are dealing with price increases across the board. Gasoline reached about \$10.50 a gallon and diesel is about \$9.00 a gallon (yes, diesel is cheaper than gasoline).

While we deal with these types of issues, it is great to know the church is still growing faster than we can seem to keep up with. Just this past week I met with one of our Jesus Film team leaders and he shared his vision for Eastern Zambia. Last year we only had one church in that area, but he reported that we now have about 5 churches with plans to plant many more. Our teams are targeting to plant 1,000 churches by 2015 and win over 100,000 to Jesus. We are ahead of that pace with the current movement. Praise God! We are now scheduling training events in these new areas to develop church leaders and local churches.

We also are in the middle of our busy time of the year. Penney and Gary have both taught classes (Gary is working with 4 students who are graduating this year) and we are now hosting teams coming and going. All of the children are in school. Josiah just finished his first year of organized soccer. Lindsay and Alyssa just competed in their school's student convention. Lindsay participated in the following events: Power Point Presentation, Praise and Worship Dance and Storytelling. Alyssa competed in the following events: Choir, Mime and Expressive Reading.

We are very thankful that our new truck has arrived. We give God the thanks for providing a great truck through his generous people while on home assignment. It will help us to meet the many traveling needs on the field.



Over the past few months many wonderful events have occurred:

1) The entire family traveled to South Africa in May for our missionary field conference. What a wonderful time to visit the Limpopo area of South Africa and attend the conference near Polokwane, South Africa. It was a wonderful time to spend in prayer and fellowship with our missionaries on the field. The meetings concluded as we celebrated the upcoming retirement of Rev. Daniel Mokebe as our Field Strategy Coordinator. We have been so blessed to work with both Daniel and Paulina Mokebe. Their leadership and encouragement has carried us through our two plus terms of missionary service. They will be replaced by Rev. Paul and Beatrice Mtambo, who come from our Zambia Copperbelt District.



Central Field Missionary Team in South Africa (Gary is taking the picture)

2) Our new missionaries from the Northern Parts of Zambia have arrived. Rev. David and Rev. Marquita Mosher are veterans to mission service in Africa and will assist to build leaders and develop the church in Zambia Copperbelt and Northwest Districts. Please pray for the Mosher's as they continue to settle into their new home and ministry assignment.

3) The end of May a work and witness team from Oklahoma City First Church arrived in Livingstone to help complete our first building in that area. The team did a wonderful job as they ministered to the community and completed the block work, doors, windows, and installed a beautiful glass block cross above the platform. The team also enjoyed seeing Victoria Falls and the wild animals in the heart of Africa. Pray with us for this new church. Also pray that we can start a new Jesus Film team in this area to reach into the new areas along the Zambezi River and into Western Zambia.



Oklahoma City First Church Team at the Livingstone Church

4) In June, a four member Youth In Mission team arrived. They have been assigned to work with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. They have been a blessing to many families, children, youth and adults. Each week they have visited churches and have taught Sunday School classes and sang specials. Pray for them as they continue to minister through July.



Youth in Mission Team at Victoria Falls

5) An evangelism training event was held in Lusaka entitled “Each One Win One.” It was lead by Dr. Stan Toler. Participants came from Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Pray for these newly trained pastors and laypeople that will retrain others on their respective districts.



Dr. Toler shares with some of the participants.

We ask you to pray for some important upcoming events:

- * Olivet Nazarene University Team HIV /AIDS Awareness Trip July 19 -31.
- * 2008 Central Field Holiness Conference. August 16 -20
Pray for Evangelists Rev. Larry and Tamla Leckrone as they come to speak and sing during the conference. Tamla is Gary’s cousin and we are very excited about their visit to Zambia.
- * Pastor’s and Wives Conference in Choma (Southern Province) in September. Guest speaker is Dr. Thomas Lowry.

We are also excited to announce that Gary’s book has been approved and will be a part of the 2009 -2010 mission book series. The book is based on our first term experiences while serving in Zambia. It is entitled “Smoke That Thunders: Lessons From the Heart of Africa.”

In closing, God continues to do great things in Zambia. The church is still growing as many people are won to Jesus and new churches are planted. The challenges are still great as the church grows and the demand for trained leadership increases. We appreciate all your prayers for the ministry here and for us as a family.

Blessings from Zambia !

The Sidles

Gary, Penney, Lindsay, Alyssa and Josiah