

LIGHT OF AFRICA

Discipleship & Training

4 April 2010

“How can I repay the Lord for all His acts of kindness to me?

I will celebrate my deliverance, and call on the name of the Lord.” Ps. 116:12-13

- We praise God for the quick trip home this past March. This very timely gift enabled me to be present for my parents 60th anniversary, see my niece, Valerie, a team leader on a recent missions trip to Asia, and the Sanders family, and most of our siblings.
- Butch and I were also able to drive to Memphis to see his parents, Harold and Blanche Berner. We are very blessed to have our parents with us and were thankful to spend time with them once again. To top it all off, we were able to attend our home church, Encourager, as they were having a spiritually impacting conference our last weekend in the USA. It was a wild and fabulous trip and we are so grateful to all who made this possible!
- Butch leaves this week for Burkina Faso ministering the Gospel via the Elijah Challenge to a tribe he has not seen before. For the first time, these folks will have their notes in their home language. Pray for bonding, connections and for many, to respond to Christ's gift of salvation. Two conferences will be in Muslim areas. Pray for safety and for many souls to receive salvation.
- Please also pray for Allan as his grandmother, Esther, passed away. His family is relying on him for most all of the arrangements and for the negotiations of belongings after the funeral.
- ORU will be here soon...we are so excited to do VBS and Youth Camps with this fine group of four. Pray for their safety and for favor with air carriers, baggage and customs/immigration.
- Tuesday is SuperKids Day in Katubuya. Pray for those kids to have fun while learning about Jesus! The following Tuesdays SuperKids Day will be held in Maheletunya and Sekute as we celebrate the end of Term 1.
- Pray for God to open the way for the land to be settled with Chief Mukuni's approval. 3 other properties share the boundary with the property he wants to give us and he wants a map showing all properties abutting this land. Council only has a map of 1 and can't find the other 2. Hmm...MBA (Must Be Africa). So, now we have to go back to Chief and ask who he donated the other 2 properties to in hopes of asking those organizations for a copy of their maps so a new map can be made with proper boundaries marked. Next the permanent beacons are set and the Ministry of Lands in Lusaka must approve it. After this is done, we can file for a deed. This is a tedious process and we need God to make a way in time, personnel and with favor for all involved to make it happen quickly.
- Things continue to change more and more each time we visit in the USA. We praise God for you and your faithful support of Light of Africa, of us personally and financially. We consider our presence here a high honor and are grateful to God that He has called us to minister here in Zambia and Africa with Him. May His love continue to bless and keep you.

Love,

Butch & Janet Berner



LIGHT OF AFRICA—USA

c/o David Douglas
1318 W. 6th St.
McGregor, TX 76657
Tel. 254-840-4167

LIGHT OF AFRICA is an approved
501(c)3 Non-profit organization .

LIGHT OF AFRICA—ZAMBIA

Box 60475,
Livingstone, Zambia
Tel. 26.03.32.38.88
4lightofafrica@gmail.com

Burning the Literacy Candle at Both Ends...

Children through Adults

The ability to read is a skill taken for granted in the Western World. We use our reading skills to educate ourselves, provide for our families, and communicate with others. However, 32% of people in Zambia don't have the education necessary to sing out of a hymnbook, read a shopping receipt, or understand traffic signs. When we consider that most of the people who *can* read live in the urban areas of Zambia, the rural rate of illiteracy is raised to a staggering 80%. An increase in literacy among a previously uneducated people promotes better health in the village, more productive farming and food management, and allows for spiritual growth because the Word of God is opened to everyone on a personal level.

Zambia's government spends money each year attempting to educate its rural people on diseases like HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and TB. Most of the money is spent on pamphlets and billboards designed to bring awareness to the fact that these diseases are preventable and treatable. Unfortunately, the people they are meant for are unable to read the information provided. They continue to believe and practice traditional beliefs such as these:

"To cure AIDS, you must sleep with a virgin."

"If you are sick, you must stay inside your home, hiding your illness from others."

"Most illnesses are caused by a curse someone has put on you."

With proper education, the people come to understand that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by monogamy. Malaria can be prevented by sleeping under mosquito nets and can be treated at the local clinic. TB can be prevented by using individual drinking/eating containers, and treated by taking the prescribed medication

for the entire course. The importance of family planning, vaccinations for children, and clean water sources are also issues that can be easily addressed when the community can receive the medical education through the written word.

Almost 100% of rural Zambians are subsistence farmers. They spend most of the year clearing and preparing fields, plowing, planting, weeding, harvesting, drying, and storing the maize and vegetables necessary to provide for their family. Many times, drought, elephants, baboons, or excessive rains ruin their chances for a successful crop, thereby ruining their families' chances to manage for the year. When a subsistence farmer is able to read and educate himself on better farming techniques, he can learn to use compost on his garden, rotate his fields for better growth, and grow chili peppers to ward off pests. A more successful agricultural community eliminates starvation and malnutrition and produces hope in a previously destitute village.

Hope. A concept that is distant for many. A promise that is freely available for everyone. The most important part of bringing people to literacy is so that they can read the living, breathing Word of Hope. The Bible. God said, "My people are dying for lack of knowledge..." This is certainly true in areas where no one person in the village can seek out the truth written in the Scriptures for themselves. There even exist certain church congregations in which a layperson stands at the front and reads aloud from the Bible, because no one else in the congregation can read. False witnesses and theology is common in these churches because the members don't have enough knowledge to contradict the leaders. When these people are taught to read, they go from sitting on the back bench with downcast faces to lifting their hands

in praise as they take sermon notes. They understand what the preacher is saying...they have read it with their own eyes!

In traditional Zambia, only men are educated. Commonly, the money for school runs out, and those with high potential are forced to leave school at the age of 12 or 13. Children who are orphaned due to the AIDS epidemic are left without the opportunity to go to school. Women are married early and bear children often, leading them little time for education.

Literacy classes give these precious people a new hope. A chance to walk on the bridge of literacy after being marooned on an island of ignorance. An opportunity to do better for themselves and their families.

The classes are taught by Zambian members of who have been trained by the Literacy and Evangelism International Program. This program focuses on teaching literacy by using the Word of God as a tool and encouraging those who complete it to use their newfound education to bring others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Currently, there are almost 100 people in 10 villages who are enrolled in intensive literacy courses. Depending on the number of times the people are able to meet every week, their classes will last anywhere from 3-18 months. We can't wait to see what the people have learned by the end of next year!

Beverly,
Teacher
Attria &
Janet with
students in
Machenje
Village



GRADE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1	22	32	54
2	28	27	55
3	30	37	67
4	23	29	52
5	30	28	58
6	40	34	74
7	38	36	74
8	30	20	50
9	30	30	60

B-271
G-273
TOTAL=544

GRADE	M	F	Δ	S	TOTAL
1	4	5	-	9	9
2	3	2	2	3	5
3	5	6	-	11	11
4	2	6	1	7	8
5	7	8	3	12	15
6	10	5	4	11	15
7	9	9	1	17	19
8	8	4	-	-	12
9	11	4	-	-	15
					108

MALE:59
FEMALE:49
TOTAL:108

(Left) Statistics kept at Ngandu Basic School, a government school in the village area. (20% of those enrolled are orphans) Imagine being the grade 1 teacher of 54 students all at the same time!

(Right) Wezi, Teacher Grace and Janet with preschool children from Ngandu Basic School. This is one of the two preschool classes.

