

DRU'S VIEWS  
**Seventeenth Edition – June 2009**  
**Fathers Day**

*Psalm 103:13 The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.*

*Proverbs 3:12 For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects his child in whom he delights.*

*Jeremiah 3:4 ...Father, you have been my guide since the days of my youth.*

Last month I honored women in Zambia as we celebrated Mothers Day. It is only appropriate this month to focus on Fathers in Zambia. I decided to interview some fathers who work at Lifesong School and get their input. Their response will be a bit skewed, since they are employed, but I think their answers give a fairly accurate picture.

When asked what the role of a father is in Zambia, I was told that his primary responsibility is to be a provider and protector of his family. He must provide their material needs—food, shelter, clothing—as well as education and medical care. He is the head of



the family, the “boss,” although it was agreed that ideally he should discuss decisions with his wife. All of the fathers I spoke to said it is important for a father to teach his children about God; each one said that he leads Bible reading, study and prayer in his home. One father commented that many men in Zambia do not carry their responsibilities beyond being a basic provider; once they get off work, rather than spending time with their family, they often go out with friends to socialize and drink, leaving the responsibility for the children to his wife. In fact, fathers who stay home with their family are often ridiculed by other men and called “hen pecked.” This attitude is slowly changing, but the cultural influence is strong; the church, educational systems and other programs (especially those fighting HIV/AIDS) are working to change attitudes. Fathers in Zambia

are like fathers everywhere—they want their children to receive a good education, find meaningful employment, and be followers of Christ. They say they will depend on their children to take care of them in their old age. There is a Bemba proverb, “Mayo mpapa, naine nkakupapa” which means “You must lift me up so when you don’t have strength I can lift you up.” I asked these men if they had anything they wanted to say to fathers in America. They said: “We want to learn from you how to manage our homes and be good fathers.” “Keep your family nicely and don’t forget to pray for them.” “We should all be God-fearing people who use the bible to guide us and keep Jesus at the center of our homes. Love your children.”

### **Lifesong School**

The extracurricular activities continue to expand to fill the children’s spare time and enrich their learning experience. When in Lusaka, I found a basketball hoop and thought it might be fun for the kids. It was an instant hit; some of the boys show real talent. Our welder has made five more so we can have three games going at once. I was looking for ways to help the children to learn to think and plan. I asked one of the carpenters at Kafakumba to find me some scrap ceiling board; I painted three to make checker boards. The children were told to collect bottle caps for checkers, and this has now taken over basketball as the most popular activity at recess. Last week I bought 20 crochet hooks and yarn; some of the teachers will help the girls (and any boys who show interest). This is a way for them to not only be busy but to learn a skill that may lead to income generation.



We are grateful to our donors who make this ministry possible. In spite of the global economic situation, which has drastically affected Zambia as well as the rest of the world, our partners continue to provide. We are always looking for cost savings and thank God when He answers our prayers. Our garden thrives and is now providing vegetables for the school lunches, helping us reduce food costs. Recently we took two children to the dentist—Helen had numerous holes in her teeth which were filled; Haggai had serious problems with three teeth and required a root canal. The dentist, whom we had never met before, gave us a 30 percent discount on the bill. She has also offered to come to the school and teach the children good dental hygiene practices.



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At the beginning of each term (every 4 months), I weigh and measure the children and give them de-worming medicine. I had been concerned because I had not seen much weight increase; however, I was thrilled this term to see significant gain (sometimes as much as 2 kg or 4 pounds) in the children who have been with us for over a year. We are at last seeing the benefits of our feeding and healthcare program.

### ***“My Children”***

Daudi gave us a scare when he was admitted to the hospital with malaria and high blood pressure. He is back in school now and doing fine. Benson is still looking for a college where he can study some aspect of medicine; we are now talking to extension schools. The others are all suffering from a strike by government teachers which has been going on for over a month along with the health care professionals). Since five of them are preparing to write those critical exams in November, it has worried us greatly. Fortunately, they are all getting private tutoring lessons in addition to their regular classroom studies.

### ***Life in Zambia***

I heard on the radio that the global warming is evident in Africa where average temperatures have been rising over the past years. Although in May we experienced a couple of weeks of winter-like weather, we have noticed a significant increase in temperatures this month. Last year I recorded sunrise temperatures in June of 39° F. This morning it was 60° F. At least it is more comfortable for those children making that early morning hike to school with little protection against the cold.

### ***Sneak Peaks***

- African children rarely see the inside of a white person’s house; I guess that’s why they are so eager to come in mine where they are free to touch, look and taste. One day Gordon watched in wonder as I made cookies. He sampled brown sugar, powdered sugar and chocolate chips and was thrilled to wash the finished product down with a glass of cold milk. They are fascinated by my “gadgets”—microwave, fridge covered with photos, dishes, even running water (and they love to use my toilet!). I just wish I could teach them to keep their little hands and feet off the walls!
- One day I was trying to make a Jell-O and fruit salad. I forgot and left the gelatin too long and it set before I got the fruit in it. The next day I offered it to two of the children; they didn’t like it at all! I guess it must have been the texture since they usually love anything sweet. I also discovered when making potato salad that they like cucumbers but found dill pickles to be too sour.

### ***Prayer Requests***

- Pray for the government employees on strike—teachers and health care providers—that they will be reasonable in their demands and return to their jobs soon so the country can move forward.
- Pray for Lifesong School that we will continue to be a beacon of light for the children and their families; that we will feel God’s presence in our daily service and give Him the glory for the miracles we see.
- Pray for the world’s leaders as they seek to find the means to peace and justice; that they will find a solution to our current economic situation that will answer the needs of all people and nations in a fair and equitable manner.
- Pray for Rev. Glenn and Dee Ioder and their team from Peoria First United Methodist Church as they make plans to visit Zambia in August to minister to our school.

“You cannot command or compel people into holiness, you cannot increase their spiritual stature one cubit by any kind of force or compulsion. You can do it only by sharing your life with them, by making them feel your goodness, by your love and sacrifice for them. *The Double Search* by Rufus M. Jones

### ***Recommended Reading***

*How to be a World Class Christian* by Paul Borthwick, 1991, SP Publications, Inc. An excellent resource for Sunday school classes, mission groups, bible study groups and individuals who want to learn more about how to be Christ’s ambassadors to a hurting world.

God bless and keep you all!

In His service,

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