

DRU'S VIEWS  
**Twentieth Edition – September 2009**

*Abundant Life*

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may know life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 (NAS)*

What is abundant life? Of course, we think of abundance in our spiritual life in anticipation of spending eternity with God. But I believe Jesus intended for us to have abundance in this physical life as well. God would not have made all of the earthly pleasures that delight our senses if they were not meant for us to enjoy. However, in Zambia the thief called poverty has stolen and destroyed many of the simple pleasures that those of us who live in affluence enjoy. The causes are complex and hard to understand, but I believe we have all been called to do what we can to empower the people to provide their families with not only the basic necessities but also the comforts which make life pleasurable.

***What Does Hunger Look Like?***

Last week I was boiling chicken to make curry for our visitors. I picked the meat off the bones as best I could and set them aside to give to the dogs. Yes, African dogs eat chicken bones. As I was finishing, some of the neighbor boys came by to visit and help with some yard work. They told me they were hungry and asked for the apples I keep on hand to share with them. I asked them if they would like the chicken bones; they were thrilled. They sat and picked and chewed until they were satisfied; they took home the rest of the bones to share with their families.



***Lifesong School***

The primary objective of Lifesong is to teach the children to be followers of Christ. But when your belly aches from hunger, you are mistreated at home, you are sick with malaria or TB, or you don't expect to live to



adulthood, it is difficult to hear the message of salvation. So we provide food, health care, counseling and education to give the children abundance in their daily lives. We have recently added extra classes in the afternoon to teach the children skills that will someday help them generate extra income. Arts and craft projects have been well received. The children are learning to make rag rugs, hot pads from bottle caps, greeting cards, jewelry and crocheted items. We may also add basket weaving. Here is a sample of a card painted by one of the children.

We are also providing job opportunities for some of our neediest caregivers. Four mothers and aunts are now working in our garden and earning a steady income to help their families. They enjoy watering and weeding and just being together.

***Kafakumba Women's Projects***

The women of Fisenge and Baluba villages are now coming to the conference center at Kafakumba for their bi-weekly meetings. This is because they are now the proud owners of six sewing machines. I went to see them one day and found them cheerfully taking turns at learning to operate the foot treadles. Once they are comfortable with the machines, they will start making clothing. If they do well enough they can earn good incomes by making school uniforms to sell. In the meantime, they are expanding their handwork skills and are making embroidered doilies and napkins for me to take to the US to sell for them. They tell me they are still taking the initiative to make their home a place of joy, peace and love—a refuge of abundant life.

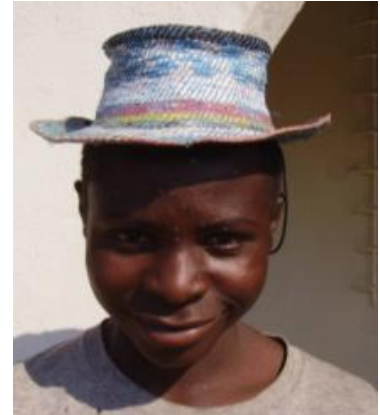


***“My Children”***

This is a very tense time for the five students who are preparing to write exams soon. Last night Kafuti called me and said, “Mom, I need your advice. I'm very frightened.” When asked what was causing his distress, he told me he was nervous about his exams. I assured him that he would do fine, because I didn't know anyone who has studied as hard as he has these past three years. He just needs to relax. He seemed reassured. They all need our prayers.

### ***Sneak Peaks***

- My little 7-year-old orphaned neighbor, Felix, knocked on the door one day and said in his broken English, “Auntie Dru. Bye bye. No more see.” I then got out of him by trial and error that he was moving to Luanshya, a city near here. I was sad to think I would probably never see him again. However, two days later he was back to tell me he was hungry. I fed him eggs and toast with peanut butter and jam and allowed him to draw and color pictures. He ended up spending the entire day, following me as I went in and out of the house to hang out laundry to dry. I evidently misunderstood, because two weeks later he is still around.
- Given is the nice young 14-year-old boy who helps me with my yard work. He comes each morning to water, weed and clean up the grounds. He also helps to sweep the mounds of dust out of the house and especially enjoys cleaning the window sills with a small cordless vacuum I bought. The other day he showed up wearing a new hat he bought. It is made of plastic shopping bags.



### ***Coming Home***

I will be going on furlough on September 24 and will be in Illinois until November 12. I want to spend as much of this time as possible tending to personal business, spending quality time with friends and family, and resting to recover from what has been a very hectic and stressful schedule these past few months. I will be happy to meet with individuals and small groups but would prefer not to make any large presentations this time. My dear friends, Glenn and Dee Ioder, have again offered me their hospitality in their home in Pekin. I hope I can help out by house-sitting while they are gone. Until I get a cell phone set up, you can reach me at their home number, (309) 346-6510.

### ***Prayer Requests***

- Prayers for Lifesong School as we continue to look for ways to empower the children and their families so that they may have adequate food, shelter, education, and health so they can experience abundant life.
- Prayers for the students who will be writing examinations in November.
- Prayers for the women who are learning ways to generate income, that they may continue in their enthusiasm and develop skills that will empower them to provide abundance in their homes and communities.
- Prayers for me as I prepare to travel to the U.S., that I might be able to get all of the work done in order to be gone for six weeks. Prayers for safe travel.
- Pray for those of us who live in material abundance, that we might learn to do without things that are not necessary in order to share with those who do not have what they need.
- Unspoken prayer requests for my family and for decisions I need to make.

*To have what we want is riches, but to be able to do without is power. –George MacDonald*

Hope to see you all soon!

In His service,

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