

DRU'S VIEWS
Twenty-fifth Edition – April 2010

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NRSV)

One morning I was on my front porch and saw a large black ant carrying a heavy reddish-colored bug that was 1½ times its size. Fascinated, I scooted my chair to follow its progress. It struggled with the weight of its load but persisted, crawling over, under and around leaves of grass and small twigs. I wondered if it knew where it was going as it often seemed to go in a circle, but it apparently was headed in a specific direction toward the middle of my yard. Then I saw another ant coming from that direction, and I thought, “Oh, he is coming to help.” He stopped for a second, and they seemed to have a brief conversation, but then he continued on his way. A new ant came, but he ignored the one with the burden and just hurried on by. Eventually another ant arrived; he stopped and took hold of the other side of the load. I thought, “At last, someone willing to help.” But they seemed not to be making any progress at all. In fact, it appeared that they were fighting over the goods. This continued for a couple of minutes until the first ant broke free and headed on his way with his burden, leaving the other behind looking confused. I wonder what my neighbors thought as I continued to scoot my chair across the yard peering down at the ground! A bit later yet another ant came and also took hold of the load. This time the first ant pulled from the front, and his friend pushed from behind. I noticed the pace quickened, and I had to scoot more often. Finally, they reached their destination—a colony of ant hills with other ants scurrying around. And down the hole they went!

Lifesong School

This stories and these verses from Ecclesiastes remind us of the value of friends and working together as a team. This year Lifesong School has been blessed with many friends who have volunteered their time to assist us in our ministry to the children. Tyler Steiglitz arrived in January with a group of friends who led a bible school for a week. He stayed for another two months and had a tremendous impact on everyone here at Lifesong. He helped our workers make major renovations to the staff housing. They repaired leaky roofs and installed proper toilets and plumbing. He also helped with home repairs on the new property we’ve purchased. He played with the children, added his expertise to our soccer and volleyball teams, and became an important member of the Lifesong family. They said they’d never before seen anyone who was so willing to eat their food, visit in their homes and learn their language. There were many tears when he left, and we are praying he will return again next year. *(Photo: Tyler and the boys carried the 100 bags of cement we bought for future construction projects. We laughed as we observed that the cement turned the boys’ skin white but turned Tyler black!)*



Other volunteers have come and shared their love with the children. Rev. Tamlyn Collins from Atlanta and Sid and Ellen Benson from Seattle have all donated books and supplies and patiently listened to our

children as they practiced their reading. This has resulted in their progressing quickly and they are now far ahead of their peers in other schools. Former Lifesong teacher’s aide Annie Nsama left to continue her studies this year but returned this month to help with the children during her break period. We also recently welcomed another Zambian volunteer—Chuma Kabaghe—who lives in the neighborhood and wants to be a teacher someday. In July we will be blessed by a mission team of 12 volunteers from Thunder Bay, Canada. We are so grateful to all of those who so willingly and generously share of their resources, time and, like the ant, their “muscle” to help us carry our load.

Update on William

William, his mother, and his teacher Lucy Musukwa traveled to Lusaka (our capital city) on Sunday, April 11. On Monday they visited Beit Clinic, home of CURE Clubfoot International in Zambia. William was seen by Dr. Malcolm Swann who said he could help. The following Wednesday, plaster casts were placed on both feet. New casts will be applied for three consecutive Wednesdays and then William will have corrective surgery. The details are not yet known; much will depend on the outcome of the casting procedure. I will update you next month. In the meantime, Lucy says William is fine and pain free; he has been busy playing and trying to learn to walk with the casts. I was told that William once asked his mother, “Why do other children walk on the bottoms of their feet? Why am I like this? What did you do to me?” She told him that she didn’t do it, that it was God. William said, “Then please tell God to fix me.” We are very grateful to those who have been praying for this precious little boy’s wish to be answered and have been raising funds to cover the costs.

“My Children”

Benson came last weekend for a visit. He looks very good (although his hair is a bit long – see photo) and seems happy and committed to his studies. He brought a paper he wrote for his composition class; it was a personal profile essay, and I think it helped to write his life story. I was surprised to read that I’ve graduated from his “mom” to his “grandmother.” He will finish his foundation courses in September and promises to look for a job to fill his time until law classes start in January. Daudi is home on break after his first term in grade 11. He shocked me when he took off his cap and I saw he’d dyed his hair black! As an albino, his normal hair color is a lovely reddish blonde—but I guess he wanted to feel more “African.” He has already been to visit Lifesong School a couple of times and enjoys being around the kids as another one of their “uncles.”



Life at Kafakumba

I haven’t had a chance to visit the women’s program lately because most of my time has been spent at Lifesong in Kitwe. However, in the evenings when I’m home, there are several neighborhood children who come to visit—in particular Sylvester, Aaron and Daud. They are in the 3rd and 4th grades and none is able to write his name. We are working on that and also on their numbers. I started by



teaching them to count by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s. Once they mastered those, they quickly learned the 3’s and then the 4’s. They are also counting backwards from 20. I realized how eager they were to learn when I gave them each a sheet of paper with the times tables through 11. Two weeks later, they pulled the papers out of their pockets to show me they were using them and practicing. Of course, their efforts are rewarded with a piece of candy for added motivation. Sid and Ellen left behind three blindfolds from their flights—the boys had a great time wearing them and fumbling around. Two days later I found them still playing with them, as this photo shows.

We are now all eagerly awaiting Pastors School, which begins on May 10 and runs until mid-July. Kafakumba Pastors School was founded in 1963 in Congo/Zaire by Kenneth Enright but was moved to Zambia a few years ago because of the war in Congo and is now the responsibility of John and Kendra Enright. The 100 students come from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Congo. Each year they learn new concepts of teaching scripture, preaching, prayer, church administration, and living close to Christ. They then have ten months in their churches to apply what they have learned. When they return the following year to Kafakumba, they can get feedback on their experiences and learn new teachings. Instructors come from the United States and the Congo. The students who are in the higher grades will also bring their wives and two of their children. The women enjoy bible study and are taught income generation techniques to help them supplement the pastors’ meager salaries. The children learn bible stories, memorize scripture, sing songs, play and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Sneak Peaks

- The other day at Lifesong School two of the little boys brought me some bright green grasshoppers, called nshokonono in Bemba. They are a delicious delicacy here. The boys decided they could put their catch together in a cage so they’d have babies and then we’d have lunch. Hmm...an enterprising idea—grasshopper ranches!
- Ellen and Sid brought balloons for the children. After they counted them to be sure there were enough to go around, they asked me how many children we have. When I told them we have 208, they said “We have exactly 208 balloons!”
- Our older children love to stay after class and help unload truckloads of charcoal, groceries, and other supplies after our monthly shopping trips. They would do it just for the fun and fellowship, but John also rewards them—with a bar of soap so they can bathe and wash their clothes—not much to an American kid, but a big deal to them.

Prayer Requests

- Continued prayers for Lifesong School staff, children and caregivers; especially that the malaria cases will be reduced and the children will be able to resist the respiratory diseases that come with the cold season that is approaching.
- Continued prayers for little William that his surgery will be a big success and he will be able to walk normally—that the people in his compound will see the Glory of God in his healing.
- Prayers for Kafakumba Pastors School—the administrators, teachers, students and support staff—that the pastors will learn to be genuine disciples of Christ and teach the Word of God in spirit and truth.
- Prayers for David Thames, Bill and Cassie Bausson and family, and Sid and Ellen Benson as they continue to discern God’s will and answer His call to serve the people of Zambia.

A cheerful heart is good medicine. Proverbs 17:22

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