

DRU'S VIEWS *Twenty-ninth Edition – August 2010*

“Look at the nations, and see! Be astonished! Be astonished! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told.” Habakkuk 1:5 (NRSV)

Lifesong School

We were *astonished* to see all of the work accomplished by 11 friends from Thunder Bay, Ontario. If someone would have told us all that they would do for our children, *we would not have believed it!* They spent two weeks volunteering at Lifesong School. Two teachers led a workshop on phonics



and other relevant topics for our teachers and 8 teachers from Limapela-Cedrics School—run by friends of mine from New Zealand. Two dental assistants

worked with a local dental clinic to examine and repair the children's teeth and teach them oral hygiene. A physiotherapist worked with two of our disabled children and showed one of our teachers how to continue the exercise program. The men worked with a local carpenter and welder to build some amazing playground equipment. And the rest of the group worked for days sorting the clothes and shoes we received on the container and distributing them to the children. When they weren't busy working, we took them to a local church and to visit the families of some of our children in their homes. We also treated them to a traditional Zambian meal; some were even brave enough to taste the fried caterpillars! We are so very grateful for these dedicated volunteers, and we hope their wish to return next year will be fulfilled.



Update on William

William returned to the CURE clinic on August 4. When the plaster cast and bandages were removed from the right foot, everyone was *astonished* to see the results! Since the right foot had not healed completely from the surgery, the operation on the left foot was postponed to September 1. In the words of his teacher, the foot is “perfect.” William's father told John Mumba that *he cannot believe* what he is seeing. It is truly a miracle healing. William is now walking on his new foot with the use of a stick for balance.

A Day in the Life of a Missionary

People often ask me what typical day is like. Here is one I recently experienced.

- At 7:00 a.m. a man came to my door to sell me flower pots; he also wanted a ride to Kitwe, so I told him I was leaving soon. He went home to get tools and said he would meet us on the road.
- At 7:30 Junior arrived with two 20-liter containers of disinfectant I'd purchased for the school. I was taking him to Kitwe with me to have his eyes checked, because I noticed they didn't look right and he told me they were bothering him. We loaded the car and left only 15 minutes late. The man who wanted a ride was nowhere to be seen, so we left without him.
- About 15 km outside Kitwe I pushed on the clutch to stop at a police checkpoint; I heard a “clunk” and realized I could no longer shift gears. I called my mechanic and drove 40 kph in 2nd gear to just outside of town, where I stopped because I realized I wouldn't be able to move at the next traffic signal. After an hour the mechanic arrived—he drove me on into town, dropped me at the eye clinic, and limped to the garage with my sick car.
- After an hour wait, we were seen by a doctor. Good news!! Nothing serious was wrong with Junior's eyes; it was allergic conjunctivitis. We were given eye drops after some confusion over their availability.
- Next we walked to the travel agent and left her looking for flights home in September while I went to the bank. We arrived at 11:30—there was no one in line so I thought it would be quick. Wrong! It is hard to explain the procedure, but it involves three people reviewing your withdrawal before you are called to the counter. I got our money after ½ hour.
- Then we walked back to the travel agent, and she had my flight reservations! No problem!!!! The day was looking up.
- Since Junior was hungry, I took him for lunch. I called John Mumba to see if he was in town and could give us a ride to Lifesong; he was still at school but said he was coming soon and would call me. After an hour, he still hadn't called so we walked back into town and hired a taxi for K50,000 (US \$10)—a good price.
- When we got to the school, the taxi driver told me he should have asked for K70,000. I had intended earlier to get his phone number since he was a good driver, but I quickly changed my mind.
- As soon as I saw John's face, I knew something was wrong. He had just learned that two of our 11-year-old girls were “working” as prostitutes in the compound. They were left alone at night and were getting money to buy food.
- Good news—my car was ready. It now has its third new clutch plate—the one that we bought 5 days ago broke.
- Back at home, I discovered I had no water—after staying in Garneton for the previous 2 weeks with no water! On investigation I learned the plumber turned off the main valve at the center and forgot to turn it back on when he left.
- Although exhausted, I decided to work on payroll. Amazingly, for the first time it balanced on the first try!

- I sat down to eat some reheated soup and read my emails. I was ready for bed, but the phone rang at 9:00. It was Daudi calling to say the students were rioting at his school. The police were arresting everyone in sight. He was hiding some distance away, and said he would not sleep that night. I didn't think I would either.

It seemed like a day fraught with nothing but problems and frustrations. But as I reflected, I realized that God had been right along beside me and had seen me through all of them. What an *astounding* work He does!!!

“My Children”

As I mentioned, Daudi managed to escape the rioting at school. When he returned, he discovered his storage trunk had been damaged, but nothing was stolen. A week later he called me from the hospital. He had malaria, which is always serious for him. The doctor also said he had water on his lungs and might require surgery. He was to be transferred to the University Teaching Hospital, but was released instead. When he returned to Kitwe for his end-of-term break, he required additional treatment before he was completely healed.



Kafuti went with a group from his church to Botswana for a week (another stamp in his passport—I think God has a plan). It was an international youth conference. He had an *astounding and unbelievable* time, met Christian youths from several other African countries and grew in his faith.

Global Impact Celebration

I was home for two weeks this month to participate in the Global Impact Celebration at my home church, Peoria First United Methodist. It was an exciting time with 40 mission projects represented including local, regional, national and world-wide areas of service. It was a joy to reunite and share with my church family, to hear about *astounding* Kingdom work and to dialogue with other missionaries. I also had the opportunity to meet with the children's Sunday school and thank them in person for their gifts for the Zambian kids. My prayer is that my stories will have inspired others to be involved in God's work in mission through their prayers, gifts and/or service. Some have already expressed an interest in forming a short-term team to visit Lifesong Zambia next year. (P.S. In less than 2 weeks, I gained 8 pounds! Ice cream overload!)

Sneak Peaks

- My friend, Lorraine Enright, heard me singing a song with some of the children at Kafakumba. She liked it so well that she asked me to teach it to the God's Kids groups. It goes—“Who's the king of the jungle?—oo, oo—Who's the king of the sea?—wella, wella, wella—Who's the king of the universe? And who's the king of me? I'll tell you—J-E-S-U-S, yes! He's the king of me! He's the king of the universe, the jungle and the sea. wella-wella-wella - OOOOO” The children love the song, and now whenever they see me, they go “oo-oo!”
- When I'm home at Kafakumba, the neighbor children stop by my house throughout the day to get candy. I hide it in one of my hands and they have to guess which hand it is in. (A trick I learned long ago from my father.) I always have them give me the wrappers so they learn not to litter, and they've started hiding them in their hand so I have to guess!

Itineration

I will be back in the U.S.A. from September 27 through November 3 and would love to meet with individuals, small groups, UMW groups, mission teams, etc. Please email me to set up a date if you are interested in a program or just an informal dialogue. Or I can be reached at the home of my dear friends, Rev. Glenn and Dee Ioder, at (309) 346-6510.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for the children and staff at Lifesong School—for health, learning and faithfulness to Christ.
- Prayers for William as his body heals and he faces ongoing surgery.
- Prayers for my boys, especially Kafuti, as we continue to wait for word of acceptance to college in January.
- Prayers for the Lifesong Vision Team coming to Zambia from September 17 through 22—for safe travel, health and blessings as they meet our children and staff.
- Prayers for my travel and safety in September. Also that I will be able to accomplish the “impossible” as I try to get several weeks worth of work done before I leave!

I am often *astounded* at how God works in us and through us to minister to His children, especially the poor. Often people talk about the “sacrifices” that missionaries and others make. However, I feel I have made few sacrifices and instead feel privileged to be able to serve Jesus in Zambia and witness first-hand some of the *unbelievable* works accomplished in His name.

In His service,

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