

**DRU'S VIEWS**  
**Twenty-eighth Edition – July 2010**

I've been thinking about GIFTS lately. Searching my Bible, I realized that there are three categories of gifts.

(1) Gifts we receive from God

- *Don't you see that children are God's best gift? (Psalm 127:3)*
- *... the Father who conceived you in love will give you the Holy Spirit ... (Luke 11:13)*

(2) Gifts we give to God

- *You received gifts from the people... (Psalm 68:18)*
- *...let us continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by proclaiming the glory of his name. (Hebrews 13:15)*

(3) Gifts we share with others

- *When you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:3,4)*
- *Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ... (Ephesians 5:2)*

**Lifesong School**

Zambian parents often name their children Gift, Given, or Blessings because they treasure them as gifts from God. We have several children at our school with these names, but we consider ALL of the children under our care to be God's precious gifts to us, and we are thankful for them. They bring us joy and a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. Reflected in each one is the image of Jesus—living reminders of His love and grace. This past month we have been able to share with them some of the gifts that have been provided by generous donors who filled a 40-foot container to the brim. Sports equipment, books, clothing, cooking utensils—all brought joy to our staff and children. We have barely touched the surface in our sorting and distribution. Our first priority was to distribute the blankets, which are desperately needed in this cold season. With the help of Wayne, Bill, and Sarah from the Pontiac Rotary,

each child was given a plastic bag containing a warm blanket or handmade afghan to take home. The next day they brought the plastic bags back; I suppose hoping to fill them again. In the next few weeks we will give them the hand-made stocking caps, winter clothing, shoes and book bags we received.

Recently, friends gave me some cash *in secret* and said, "Use it to buy something special for the children, whatever you think they need." This was an easy decision. Over the past three years I have purchased videos—"Sesame Street," "Veggie Tales," and other various movies for children—and we have been showing them to the children on my laptop computer. These videos are more than entertainment; they supplement their classroom lessons, help the children learn English, and provide an alternative to the violent and often evil videos that are shown in their community. Imagine 30 or more children huddled around a small computer screen! The donation we were given was enough for John and I to purchase a 29" flat screen TV set and DVD player. The next day nearly 200 children gathered to watch Elmo. They could all see the screen, and there was no pushing or arguing. As I watched their eyes I could see that they were mesmerized, even the 15-year-olds! When Elmo and his friends started to dance, the entire room erupted in hilarious laughter! Nurse Cristobel commented that for the first time in weeks there were no patients in our infirmary. Video programs will be scheduled into our special afternoon classes on a rotation so that age-appropriate material will be shown to each group. We won't try to squeeze all 209 children in at once! We are very grateful for this most generous gift.



We also had a visit last month from the Ciesemier family from Chicago. These dear friends, who formed a foundation "Kids Caring for Kids," provided funds that enabled us to build a new toilet facility and provide professional health care for our students. It was a blessing for us to meet them and show them the work they made possible. They especially enjoyed meeting the children in person and sharing big hugs.

**Update on William**

William had surgery on his right foot on June 22 in Lusaka. The results seem to be good. He is at home in a plaster cast and cannot attend school, because his leg must be elevated at all times. He will return to Lusaka for surgery on his left foot on August 4. We are hopeful that this child will receive God's gift of total healing and will soon be able to walk and run.

### ***Life at Kafakumba***

Pastors School has ended, and it is all quiet again. I miss the sound of children playing, choirs rehearsing and the drums beating. I especially enjoyed the Sunday night campfire—a blazing fire which we all encircled to keep warm. Each class took turns dancing around the fire and singing; even we “whites” had a turn! The second Pastors’ School of the year will start in late August with pastors coming from Congo.

### ***“My Children”***

Benson has completed his first term at Cavendish University. He passed four of his six classes; not bad considering his background. He will repeat the two that he failed this next term, which starts July 17. He came to visit for a few days over his break and was full of enthusiasm—especially about his pre-law class. He said the professor is a Cavendish graduate who worked for the UN for a while before returning to teach. His teacher suggested he might hire Benson as his assistant next year if he performs well. We are still waiting to receive an acceptance letter for Kafuti to attend college next year; one school will make its selections this month, the other in August. I am grateful for my friends in Peoria who worked so hard on a Father’s Day bake sale to help put all of my kids through school. I couldn’t do it without your gifts.

### ***A Special Gift***

I was recently given the gift of a few days away to rest and reflect. I spent them at Nsoke Camp, a small game park near my home. My friend and I had planned to stay in two of the safari tents, but since the camp was full that week (with 9 and 10 year olds!), we were upgraded to a 4-bedroom cottage on the lake, far away from the noise and activity. As we sat and gazed over the lake and paddled a canoe, we saw wildlife and birds. I especially enjoyed the fish eagle that soared so effortlessly on the air currents. There was no moon that week, and with no lights around we were able to see more stars than I knew existed. On two game drives we saw many varieties of antelope. When walking through the camp, we encountered two male giraffes that showed no fear of us. We spent two hours enjoying them from only a few yards away. They seemed as curious about us as we were about them.



### ***Sneak Peaks***

- Along with the beauty of God’s creation that we enjoyed at Nsoke, we had a mystery that will remain unsolved. I left several bite-size Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups in a bowl on the counter. In the morning I discovered the front door of the cottage was partially opened, and the candy was gone. Was it monkeys, the night watchman or an inside job? Whichever it was, I hope they weren’t around earlier to see me when I very ungracefully fell into the lake getting into the canoe.
- When escorting a visitor to our classrooms to meet the children, I asked some of them what they wanted to be when they finished school. Some of the answers included doctor, lawyer, teacher, Mr. Mumba (our school manager), nurse, pilot, driver, soldier, etc. And one little girl said she wanted to be President!
- I don’t know where my mind was when I was unpacking my suitcase. I lost many items and nearly tore my house apart looking for them to no avail. Later I found my skirt in a drawer instead of on a hanger, my camera cable and instructions under a bag of money hidden in my closet, and some receipts for the month in my file box where they belonged! My garden boy found my car key lying on the ground before I even knew I’d lost it. The message? Don’t worry. Let go and let God. I didn’t find these things until I stopped looking!

### ***Prayer Requests***

- Please pray for William as he awaits his next surgery, that he will keep his good spirits and his foot will heal properly.
- Please continue to pray for the Bausons, Ellen and Sid Benson, David Thames and Luke Gudeman—all preparing to move to Zambia in September and October as missionaries with Kafakumba and Lifesong.
- Please pray for Lifesong School that our ministry may continue to bring children to Christ and prepare them for adulthood with quality education; for donors to come forward to meet our shortfall.
- Please pray that Kafuti will receive a letter of acceptance to start college in January 2011.
- Please pray for me as I travel to Peoria on August 4 to participate in the Global Impact Celebration at my home church. I will return to Zambia on August 18.

*But God’s gift is real life, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master. (Romans 6:23)* The greatest gift we have received from God is the gift of his son, Jesus, who died to give us eternal life. The greatest gift we can return to God is to give our own lives to Him, trusting Him to use us as He will to advance His kingdom. And the greatest gift we can give each other is unconditional love and acceptance, sharing the Good News with each one we meet.

In His service,  
Dru Smith  
Lifesong Zambia