

DRU'S VIEWS
Twenty-seventh Edition – June 2010

Jesus said, "I assure you, unless you turn from your sins and become as little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me." Matthew 18:3 – 5 NLT

Lifesong School

Lately I've been thinking a lot about which characteristics of children might be found in the citizens who live in the Kingdom of Heaven. Often we hear people say it is their innocence, but anyone who has spent time with children will tell you that innocent they are not! Naïve maybe, but not innocent! Jesus talks about humility, which my dictionary says is "the quality of not thinking you are better than other people." Children certainly do exhibit humility (until they reach the teenage years!). I heard one pastor talk about the vulnerability of children—their low status and dependence on others. At Lifesong, we are working hard to not only empower children through education but to help increase their self esteem as they realize they truly are children of God and they become followers of Christ. One day I discovered another characteristic—forgiveness. We had taken Isanna, one of our youngest children to the clinic. She was very sick and required twice-daily injections for several days. On one follow-up visit, she drug her feet and screamed all the way from the car to the treatment room. It was my job to stretch her face-down across my legs and hold her while the nurse injected a huge needle into her tiny bottom. I thought, "She'll never let me hug her again." However, within seconds, she had forgiven me and was ready to exchange a big hug—looking at me with adoration in her eyes. Are we as quick to forgive, or do we hold a grudge against someone who has hurt us? Some of my recent reading has revealed to me other child-like traits that we should try to emulate—uninhibited joy, trust, wonder, perseverance, and unconditional love.



The container has arrived! After nearly a year of preparation and shipping, a 40-foot container filled with donated items has been delivered to Lifesong School, thanks to a grant from Rotary International. It traveled by rail from the Lifesong office in Gridley, Illinois, via Chicago to Norfolk, Virginia. There it was placed on a ship that went first to Cape Town, South Africa, and then on to Walvis Bay, Namibia. It sat there for over a month while we tried to figure out how to truck it to Zambia. It arrived in Ndola on May 30, and on June 1 we were able to get it the rest of the way to Lifesong. When it arrived, we discovered the truck would not fit through our front gate, so we spent an hour destroying the concrete block wall and dismantling the gate. At last the truck drove through, to the delight of the children who had stayed to watch this process. The crane arrived shortly after, and we all cheered as it removed the container from the truck and placed it carefully on the concrete slab we had prepared beforehand. On June 17, Wayne Steffen from Lifesong will arrive with two members of the Pontiac, IL, Rotary Club—Sarah Walters and Bill Schweitzer. Then on the 19th, the Kitwe Rotary Club members will join us for an official "opening." We are so grateful to everyone who made this possible—the donors of the shoes and clothing, furnishings and cooking accessories, school supplies and book bags, books and all of the other wonderful items; the volunteers who worked so hard to load the container and document the contents; and the Rotarians who financed the shipment. God bless you all.



Update on William

William was scheduled for surgery on June 3; however, when he arrived at the hospital, they discovered he had a respiratory infection and cough, so the surgery has been postponed to June 17. He returned home on June 6, greatly disappointed but hopeful. We will beef up his immune system with a double dose of aloe vera and vitamins and pray that we can get him healthy and keep him that way for the next two weeks.

"My Children"

Benson completed his first term at Cavendish University on June 4. He said he felt good about his examinations and is eager to prepare for the next term. He will spend a few days in Kitwe with friends for a short break and then return to Lusaka to start studying again.

Vincent called to tell me he was very concerned because his 10th grade teachers are not serious. We agreed it would be wise for him to sign up for "tuitions" or extra learning classes, which is a necessity here if students are going to pass their exams. Last



week, on my way to pick up someone at the airport, I stopped by his house to drop off money to pay the fees. When I got there, I found his young cousin, Amon, age 9, lying on the ground. He was burning up with fever, shivering, glassy-eyed and very sick to his stomach—classic malaria symptoms. Since we had plenty of time to get to the airport, I insisted we go to the clinic immediately. We discovered that the local government clinic was closed due to lack of funding, so we drove a couple of miles to the clinic in the next township. When we arrived, we paid the required 30 cents consultation fee. There were nearly 100 people in the waiting room. When we did see the nurse, we were told they had no lab and no medicines! We were then given a referral letter to another clinic in Kasenji—across town. We rushed there only to discover that the road was in such poor condition that I could not get my little car through. (What I wouldn't give for 4-wheel drive!) As time was not on our side, I ended up just going to the pharmacy and purchasing drugs to treat the malaria and, after buying everyone cold drinks, I took them home. I told them to contact me the next day if Amon had not improved. Since I haven't heard anything, I must

assume he is recovering. The family does not have a phone of their own, so I can not call them. (This is a photo of Amon on a better day.) Malaria is a killer disease, taking more lives in Zambia than any other cause. Last week, a friend told me he'd heard that in just one day 12 babies at Kitwe Central Hospital had died of malaria. This disease has a devastating effect on not only families but also the economy, as workers are frequently absent due to sickness or attending funerals of loved ones.

Life at Kafakumba

Pastors School continues here for two more weeks. I have certainly enjoyed participating in the vibrant Sunday morning worship services. The music gets your heart beating and your feet dancing! The highlight for me is watching 10-year-old Ester, the son of one of the pastors, beat the drums. He is magnificent! This morning, another older boy came over and tried to take his place, but one of the choir members chased him away so Ester could play. He is from the Luba tribe in Congo. Next Sunday night we will enjoy our final campfire—two hours of singing, dancing and prayer as we surround a large fire in the center of the campus.

Sneak Peaks

- When driving on the highway, I slowed down as I approached an area where I often find goats in my path. As I peered ahead of me, I saw what looked like two huge oxen crossing the road. When I got closer, I realized they were two women carrying large bundles of grass on their heads—probably for roofing their houses.
- I've mentioned before the trouble Zambians face when trying to pronounce an "r" which does not appear in their language. We laughed until our sides hurt as I was trying to get Jonathan and Kelvin to say "light bulb." It kept coming out as "rite bobe." I kept flicking my tongue on my upper front teeth going "la la la" but they just couldn't get it. I finally gave up!



Prayer Requests

- Pray for Lifesong School, that our teachers and staff will understand that the children who are under their care are the greatest in the Kingdom of God. That they must be welcomed as they would welcome Christ himself and treated with love, understanding and respect—that they are the most precious commodity in Zambia. That the children themselves will continue to work hard to excel in their studies and in their faithfulness to Christ.
- Pray for little William, that he will be healthy and ready for his surgery on June 17.
- Pray for all of "my kids" that they will be serious students and have success in school; that their behavior will be above reproach. Pray for Kafuti that he will be accepted into an engineering program to begin in January.
- Pray for Wayne, Bill and Sarah as they travel to Zambia to help us with the container. And for Eleanor and Ray Dunn and their team from Canada, scheduled to arrive on July 5.
- Please continue to pray for the Bausons, Bensons and David Thames as they prepare themselves to answer God's call to full-time ministry in Zambia.
- And I ask you to pray for me personally, that I will be able to stay well and persevere as I try to fulfill all of the many additional responsibilities I will be facing these next two months. Pray that I will see Jesus in everyone I meet and will treat them as a child would—with joy, wonder, forgiveness, trust and unconditional love.

In His service,

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