

**DRU'S VIEWS**  
*Thirty-sixth Edition – April 2011*

*The place where God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.*

*—Frederick Buechner*

**Lifesong School**

I have turned over all of my administrative responsibilities at Lifesong and now am able to do what I enjoy—loving on the children! One day I selected an armload of books from our library and took them out to the playground. I was besieged by children who were so excited they could barely contain themselves. While I read alphabet, number and shape books to the baby class, some of the older children decided to read to themselves. They gathered in groups of three or four and devoured the pictures. Most of the beginning classes are not able to actually read, but that didn't keep them from trying. I felt all tingly inside as I listened to one little girl "read" the story as she interpreted it from the pictures. I even heard a few words of English!



I didn't want a "going away" party for myself; I don't think I could handle saying farewell to these precious children who have been such a big part of my life for the past four years. So on Friday, April 15, which was the last day of the term, I treated the children to a special lunch of chicken, rice, potatoes with carrots and green peppers, watermelons and lollipops. I was able to leave seeing them with big smiles on their

faces and tummies that were well satisfied.

I don't know how many of you have seen the "Jesus Film" based on the Gospel of Luke. It is distributed in hundreds of languages by Campus Crusade. I found it on DVD in the local language, Bemba, and bought it for the children. They love it! Imagine seeing the stories of Jesus depicted by people whom they can understand. It is their favorite movie.

I was literally in tears one day as I watched William playing soccer with his friends; he said at the beginning of his treatment that he would! Even our maintenance workers were watching and discussing the goodness of God. There is even more excitement in his family—he has a new baby sister! I was amazed when I was told that her parents named her "Dru." Poor thing—it is a name that is almost impossible for Zambians to pronounce, but I feel greatly honored. (By the way, that's William on the left in the photo above.)



**"My Children"**

Daudi's father has disappeared, so their little mud house remains vacant while Daudi is at school. I've been paying the rent so he has somewhere to come home to but decided it was foolish when it is empty most of the time. So Joseph agreed to allow Daudi to move in with him, and he did so on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. That evening when Joseph got home from school, he found Daudi critically ill with malaria; he was so bad that he couldn't even talk or sit up. Joseph rushed him to the clinic where he was admitted and put on quinine treatment. He recovered quickly, and we were thrilled when he was released on Saturday. If Daudi had been in the shanty compound at his father's house, no one would have found him, and he would most likely have died.



He was well enough to join Joseph, Jonathan, Kafuti and me for an overnight at Nsobe Game Camp, a small resort area near my home. This was a special "family time" for us prior to my departure.

The boys had a great time teasing one another, discussing politics, fishing, canoeing, viewing the snakes and crocodiles, and taking a game drive where they saw various antelope, monkeys, birds, zebras and giraffes. Of course, they enjoyed the good food, too! They caught a gallon bag full of fish (See photo of Joseph holding one of the largest



ones!), and the camp owners put them in the freezer so they could take them home to cook and eat! It was a wonderful time for us to relax away from the "busyness" and to just enjoy being together.

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

I was privileged to be among the congregation at the first English language worship service at Kafakumba on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This was the initiative of our leaders, Bill Bauson and Pastor Kilembo. Lorraine Enright optimistically had 30 chairs set up—we had 29 in attendance (plus one dog)! There were seven countries represented—America, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Congo, Ethiopia, and Zambia. Pastor Kilembo spoke on the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and related it to how Christ, through the work at Kafakumba, has brought new life to this formerly oppressed and dangerous neighborhood. As word spreads, we pray that this congregation will grow in numbers and faith so that the light of Christ might shine brightly.

Early this month I attended a meeting with two representatives of The Upper Room in South Africa. The purpose was to explain the program to Rev. Kilembo with the intent of starting the Walk to Emmaus program in Zambia. It was an exciting day as we saw all the possibilities and promise which far outweigh the challenges. We parted convinced that this is indeed God's plan. It will take two to three years to be fully implemented, and tens of thousands of dollars, but we all were filled with assurance that the needs will be provided through the international Emmaus communities.

There is also a new baby at the Kilembo's house – Makarios Mpande was welcomed by his parents, 3 sisters and brother—who was glad to have another boy in the house!



### ***Sneak Peaks***

- We have a new, modern grocery store in Ndola called Pic N Pay, and everyone is very excited. When I went to check it out after the grand opening, I found goat meat in the butchery. I decided to be adventuresome and tried it—delicious! It must have been a special promotion, because they haven't had it since. I doubt I'll be able to find it at Krogers!
- When I lived in Zambia from 1999 – 2004, I had a part-time gardener named Boston. When I left, I was going to give him some money to help him over the few months until he could find another job. But I decided it would be wiser to invest in something that would sustain him over the long term, so we decided he would take driving lessons. I saw him the other day; he is working as a taxi driver. His family is doing well and he is growing fat—a sign of prosperity. It gave me a good feeling to know that my life has made a difference for at least one person.
- Last week my friend and neighbor, Cassie Bauson, came over to let me know that she is going to fly home with me to Chicago. I was watering the flowers and threw my plastic container in the air and shouted, "Hallelujah!" We heard a response from the other side of the tall grass that divides my house from the soccer field — "Praise the Lord!"
- Well, it finally happened. Red the dog wanders in and out of my house at will. The other day she came in early in the morning and greeted me before I left for Kitwe for the day. When I got home at 3:30 that afternoon, she *bolted* out of the door when I opened it. I checked and didn't find any messes; she did well for a dog that has not been trained as a housedog! I didn't think she'd come in again after that traumatic experience, but the next day she gladly entered and laid at my feet.

### ***Prayer Requests***

- Please pray for Lifesong School—that qualified Christian teachers will be found to replace those who have left. Pray also for Shane McBride of "Hope for Orphans" in Texas, his wife Mitzi, and their three small children. They are considering coming to manage the project. I met them when they came to visit, and I believe they are the perfect couple to lead the school in the right direction. They are highly qualified professionally, but more important they have humble spirits and hearts for the children and the Lord. I fell in love with them the moment I met them.
- Please pray for "my children" as they adjust to my leaving. They have relied on me for guidance and emotional support beyond the financial support they have received. Also pray for my friends, Mike and Regina Carew, who have so graciously agreed to see that the funding for their schooling and living expenses gets to them and is properly accounted for.
- Please pray for me as I make final preparations for my departure. For safe travel for both Cassie and me. For emotional strength and adjustment as I leave the people and life that I love and try to acclimate myself to living in America. For a job and affordable housing.

I will try to get a cell phone as soon as possible once I hit the ground. I'll be staying in Rock Island with family for a few days and then with my dear friends whom I consider to also be family, Rev. Glenn and Dee Ioder, in Pekin. If you need to reach me, their phone number is (309) 346-6510. Once I know where I'll be living (and hopefully working!), I'll send out word.

*How thankful I am to Christ Jesus our Lord for considering me trustworthy and appointing me to serve him. 1 Timothy 1:12*

In His service,

**Dru Smith**

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