

DRU'S VIEWS
Thirty-third Edition – January 2011

One day Peter and John were on their way into the temple, and a man crippled from birth was being carried up. Every day he was set down at the gate to beg from those going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter the Temple, he asked for a handout. Peter looked him straight in the eye and said, "Look here." He looked up, expecting to get something from them. Peter said, "I don't have a nickel to my name, but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ, walk!" He grabbed him by the hand and pulled him up. In an instant his feet and ankles became firm. He jumped to his feet and walked. The man went into the Temple with them, walking back and forth, dancing and praising God. They recognized him as the one who sat begging and rubbed their eyes, astonished, scarcely believing what they were seeing. (Acts 3:1 – 10 The Message, condensed)

Update on William

I was at the small shopping center where I sometimes get groceries when I am in a hurry and don't want to go downtown. As I was parking my car, I noticed a man crawling on his knees, approaching car windows to beg. As I looked closer, I realized his feet were clubbed, almost exactly as William's were when I first saw him. I had a sick feeling in my stomach as I realized that this is the same fate William would have faced—a lifetime of begging, pain and humiliation. A few days later I was listening to one of the CDs my home church sends me of their worship services. I'm a bit behind, so the one I had in the player was from February 21, 2010. As prayer requests were spoken, I heard the voice of my friend, Helen, telling about the little boy named William at Lifesong School who was born with clubbed feet and needed prayers. Did anyone realize at that time that less than a year later those prayers would have been answered in such a profound way? William was able to walk to school on opening day. He is overcoming his balance problem and is asking for a ball so he can practice and learn to play soccer. His school friends welcomed him back and greeted him with cheers. Today I was *astonished* as I watched him actually running all over the playground. You could barely keep track of where he was at any moment. The name of Jesus Christ is powerful.

Lifesong School

Opening day was January 10. As always there was much excitement and anticipation as the children looked forward to learning and being back with their friends. A good percentage of the students arrived, although some may be another week or so in coming. Often children are sent to visit other relatives when they have a school break, and frequently they have trouble finding the money for them to travel back home. We have added only two new students this year, the niece of one of our staff members who lives on campus and a girl recommended by Brother Tony, one of our neighbors with the Franciscans. Even with the promotion of some of our students to the new fifth grade, our classes are quite full, ranging from 16 in the nursery class to 38 in grades 1 and 3. We have hired a new teacher to accommodate the additional grade. This month I will be busy updating the children's records and taking new photographs. It is always interesting to see how much they grow and change in just a year's time.

Keeping the children healthy remains a major concern. Two days before Christmas, three of our children were admitted to the hospital with severe malaria. When I visited, Christine had improved and was able to sit up and eat. Ronald and Edward were too weak with the soaring fever that often kills the patients. Edward could not even hold his eyes open. The look of fear on their parents' faces broke my heart—every day children die of malaria in this country, and some of these parents had already lost children. Praise God that the next day the children were able to eat and walk on their own. They were not able to go home for Christmas, but at least *this* time they have recovered and will live. A second child in the school has now been diagnosed with hepatitis and will be in isolation for six months; the first little girl with this disease is now able to return to school.

We had a wonderful surprise from Brother Tony, whom I mentioned above. He made a new game for the children using small PVC pipes. I understand it is all the rage in America, called hillbilly golf. He donated two to Lifesong School. Even the littlest children are enjoying this new game.



"My Children"



On the 10th, I took Kafuti to Luanshya Technical and Business College for registration and opening day. We weren't given a time to arrive, but since the housing is on a first come/first serve basis, the secretary advised me to have him there by 5:00 a.m. Well, we managed, and as I suspected, he was the only one there. I left him there and went back home to get some work done and fretted. He didn't call me until 3:30. But he did get a room in the on-campus dormitories. I picked him up and brought him home to finish packing his clothes and things. He hadn't eaten since the night before and had slept little due to the excitement; he was hungry, worn out from the stress and exhausted. His only comment was, "Getting signed up for college sure is a big pain in the neck!" When we returned to campus, I met three of the new friends he has already made—two are his roommates. He is very happy, and I am so proud. He said that never in his life did he dream he would be a "college student."

Life at Kafakumba

I have to regress back to Christmas to tell you a story. I have a very small artificial Christmas tree that I decorated and put in my front window. Some of the children who visit me came by and asked, “What is that?” Can you imagine never having seen a Christmas tree? I let them come in and *carefully* touch. They especially loved the little snow globe ornament with the snowman inside. They also were in wonder at my two wooden nativity sets; however, they knew the story of the baby Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men, and they enjoyed arranging and re-arranging the scene.



You may remember last year when one of the little boys brought me a big mushroom as a Christmas gift. This year Peter and Mari presented me with two big bouquets of Christmas lilies—a red flower, also called a flame lily, that blooms only at Christmas time. It was pouring down rain, so I brought them in the house and gave them paper and crayons and let them color for a while. Before they left I gave them milk and cookies. Sure enough—the next day I had about 6 boys bringing me flowers! I told the children to come and see me on Christmas day; I gave each of them a small bag of treats, which brought much



excitement and joy to children who otherwise would not have received any gifts at all.

Sneak Peaks

- I was delighted when I found canned cherries at the store to make a dessert for Christmas; but I was dismayed to discover they all still had their stems and seeds. Didn't expect to do all that work.
- Lifesong student, Mwape, went to town with me one day, dirty and barefoot. Our children seldom if ever experience what it is like to be in the city. I bought him a box of Smarties (like M & Ms) as a treat. Mwape saw a blind beggar sitting along the sidewalk. He tugged on my shirt and told me he wanted to give him his candy! I was so touched that I gave him some money to give the man instead. When we went on to the wholesale store (Kitwe's version of Sam's Club), he stopped and saluted the police woman who was working as a security guard. I don't know who had more fun on this trip!
- Martin was admiring a beautiful picture on my laptop—mountains covered with various colored flowers. I told him what it was and asked him why he thought God made such beautiful things. He replied, “Because He loves us.”
- Do you know what this picture is? It is a pile of some of the dead termites I found on my front porch one morning after a heavy rain. I swept them off into the grass. My morning devotions were distracted by the egrets and crows that came and feasted on the bountiful treat they found. (Then when I got home that afternoon they had left me some nice smelly “deposits” in return!)



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for this new year at Lifesong School – that donors will be generous and we can continue providing quality services to the children and their families. Pray for health and excellence in learning. Continued prayers for William.
- Please pray for “my children” who have now all returned to school—that they will be serious in their studies and stay healthy.
- Please pray for me and my family, as we continue with many personal struggles. Pray for my health, as I've been experiencing several stress-related illnesses in the past few months.

Thank you for the many Christmas cards that were received to brighten my days. Thank you for those who have provided financial support for my boys and Lifesong. And my deepest gratitude to all of you who have been lifting up me and the work here in prayer—we couldn't manage without your prayer support that sustains us. I am also praying for you—for those who are sick, struggling with unemployment, grieving from loss of a loved one, studying, and struggling in ways you have shared with me. I pray 2011 will be a year of joy, peace and love for all of us.

In His service,

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