

EASTER 2003

The Lord is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! All of time and eternity have been changed forever by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In recent discussions with Pastor Kasongo Munza (he's visited the States and spoken in Indiana and Ohio) in preparation for our upcoming session of Kafakumba Pastor's School, the subject of war and a world consumed by domination, violence, oppression and killing was a deep concern. One of my classes will be Kingdom of God theology. We noted how upside down the Kingdom of God is compared to the nations and kingdoms of this world. King Jesus was a servant and washed his disciples feet. Have any of the world leaders done that lately?

One of the key principles of the Kingdom of God is non-violence. Jesus taught it in the Sermon on the Mount. He lived it in his lifestyle. He never retaliated, sought revenge, but used weapons different than those used by those fighting wars today. The weapons of Jesus are Love, Truth, Courage, Forgiveness – and even Death is a powerful weapon. These are the weapons Jesus used to fight the powers and principalities of this world. He fought the political leaders, the religious and economic institutions not with their weapons, but with His weapons. Yes, even on the Cross Jesus could have called down fire from Heaven (making nuclear weapons appear as birthday candles), but he didn't. He used the weapons of Love and Forgiveness! As "Christians" we too are called to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus. Even our "worldly" ways of living, thinking and being must be given up as we take on a Christian lifestyle of truth, love, forgiveness and death! We find our life when we give it up! That is the result of the resurrection!

What's happening with our ministry and us? That is a question many have been asking. First the Wings of the Morning Flight ministry. We have an aviation meeting scheduled in April to discuss the whole situation in Congo and how that affects our flight ministry. There are tremendous humanitarian needs with nearly 4 million people killed during this war! Yes, they have signed peace papers, but fighting continues. While we have not been able to fly into Congo to date we have provided support and assistance to keep the supply channels flowing.

Second: the Likasi Pastor's School. The school year has ended and the school is "temporarily" closing until we can re-organize and open under a financially sound framework. This may take a couple of years to put into place. The last year students have been accepted to finish at Mulungishi Theological Seminary. We are working out details in conjunction with the Wings Of The Morning Flight Ministry and the Kafakumba Pastor's School to establish and operate a farm that will serve as a means of becoming self-supporting in the future. More details on this will come in future newsletters.

Third: The Ndola Town Center U.M.C. and Kafakumba Pastor's School. The Church that I've been assigned to Pastor and mentor Pastor Chola (one of our Kafakumba Pastor's in his last year of school) is nearly a year and a half old! Starting before Christmas of 2001 with 15 people, we are now averaging 150 on Sunday morning. Our youth Sunday school class has 50 members with an average attendance of 30. We are excited to see God opening opportunities of ministry to the

community. We are in the vision stage of developing a youth center with 24/7 capabilities; an AIDS awareness program; ministry to pregnant girls (unmarried) and those with babies that have nowhere to go; and the street children. Our leadership team for the church has a vision for their city, country and the world. This is an exciting ministry and I'm having fun being a pastor!

Kafakumba Pastor's School begins May 1 and I will be teaching courses in Kingdom Theology, Preaching, and a New Testament class on the book of Mark. This is both a challenging time with these pastors and a time of joy as you see these pastors grow and mature in their faith in Christ.

Family Matters: Stacie and Joshua continue with their home schooling and are completing their sophomore and eight grades respectively. Since January we have had a second "daughter." Emily Beard (daughter of Rev. Frank & Melissa Beard, Walnut Creek UMC, Warsaw, IN) has been living with us. She graduated midterm from High School and is spending time doing mission work prior to college. She is a joy and blessing to us and is very tender and sensitive to God's leading in her life and open to God's call upon her be it the mission field or whatever. Debbie is returning to the States for medical treatment in relation to her Factor V Leiden blood disorder. She's had complications recently and we are unable to get proper diagnosis and treatment. Thus, she is returning to be properly diagnosed and treated in Indianapolis by a specialist in this area. Please continue to pray for her, as this is a stressful time for her filled with uncertainties, doubts and many unanswered questions. If you desire to encourage her through prayers and cards or letters you may do so by addressing them to Debbie Vance P.O. Box 3082 Marion, IN 46953.

We also would like to apologize to some of you as we've had several problems with our email. First with the server and then we lost our phone and on. We only know that we missed emails by those who followed up with a repeat. We are grateful for your correspondence and encourage you to contact us by e-mail, as now things seem to be working well.

May the risen Christ not only be your savior, but may he truly be resurrected in your heart and life to be your Lord.

Your servants in the risen Christ,

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