

THE VANCES NOVEMBER 2003

Dear Friends,

While leaving a man at a hotel a young lady came out calling "Pastor Vance, Pastor Vance!" As he got out of the car she got in. I didn't recognize her, but she knew me. She asked if she could have a ride. She told me her name and that I was the pastor of the Methodist Church, married with children. A block down the road she took out four condoms. Shocked, I asked what she was doing. She hadn't eaten in four days and was hungry. She graphically told me what we could do. That's when I stopped the car. I explained my life style as a Christian and the principles of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount as the way I live. Discussing her plight I asked if she was worried about AIDS. Her reply: ***"If I get AIDS I may live 10 years, but if I don't eat I'll die in a week."*** This is the reality of life. I gave her food money and invited her to church. She shocked me explaining she is the secretary of her church. I thought to myself we (church in West, Africa, missionaries) have failed. We are good at treating symptoms, but ignore the root problem.

We have a vision for a youth center. This will cater to the young people who have nowhere to go and nothing to do. Even in a country where the annual income is US\$ 100 drugs, alcohol, violence and sex are in ample supply. AIDS is estimated to have affected 33% of the population! We envision a "shelter" for abused women and girls; counseling for these situations along with AIDS education. Classes to teach basic skills, crafts and trades to open up to these young girls opportunities. The youth center will be a 24/7 facility. It will provide a Christian atmosphere where young people can come, meet and socialize. We have basketball courts. We'll have ping pong, game tables and a variety of activities available. This will be more than just "getting the girls off the streets" we'll be addressing their very lives and life styles. One of the principles of the Kingdom of God is that of community. What one person does affects the entire community. We are determined to make a difference in the lives of these young people and in turn they will make a difference in their world. At the end of the day when the "missionary" has finally gone the church will stand. Not because of anything missionaries have or have not done, but because the church is being built upon the principles of the Kingdom of God!

UPDATE INFO: Wings of the Morning is flying. Gaston Ntambo our Congolese pilot is living in Lubumbashi and doing some very limited flying. We anticipate that this will increase as peace and stability "slowly" return. Likasi Pastor's School is closed at the moment. Our funds have "dried up" and the decision was made to close the school "temporarily" until we are able to secure the needed resources to continue. We must develop ways and means that the church can begin to be self supporting. Again, we look to the example of the Kafakumba Training Center, with the banana farm as a model for both Likasi and the Wings of the Morning Flight Ministry. Specifics will be included in our Christmas Newsletter. We appreciate your continued support.

Your servants in Christ's service,

Ken, Debbie, Stacie & Joshua Vance

Address: P.O. Box 70839 Ndola, Zambia

Phones: 260-2-621513 cell:260-96-920501

Email: kenvance@coppernet.zm