

MAY/JUNE 2006 THE VANCES

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Zambia! We are in the midst of *Kafakumba Pastor's School* with over 120 pastors. Many of the spouses and children have accompanied the pastors and are meeting in special classes. School opened with a Memorial Service for **Rev. Kasongo Munza**, who died of cancer last October. It is a time of transition for all. Many have come with a renewed sense of commitment to continue in training and fulfill their calling.

The Town Center UMC in Ndola has gone through a difficult time. Last year saw many problems including a number of deaths among members. We are in a 'new' beginning. The church is committed to continue with the call to be a venue of ministry to youth and young women with our Community Youth and Training Center. We finished the roofing project started by a work group from Hunteertown UMC. Partnering with the Toledo Epworth UMC and others we are pressing ahead with plans to develop our facilities.

The Wings of the Morning Flight Ministry is airborne! A 300 acre farm near Lubumbashi is being cultivated and a banana plantation is well on its way to seeing the program self supporting. We celebrate this accomplishment as this is one of our aims to reduce the dependency upon funds from churches in the States.

Banana Project: The first banana plants are in the ground. We are well on our way towards the \$20,000 needed to develop it. Thank you to all who have contributed. Those interested can support this by sending your check made out to: Marion Mission Storehouse P.O. Box 38 Marion, IN 46952. Attention: Ken Vance – Banana Project.

Recently we had meetings with staff from the General Board of Global Ministries. The purpose of this meeting was to inform us of a change in direction for missionary support. As of March 2007 we will no longer be employed by the GBGM as missionaries. *We will no longer have a salary, medical insurance or pension coverage.* GBGM has encouraged us to continue our work in Zambia and develop a support base by raising the funds for our salary from our supporting churches. ***We will still be United Methodist Missionaries.*** We will continue to serve in Zambia at the invitation of the African Church and Bishop.

We are "starting over." Many of you have supported us over the 23 years we have been missionaries in Africa. We ***thank you for your support and encouragement.*** Our goal is to move towards a day when even our own support would be generated from the field. However, we are not yet at that point. Thus, we are alerting you of this change in status. Churches who have a 'covenant' relationship with us will receive a letter from Randy Day of GBGM explaining this change. *If you wish to continue to support us it will be necessary to change 'where' you send the funds.* We are in the process of doing this through the Marion Mission Storehouse which is an approved Advance Special Project. We will let you know the specifics in our next Newsletter.

What can you do to help? Your continued prayer support is deeply appreciated as we make this transition. We would also like to hear from each of you to see what your response is to supporting us in this new venture. Would your Church consider standing with us? We know that God has called us to this work and ministry. We know that God is able to provide the financial resources needed to continue. Thus, we are placing it in His hands. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. E-mail is the best way possible. You may try phoning us or call Rev. Mike Dominick (Newsletter coordinator) or Shirley Dominick (Mike's wife and Kokomo District Administrative Assistant) at the phone numbers and addresses below. They are our contact persons in the States and know the details of our situation. At any rate, please let us hear from you as together we strive to serve Christ.

Your servants in Christ,

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