

I'M SORRY

Steve Allen * PLD Lecturer * Lusaka, ZM

I want to apologize that you weren't me this morning; seriously, what an amazing morning! It began with a great pancake breakfast with several of the APC pastors. During breakfast Pastor Peter Zulu shared about the neighborhood watch he is organizing in their compound. The previous month, the police post was burned to the ground because of some injustice that went on. With no police post and very little police presence, Peter decided to organize a neighborhood group to walk the streets at night and provide protection for the community. He has over 70 people on his phone list, and just last night 24 people walked through the compound patrolling. He got the idea of how to help the community by the sessions with Pastor Bruce Kaumba who was guest lecturing at APC.



This was such an encouragement to me! First of all, it is free. Second, he is now helping and befriending many non-Christians. Third, he is helping the community. And lastly, he is building a relationship with the police department as a partnership of protection. Peter said he is using scripture to help guide the meetings. He is always the first one out in the streets; once he is out, the others follow. For a community that struggles with fear in every dimension, Peter is showing how faith in God can help overcome fears. I was truly amazed.

After breakfast, Pete Williamson (visiting from the States) and I went with a couple of the pastors to visit Peter Zulu's church and church run school. The progress at the school is amazing as the building is finished. The school serves forty or so of the neediest community children in the morning and another handful in the afternoon. The situation is still humbling when you take into account that the three teachers are volunteers teaching three classes simultaneously in just one room.

Then we went to Joseph's house. I am pretty embarrassed that for as good of friends as we are, I haven't been there yet. No excuses, especially in a Zambian culture where visiting one's houses is near the top in importance. Thankfully he is very gracious. It was so good to finally visit. I met his week old daughter, Hope. What a beautiful little girl. I was able to snuggle with Joseph Jr. a bit who seems so aloof and disinterested when I am there. But Joseph told me that after I left, he ran around the community telling everyone that a Mzungu (local word for a white person) came to his house and hugged him. After praying for their family, we went to Peter's house.

It was there that little Steve (named after me) and I were reunited once again. He

CONTINUED ON BOTTOM PG 2

IN THIS LOWDOWN:

- ◇ *I'm Sorry*
- ◇ *Teacher Profile*
- ◇ *R.E.S.P.E.C.T.*
- ◇ *Open Heart Surgery*
- ◇ *Camp Cijanano has water!*

Above: Steve A. with Peter Z. and lil' Steve

TEACHER PROFILE

Megan Bloemker * AZ Missionary * Lusaka, ZM

Teacher Joseph or Jo as we call him has been a teacher at Emmanuel Community School since it's beginning in 2004. Every morning, Jo takes a bus from Garden Compound over to Kanyama Compound. It takes him close to an hour and a half to make the 3 mile journey to school. Jo is twenty-nine years old and has been teaching the Grade 7 class for the past few years. He is married with one little girl that is six months old. He and his wife have also adopted two orphaned girls from his church. When Jo is not at school, he and his family spend time volunteering and helping those who need help in their community. Last Saturday they took breakfast to a widow in their church who has two children. She is HIV+ and has a difficult time taking care of her children and her home.

Jo is an amazing teacher. Last week we met and I asked him what his goals were for his

I'M SORRY CONT.

is a chubby little guy, super cute and pretty chill with Mzungus. It was great to see him again, and spend time in Peter's house with his family. Peter told me this week that Steve's brothers call him Professor (since I am Peter's professor). I thought that was pretty funny!

We went from there to another pastor, Patson Sakala's house where we were able to see his community school. He was very encouraged by our visit, support and encouragement. We had arrived at school lunch time and so I asked them if the kids brought their own food. He said, "No. We have started a feeding program." The feeding program cost about 1.2 million Kwacha a month (around \$250) and so every day, these kids get some porridge for lunch. "We started it by faith. You have to start by taking a step. Some days, we don't have the

2011 teaching year. He said that he wanted to see the character in his students improve, improve his students exam scores and to help his students make a smooth transition from the community school into the government grade 8 school next year.

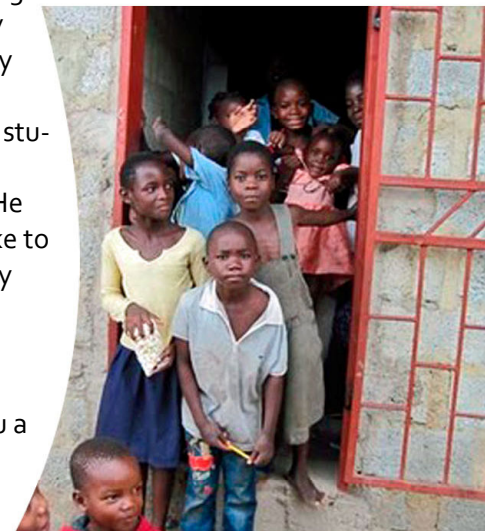
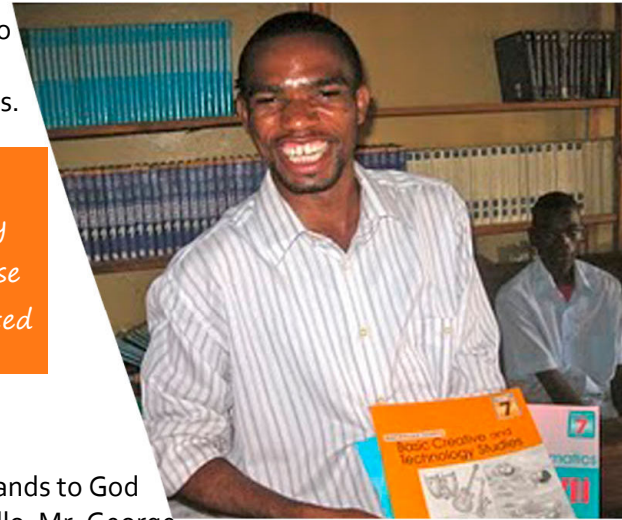
It has been such a joy working with Jo over the past 4 years. He is an amazing individual who gives so much to his family, his fellow teachers and his students.

ACTION Zambia has a vacancy for a Community Schools Coordinator. Please contact us if you're interested

food and we just hold up our hands to God waiting for him to feed us." Hello, Mr. George Mueller of Africa, nice to meet you. Oh my goodness, seriously? Who seriously lives by that kind of faith? I have read books about people like him, but how is it that he is my student? How does he do it? He doesn't. God does. He said, "God is the one doing this. He cares." Later, he said, "Sometimes I just like to go and watch the kids. I love these kids. My heart is for these kids."

So, like I said, sorry you were not me this morning. But hopefully I made it up to you a little bit by letting you know what God is doing in and through a few of the pastors here in Zambia.

"Some days, we don't have the food and we just hold up our hands to God waiting for him to feed us!"



Top picture: Joseph
Bottom picture: kids in Patson's school

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.—find out what it means to Zambians

Andrea Hilty * Lowdown Editor * Lusaka, ZM

When we first came to Zambia we were told that Zambia has a “respect culture”. We noted the respect inherent in the language; anyone older than you is addressed with a formal you or by adding the equivalent of “sir” in front of their name. OK, got that...on to the next cross-cultural lesson in Missionary Training 101.

Five years later I realize that I’m only now beginning to understand the culture of respect found here. Although it permeates every aspect of life, I’ll only briefly share some of my thoughts about respect in the role of wife.

In the west, it is generally accepted that a wife can respect her husband without any outward show of it; that respect is a feeling not an action. In Zambia a wife’s respect for her husband is displayed in actions and words. Perhaps you are aware of the most excessive version of this...kneeling, bowing, groveling. While, this is no longer practiced in the upper class, educated and younger generations, don’t make the mistake of thinking that a show of respect is no longer valued. Women show respect for their husbands in many ways, some of which I’m sure I haven’t picked up on. Here are a few common ones:

◇ Women never refer to their husbands by their first name. It is better to refer to him as Mr. (last name) or Bashi (name of your first born).

◇ In public conversation, wives do not interrupt or contradict their husbands. This is almost always interpreted as disrespect.

◇ When serving or preparing food for your husband, it should evidence care and concern for his likes and dislikes. This is considered taking good care of your husband.

◇ A wife is mindful of the way she dresses. Certain apparel will be interpreted as a disregard for modesty and in turn for the purity of her marriage.

A wife who demonstrates respect for her husband is, in turn, respected by both men and women and her marriage considered solid. Part of the missionary’s job is to gain respect so that our message will be heard; to earn the right to speak into a person’s life. Anyone showing blatant disregard for the culture will not be listened to.

Although my western ideals cause me to chafe at some of these practices, it seems that I might need to die to myself a little. I have to admit that I have learned a thing or two about respecting my husband.



OPEN HEART SURGERY

Krisitn Dearth * RN, AZ Missionary * Lusaka, ZM

First successful open heart surgery in the world: **September 2, 1952** at the University of Minnesota

First [successful] open heart surgery in Zambia: **March 21, 2011** at Fairview Hospital

Zambia is a place where dreams rarely come true. With such abject poverty, people are more concerned with daily existence than grandiose dreams. But recently I was privi-

leged to volunteer my nursing skills in the history-shaping dream of one Zambian Christian - namely, to provide open heart surgery for little cost to people who would die without it, and all for the glory of God.

A group of 40 cardiac surgeons, doctors, anesthesiologists, nurses, and physical therapists from New Zealand and Northern Ireland came to Zambia, volunteering their



"I am overwhelmed with happiness."

Left—two cardiac patients
Right—Kelly H. on water tower



skills and all the equipment needed for open heart surgery. For two weeks, they assessed, operated, and evaluated the seven people that underwent this operation for the first time in Zambia. All of the patients needed heart valve replacements due to lack of treatment for strep throat which resulted in rheumatic heart

disease, a common and fatal condition here without surgery.

As a nurse, I loved removing chest tubes and administering medications. But my highlights of the week were not medical or skills-related. Rather, it was so rewarding to be able to openly point

patients to the Healer of our greatest heart disease - sin. And it was humbling to see the gratefulness of the patients and families as they approached the nurse's desk. As the second patient was preparing for discharge, her father said with an unrestrained smile, "I am overwhelmed with happiness."

CAMP CIYANJANO HAS WATER!

*Tim Hilty * AZ Director * Lusaka, ZM*

Not far away from the bustling center of Zambia's capital city of Lusaka, is ACTION Zambia's Camp Ciyanjano. Our team is still in the process of designing its features to meet the needs of local churches. To get to Camp Ciyanjano, one must travel down an ailing African road full of jagged rocks and intimidating mud holes. Upon arrival, the property is nestled in a rural farming community not far from the edges of the African "bush".

When AZ acquired the land, the property had an obsolete farm with a few buildings that needed to be entirely overhauled. Since then, God has blessed efforts to transform the farm into an oasis for conferences, retreats and outdoor ministry. The necessary modifications and additions are steadily being made but there is also a steep learning curve. Buildings are built with concrete block, sand, gravel and pockets of cement mix. Roofing here re-

quires rough hewn wood and asbestos sheeting. Construction can sometimes take longer and be rather expensive for what you get. All this activity makes us very needy people; in need of patience amidst slow progress, faith for steady financial funding, and grace when our plans seem to be thwarted. We fix our eyes on Jesus because what we need to make this project successful is something that only God can provide.

And as the Lord is faithful to do, we are seeing Him provide through people like you. One of the liabilities for Camp Ciyanjano was its twenty acre dependence on one aging water well. With the facilities accommodating a projected 200-300 persons, having a sufficient supply of water was absolutely critical.

Koinonia Campgrounds in Santa Cruz, CA partnered with Camp Ciyanjano in sourc-

ing the funds needed to address this shortcoming. Work began in October 2010 when we drilled another well. After drilling 50 meters down we were able to intersect three underground streams.

Finding water was only the beginning of the project, the water would also need to be sufficiently pressurized to reach the far corners of the campground. It soon became clear that we would need various consultants to help us engineer the dispersal of water. God answered our prayer by giving us a consultant that would coordinate the various contractors to install and supply the various components of the system.

We're seeing the pieces fit together with each subsequent visit to Ciyanjano. We anticipate the water project being completed by the end of April. Then, by faith, we'll start in on the next project.