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Outreach Newsletter

*African Outreach Ministries
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Zimbabwe, Africa*

Dear Friends,

Dr. Donald McGavaran taught us in the School of World Missions in 1968 that the goal of missions is "churches." The goal is not "hands raised" or the "number of baptisms", but the establishing of churches love the Lord and follow His Word. We have faithfully held to that understanding of missions since Dr. McGavaran laid his hands on Janelle and me and commissioned us to go out and fulfill the Lord's Great Commission.

This newsletter breaks new ground by letting you read the recent report from Zambia by our partner Pastor Martin Mulyata. His report is a testimony of the vitality of the churches which have been established in Zambia. Through sweat and tears, sickness and death, and joy and the power of the Spirit, these churches have been established by the Lord and for God's glory.

Your Servants for Christ's Mission

Allen and Janelle, Scott and Lisa

Introducing the Harris Family

Why are we moving to Zimbabwe? Why contemplate taking a family with small children to a place that is often perceived as unsafe? Why leave almost everything we know and move half way around the world?



The Harris Family

These are questions we are often asked. The answer is hard to communicate. What motivates us goes far deeper than the obvious statement "they need Jesus." For us, it goes to the core of what we believe God has chosen to do in His kingdom. To do otherwise would be like the servant who went and buried his talent in the ground in Matthew 25.

Simply stated, we do not feel like we are currently being faithful with all of the gifts and talents that the Holy Spirit given us. Because of this, we have a strong desire to return to the mission field, particularly to Africa. Lisa and I can see the providence of God in our lives that forces us to that conclusion. And beyond that He is revealing His goodness in allowing us to see how He is equipping and calling our three children to serve in Africa with us.



Jayden (2), Gabriel (6), and Mariah (4)

Last summer, during our trip to Zimbabwe, God showed us that Jayden, our youngest has been gifted to thrive in Africa. Jayden immediately flourished in unfamiliar and strange places, loved their food from the first bite, picked up cultural cues, and followed customs without us telling him. We were amazed at how this fourteen-month-old felt at home. We believe that the same will be true of Gabriel and Mariah. Other confirmations come when Gabriel says, "Mommy, it's good that we are going to Africa so we can tell the people there about Jesus. They need to know Him." and "Can we send food baskets to the hungry people in Zimbabwe." Gabriel constantly shows his sensitive heart to others who are hurting.

Our children don't totally understand what is going on. There are often questions as to whether friends can still play when we move, or if we can take the backyard and all the toys, or if we will have the same house when we come back. But these are typical questions surrounding any move. Wondering what they really think about it? Here are the two oldest have to say.

"I'm Mariah and I'm four years old. When I grow up I want to be a doctor and a mommy. I love to sing and dance with my Little People. I'm going to get a kitty cat when I go to Africa. I'm happy."

"My name is Gabriel and I'm six. I love to play soccer, baseball, and games on the computer. I'm in kindergarten and my mommy is my teacher. I'm excited I'm about to go to Africa. I get a dog and my sister gets a kitty cat. I will see elephants, leopards, and all kinds of animals. My mommy and daddy found me a school and I will get to play soccer, ride horses, and make new friends. I will also get to see all kinds of trees and try new foods."

Moving to Africa is a challenge and commitment that we look forward to fulfilling. Ephesians 3:20 tells us that we are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. We can't wait to see all the ways God is going to work through our own shortsightedness by doing more than we ever dreamed. What a faith builder!

We look forward to sharing this journey with each of you through reports and AOM updates. One of our prayers is to bless each of you in addition to the people of Africa. We covet your prayers for our family as together with the Lord we prepare to go to Zimbabwe. Pray too for the people we will be working with across southern Africa, that the Lord will use us to bring about a harvest of souls for His kingdom.

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Pastor Martin Mulyata's Report From Zambia

Mongu

This church was planted on January 8, 1999, by Dr. Avery, Pastor Mulyata and, Elder Lubosi. We first met at Elder Lubosi's house. The first day of our church meeting there were ten of us. These were Dr. Avery, Pastor Mulyata, Steve, Elder Lubosi, Mrs. Lubosi and four of the Lubosi children. It has not been easy to raise this church because I was a complete stranger in the town. Now we are beginning to grow steadily. There are 65 adults and children in the church. Our dream is to be a big church with at least 2,000 members. This requires a lot of prayer.

and strategizing. Each day we are learning something new because this is the first time I am involved in church planting under my leadership. In the past we helped plant churches but it was other people who did the raising church. We only went back to help them do more evangelism. Raising a church from the scratch is challenging is so because we do not believe in sheep stealing. If we were involved in sheep stealing by this time we should have been much bigger. Our vision is "Every member must win and disciple two every year." People have not caught but we are busy envisioning them. We will not stop until this becomes a reality. Currently we have embarked on Evangelism Explosion.

Last Sunday was our second week of training. We hope by the end of week 14, those in the class would have the vision.



Mongu Church After Church Service on November 3, 2002

This is the first group of orphans under the orphan project. Throughout our churches we have about sixty orphans. The Orphan Committee has not yet met to discuss how much the school requirements will cost for this term. The term has even started, I hope they will be able to sit this weekend so that we can send the figures required.



Mongu Church Orphans

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Traveling In The Flood Plains

We thank God for the transport money which facilitates my movements to Kalabo and the outlying areas. The journey on this boat takes between four to ten hours on the water.



At the time when the floods are high, one has to keep praying that the boat should not overturn because ever you look there is water and no land or trees (there are also hippos to watch out for- AA). Especially from mid-May to June even villagers are not on the plain. We make it by grace.

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Sihole And Sioma Churches

The Sihole church was planted by Pastor Patrick Zuze in 2000. This is the mother church to all the Kalabo area churches (it is 75 miles northwest of Mongu- AA). It has strong leadership and the members are committed to work of God. It was at this church that we conducted the leadership training this year. There were 22 leaders who turned up for training.



Sihole Church

The Sioma church is about 84 km southwest of Mongu. It has no strong leader. They depend on leadership from Sihole. By this time a leader could have already been raised but it has not been easy because the persons earmarked show very little interest. We are hoping that after the leadership conferences we had someone will take the challenge and begin to lead the church.



Sioma Church

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Leadership Training

The Leadership trainings we conducted have were well attended. The total members who were trained were: 22 leader; Sioma- 12; Nakalomo- 18; Mongu 17; and Chipata- 10. We believe God will do something new in the churches, because the lessons were very good and dealt with all the areas of the life of a leader.



Chipata Leaders

We are looking forward to the August conference with Dr. Avery. Currently we have a problem of the venue. We have no appropriate building to do our training in. This is why we believe if we had a church of our own then we would be home and there would be no problems. (AA- Please pray that we can raise the money to help them in the construction of a building which would also serve as a conference center).

I am going out for a retreat today to Limulunga (10 miles away). There are some things I sense in the spirit but I am not clear whether they are my own thoughts or if God is speaking. I need clarification from God. Therefore, I need to be alone with God for a period of time. I will only share these things with people when I am certain that they are from God. I am sure that God is bound to do what he promises. Therefore, I want to consult him for the vision is almost unbelievable. It will only take God to accomplish it. I will be out until Saturday evening.

Martin

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