

# OUTREACH NEWSLETTER



## *African Outreach Ministries*

*Allen and Janelle Avery Jr.*

*Scott and Lisa Harris*

*Johannesburg, South Africa*

Dear Friends,

There is an African proverb that says, "Alone you can run fast, together you can run far." Being a part of a team helps us all run FAR for Jesus, whether that means being a committed part of a local church or supporters of ministries like AOM. The necessity of being together is at the heart of why Jesus purchased the Church with his own blood and established it as his Body. "Lone Rangers" may run fast, but they never go far.

The vision of AOM is to partner with the African Church to advance the Kingdom. By being a team with the churches and leaders in Zimbabwe and Zambia, we have seen our feeble efforts multiplied a hundred times and more. What a joy to stand joined in heart and mind with men and women who are committed to finishing the task.

Also, Janelle and I have already seen the benefits of having Scott and Lisa working side by side with us. The gifts they bring to the ministry have already helped AOM go further than it could have without them. It is a joy to see them add valuable insights and strategies to the ministry.

What an exciting time to live. We are blessed to be a part of the generation that will see the Church of Jesus planted in every nation and tribe under heaven. AOM is but one small part of the army of missionaries and Christians, some of whom are literally laying down their lives, who are moving forward to make sure every nation and tribe has a viable church planted among them. You are a part of this process by being a part of AOM and the other ministries you pray for and support.

This newsletter has some stories that stirred our hearts and we hope they bless you as well.

Yours in the King's Service,

Allen and Janelle, Scott and Lisa

## NEEDED - GOD'S PROVISION IN EXTREMITY

Ever wonder what it is like to live and minister full-time to caregivers who are dying, or to the orphans who ask, "Why me, God?" This is the daily ministry of Cornelius Moyo, the director of the orphan program that AOM sponsors in Zimbabwe. If you could meet him, you would see a glow that comes from being able to serve 250 orphans and their caregivers. We are happy to say that all the orphans are still in school and they have school uniforms, as well as food from the British Embassy which is still coming in, but at a reduced rate. The ministry has also supplied medical costs for the orphans and caregivers, helped with family funeral expenses, and have paid exam fees for the students. Cornelius and the committee have done a great job under the worst of conditions.



Cornelius Moyo with a couple of the orphans

This year for the first time, however, we have experienced serious financial problems. The funds AOM supplies have not been able to stretch to cover all the expenses of the ministry. Cornelius and the committee chairman, Paul Anderson, have cut expenses by releasing the secretary and dropping the Christian camps. They have been able to source funding from the British Embassy for the food parcels given to the families, and local friends and businesses, as well as supporters in England have contributed toward the shortfall. All these sources together have helped the program stay afloat, but just barely. We praise God for what these faithful men have done!

One missionary in Zimbabwe told us that now he needs

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four times as much foreign exchange as he did 18 months ago, just to stay static in his ministry. The rapid devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar has fueled an inflation rate that has resulted in the cost of basic staples quadrupling in American dollars in the last year. Because of these problems in the economy in Zimbabwe, the orphan program must find more funding if the same number of children are to be cared for next year. We would like to see the budget doubled next year. That budget would not include the children's camps as in years past because they have become prohibitively expensive, i.e., a 3 day camp today would cost over \$1,000. We are finding other activities for the children closer in town.

## ARE YOU READY TO PARTY? AOM BANQUET

What is an AOM banquet? It is a time to hear what God has done, and He has done some amazing things in the past year. It is a time to meet old friends you have not seen in a year or more, a time to bond with others who are interested in Africa and the ministries of AOM. It is a time to have fun participating in the "silent auction" (we will again have some African items this year), a time to hear good music and a time to laugh together and praise God for His goodness. The Parkway United Methodist Church in Houston has kindly offered their church as the venue and will be helping with the serving of the banquet. If you want to book a place or a table for your friends, call Darlene Bridges at (281) 437-5296 or email at [dbridges@houston.rr.com](mailto:dbridges@houston.rr.com).

## A MODERN DAY WIDOW'S MITE

Matilda and her 22 year old son, Mubita, sat in the theology class side-by-side. Later Matilda shared a little of her life with us. Her love for the Lord was evident as she told of losing her husband in 2000, leaving her with 3 teenage children who still needed school fees to finish their education and an unfinished house her husband was building in Mongu. She chose to use the little money he left the family to educate the children rather than finish the house. When the schooling was complete, the money was gone.

"I can't say I am poor, though, since I have the land my father left me." This land is in the fertile flood plane of the Zambezi River, 10 miles outside of Mongu, Zambia, a 3-hour walk for her. She has started clearing a piece of the land with plans to plant rice in order to support herself. And she has other big plans! She has given plots to the church and the beginnings of a cabbage project to fund evangelists are well underway, and visions of a church citrus farm grow in her heart. What a blessing her faith, dedication and giving heart is to the church in Mongu! And she is a wonderful example to us of a woman who has little, but gives of what she has to bless God's people.



**Mubita with his mother Matilda**

## I Would Rather Die In Jesus, Than Go Back Into Witchcraft

Cholera is an endemic disease in Lusaka and people die every year from it there. Several months ago, Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks Mukebai, a wonderful young couple in the Mongu church traveled to Lusaka with church money to buy dried minnows for the next stage of another church cash-generating project. As it turned out, Hendricks contracted cholera and died in the arms of his young wife. When she returned to Mongu, both she and their young child also came down with cholera and were terribly sick in the hospital. By God's grace, both she and her child recovered and her strength and faithfulness bless the Mongu church.

The morning we were there, she gave a testimony of how God healed her a second time. After recovering from cholera, she again got very sick. Her mother came to her and tried to force her to take herbs from a witchdoctor. "You are sick this time because you have refused to be properly "cleansed" after your husband's death!" she continued to say to her as she lay sick in her bed. But even though her mother repeatedly pushed her, Mrs. Mukebai refused. In her testimony she told us how she cried, "Lord, you are going to have to heal me since I will not take the magical herbs. I am trusting only you!" Praise God for his goodness and his healing power. Mrs. Mukebai recovered without taking any magic medicines and she was obviously very healthy and strong as she told us her story. God is good!



**Mrs. Mukebai**

## "Staying" and "dropping by to greet" – a Zambian cultural insight

In our American culture, we rarely drop in unannounced on our friends and relatives, even if we are going stay for only an afternoon. Well, things are different in Mongu! One day Grace Mulyata told us how the wife of her deceased cousin knocked on her door, with her 2 month old son in hand, as well as her suitcase, one of her friends, and that woman's child. She said to Grace, "I've come to greet you, but first I'm going to see my friend off on her journey," so she left, leaving her baby and suitcase with Grace. She did return, but she didn't leave that night, nor did she for the next three months! Grace continued to keep her all that time without once asking her when she planned to go. Then the guest became sick, very sick, and Grace was left to care for her, even to feed her, and to care for the child as well. At this point she simply couldn't handle everything, so she called the women's close relatives who lived in the next neighborhood to come and help her by caring for her at night. It was only when the relatives refused to help in any way that Grace finally insisted they take their relative home and care for her themselves. The lady and her baby left the Mulyata home after a three-month "greeting/stay."

Now this is how Grace defined the difference between when a person comes to "stay" with you, and when they are simply "dropping by to greet you" or "passing through" on their way to some other destination. A person planning to move in and "stay" for an extended time would announce their intentions upon arrival. A person "dropping by to greet you" or "passing though" could stay for a week, or even up to a month, before moving on, but they do move on. The cousin's wife didn't tell Grace she was "staying," so she was still considered to be just "greeting them," until she had been there for over a month. At that point, she was considered to be "staying" with them though unannounced, something they only realized after a month of "greeting!!"



**Grace Mulyata**



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### PRAYER NEEDS:

1. Pray that the funding for AOM orphan program can be doubled this next year so that the same number of kids can be served.
2. Pray for the Christians in Zimbabwe who are suffering during difficult times.
3. Pray that the Harris' will raise their working fund for the next year.
4. Pray God will raise up other couples to come and join the AOM team in Africa.
5. Thank God for His goodness and faithfulness to AOM.
6. Pray that the AOM banquet will be a great success.

**May God keep and  
bless you!**

### RESPONSE SHEET:

- Enclosed is my pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for African Outreach Ministries.
- I pledge to pray for African Outreach Ministries 5 + times a week.
- Please include me on the African Outreach Ministries e-mail list.

My e-mail address is

\_\_\_\_\_.

### AFRICAN OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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