

Zambia 2010  
Dick Strickland

It is amazing how fast three weeks can fly by. It seems I had just gotten to Zambia and then we were at the airport saying goodbye. As we were driving out to the college, Paul had been telling me about how a local contractor there had donated the use of a motor grader to go over the Kazemba Road that goes to the Bible College. It had broken down and was parked up by the highway waiting for the trailer to come pick him up. In Africa when something breaks down it might be two or three days before anyone comes to fix it. We stopped to talk to the operator and he said he was waiting and didn't know when they would be picking him up. Paul asked if he had any food or water and he



said no. We left him a bottle of water, some Chico biscuits, *Broken beam on motor grader* (shortbread cookies) and some Snickers bars I had with me.



*Compound 1 - Paul & Lori's house*

When I got out to the college I was very impressed with the transformation since the last time I was there, especially compound one. All the buildings were painted white and landscaped with rock paths and local plants. It really gives you a feel for what everything will look like when it is all done. Paul and Lori have really been putting in a lot of work.

Sunday afternoon, Henry, one of the Gospelink Pastors on staff, asked if I would like to visit a Headman at a local village. I said let's go and we climbed into his small truck and headed out into the bush. It seems the Headman had been coming to the church at the college, but his wife hadn't and Henry wanted to try and talk her into coming. It is amazing how many trails you find there, roads going every direction and all very rough. We drove for about thirty minutes and then we came to a small village. The Headman's name was Soft. Pastor David and a couple of students had come with us and we all went in and sat down in the "mancave", a small open hut with a grass roof where the men sit and talk.



*Approaching Soft's village*

Soft's wife came in and Henry and Soft were having quite a conversation and Soft would ask me a question once in awhile. This went on for about thirty minutes and then Henry looks at me and says "Dickson", (they have a tough time with my name, so I'm Dickson),



*Headman Soft & his wife*

would I like to offer a word of encouragement to the family and the wife as to why she should come to church. Caught totally by surprise I prayed a quick prayer asking the

Holy Spirit to help me, and then I talked to them about the biblical view from Ephesians about husbands and wives, and worked my testimony in. When I was done we said our goodbyes and left. Henry said the wife would think about coming to church. I didn't really look

for them on Sundays, but Henry told me they hadn't come to church.

I spent most of the first week working at the clinic. I painted all the window frames and all the doors with a good oil based paint. I spent two to three days putting glass in the window frames. I have to tell you, African craftsmanship on welded window frames leaves a lot to be desired. While I was there a team from Dover Delaware came and there were two nurses on the team. Their plan was to open the clinic for a couple of days and treat what they could for the people that came.

Lori and the nurses got the clinic ready and we got all the supplies out of storage and they saw their first patients on Saturday. While the clinic was open Chief Bunda Bunda came for a visit. You can read about that on Paul and Lori's web site, <http://ZambiaTheNextStep.com>. Paul was pretty emotional over having the first official patients at the clinic. We all need to be in prayer for God to be working in the hearts of whoever He is preparing to move there and work at the clinic permanently.



*Chief Bunda Bunda, his wife, and nurses Susan & Tina*



*Paul testing the water pressure*

Over the next couple of weeks, I helped Paul and Chad finish the water systems so compounds eight through fifteen will all have water now. We repaired leaks and fixed outlets on the main water system for the other compounds. We also built a lot of roof trusses for a couple of staff houses. In October another couple from the U.S. will moving there and they need to get a staff house ready for them. It will be good for Paul and Lori to have another American couple closer to their own age there.

I know having Amber there has really been a blessing to Lori. Chad and Amber are a young couple from Florida that have committed to be there for a year and are working on staying longer, both are great help for Paul and Lori.



*Roof trusses*



*Meeting some of the students*

While I was there I got to meet all the students, there are fourteen sophomores and eighteen freshmen. Three of the freshmen are the daughters of the Gospelink pastors on staff at the college. All these students are on work scholarships and they have to work three hours a day and attend class four hours a day. Work consists of gardening, construction, building and grounds maintenance. All of these students are very bright, intelligent young people that love the Lord. They are the future of the church in Africa and that is why this bible college is so important. I enjoyed eating, laughing and worshipping with them, it was one of the highlights of this trip.

A couple of churches in the Des Moines area are bringing the sophomore boys, two of the freshmen girls and Pastor Henry and his wife Lucy to Iowa in October. The goal of the trip is to introduce the students to America and America to the students, with the end result of starting a scholarship support system, similar to the Pastor support program, for these students and future students.

There is so much more I could write about, mostly I spent a lot of time talking, living and worshipping with Paul and Lori, enjoying the great African singing and the beautiful stars at night. I would love to share more with you on a one on one basis.

Thank you again for making this trip possible and God Bless You!

*Dick*



*Dick, Paul & Lori outside their house*



*This is what the stars look like at night in Zambia. (not a picture of mine, but they look like this!)*