

# THE REA FAMILY

Missionaries to Zambia



**Jan. 2018**

**Prayer requests:**

The people of:

Matero

George Compound  
Lillanda

Est. Population 300K

(Our church is located in  
the center of these three)

Hearts to be receptive  
to the Gospel

Church

construction projects

**Sending Church:**

Valley Baptist Church  
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**Field Contact:**

David & Cherri Rea  
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Address

**Support Address:**

GIBM

Missionary David Rea  
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citywide have been prohibited from meeting as well. The last two Sundays have been spent at home. We are optimistic about being able to meet this next Sunday.

**New Location:**

We have now relocated the church to the new facilities we recently purchased. We began on our midweek service – without any announcement or promotion within the community. The church filled with children and teenagers. 14 souls called on Christ to save them that first Tuesday night. Being located in a community rather than the industrial areas will make a huge difference.

Along with being out of the industrial area comes the risk of the absence of security guards. We have a church member living in an apartment in the back of the church property and we are just up the road from a police station – nevertheless within 2 weeks of meeting in the church thieves tried to break in and steal what little we store in the church.

**More Ritual Killings:**

A few years ago Lusaka saw some ritual killings take place. These are murders where body parts are harvested for witchcraft. They men were caught and are in prison. But others have begun again. Three people have been killed in the last month or so. Both then and now the killings took place in the area that we minister in. Witchcraft is not something only found in the bush and these killings underscore the spiritual need for the transforming power of the Gospel.

**Cholera Outbreak:**

We are in the midst of an outbreak of cholera. Thus far over 70 people have died and over 3000 infected. Attached is a detailed explanation of the cholera situation. The Zambian government called in the military and razed 10,000 illegally built structures used as informal shops. These people now have no way to earn a living. This has led to riots as people demand to be allowed to trade. Schools were closed nationwide, and all public gatherings were prohibited. Cases are still coming in. A massive cleaning project has made Lusaka look brand new. Churches



Pile of broken stalls used by street vendors being loaded in a truck and hauled to the dump. Entire roads were filled with such debris giving the city a look of a city at war. Now removed along with unbelievable amounts of trash the city feels clean and new. It is a Lusaka we have never seen before.

We have renovated a room on one end of the church building for services. We patched the roof, build new steps, painted, cleaned, and welded bars in windows, and much more. Eventually the interior walls will need to be removed and a new roof installed because only about ½ of the building is usable. Needs for the building are a wall fence for security, and the construction of proper toilets and sinks. We are fortunate to be next to city water and sewer, many places near us have no access to these services so water and sewer hook up will be relatively easy. We also need to hook up electricity and run interal wiring for lights, security lights and general use. We are currently getting costs on these projects.

Thank you for your prayer and support,

In Christ, David Rea

## **Cholera Update:**

In this post:

- 1 – Summary of outbreak
- 2 – Cause
- 3 – Risk to our family

Summary:

Lusaka Zambia is in the midst of a serious cholera outbreak. Thus far over 2100 cases have been reported with 58 deaths thus far. Cholera is a bacterial disease caused by poor hygiene and contaminated food and water. The situation is very serious. In one compound 800 of 900 tested wells showed positive results for cholera bacteria. Almost 100% of the produce on the side of the street tested positive. The Zambian military has been called in. They are conducting widespread cleaning operation with conscripted citizens. Over 10,000 illegal structures have been demolished. Cholera is now showing up in areas all over Zambia. New cases are averaging 100 +/- per day. Initial outbreak was the first week of Oct. It is common for some to get cholera each rainy season – but this year is especially bad. Reports are that no produce is being allowed into Lusaka. We are going to town today to check availability of various goods. The markets where the farmers bring their goods for wholesale area all closed.

Causes:

Markets: Drainage ditches have been blocked for years. Vendors have built makeshift shops on top of these ditches. With no toilets or proper sewer system in these markets people resort to using plastic bags as toilets and then they are thrown in the clogged ditch. When the rains come the ditches overflow spreading sewage infested water throughout the market. Hence you have the perfect environment for an outbreak.

Compounds: (Compounds are informal neighborhoods lacking public sewer and water. Most were land where squatters claimed the land abandoned by those who left after independence. ) Here water is obtained from wells – many very shallow. But the wells are usually not sealed and built to proper standards. Sewage goes into things called ‘soakaways’ which are simply pit latrines. They are a hole filled with rock that raw sewage is piped into. No drain fields exist, as no land is available for them. Upon the onset of rains these are flooded washing sewer water down the wells – contaminating the aquifer.

General: This contaminated water is used to “clean” the vegetables sold in the market. The city is in the process of burying the contaminated wells and providing clean water, but the cat is out of the bag so to speak.

Risk to us: We live on a farm just outside of town. The well is fine. We already bleach everything as a normal precaution against this sort of thing. All produce is bleached before we eat it. All counters are bleached often. So proximity and bleach keep us safe at home. The Zambian Govt. has suspended all public gatherings. Church services are suspended pending the control of this outbreak. The Zambian military forcibly closed two churches defying this ban this last Sunday – one with tear gas! They are not taking this lightly. Our risk is primarily when we go to town. We do not eat out now – at all... And we judiciously wash our hands and use germ gel.

Please be in prayer about this. People are suffering. 10’s of thousands have lost their shops and their ability to earn a living. Farmers are not able to market their produce. People are really suffering here.

Thank you for taking time to read this, and thank you for remembering us in your prayers.