

THE REA FAMILY

Missionaries to Zambia



July 2020

Church Reopened:

Prayer requests:

Economic problems

Health of Zambia

Church attendance during Covid

Our witness to Muslims

Continued

Discipleship of Our Young Men

Sending Church:

Valley Baptist Church
304 Frontage Rd. N.
Pacific, WA 98047
253-939-3938

Field Contact:

David & Cherri Rea
260 964 561 501
Call/email for Shipping Address

Support Address:

GIBM
Missionary David Rea
P.O. Box 700
Sherman, TX 75091

We have been permitted to reopen church by the Government of Zambia. Attendance has steadily risen back to almost what it was before the pandemic. We are in our “cold season” and this effects attendance as well. Now our “cold season” means we see temperatures in the mid 60’s to mid 70’s in the day and temps can fall to the 40’s at night. I know my friends in the USA might think this is just fine spring of fall weather. But no one has a home with a heater in it! We wake up to a home where the temperature is in the low 60’s until the sun warms things up. It is kind of like that chill you get when camping – but in your home! The second factor is fear. People are told you can get sick in the “cold season”. They see the seasonal flu this time of year, and they associate the cold with getting sick and dying. This is accentuated during this pandemic. So often we see an especially cool Sunday morning and attendance will drop by half or more. The same will happen during the rainy season. One might think that a little cold weather is no reason to miss church, and I have struggled to understand this having grown up in Alaska! But, they really fear getting sick and dying. Please pray that with such fear being so common that the more people would seek God’s word and the salvation promised by it.

Bible Studies Continue:

“I want to learn the Bible.” I was asked this by one of the men in a crew I had hired for a construction project. We have begun a Bible study on salvation and he has begun to attend church. My wife has been able to continue with her individual Bible studies, some with people needing to be saved and some with women who are being discipled. It is a joy to see in these people a hunger to know the Bible.

Outreach and Islam:

I recently was invited to the home of a Muslim friend of mine. He owns a concrete company near our home. We regularly buy cement and concrete from him. Recently he invited me to his office for Turkish Coffee, but he lamented that the flavor was contaminated with some seasonings when it was shipped from Turkey. I used our wheat grinder to make some properly ground Turkish coffee and gave it to him as a gift. In response he invited our family to his home for a meal and coffee. We are so very thankful for these friendship. We regularly meet and become friends with Muslims from Turkey, India, Lebanon, and other parts of the Middle East here in Zambia, who would have guessed!? We pray that relationships like these would grow and blossom into opportunities to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to many.

Covid-19 & Zambia:

Upon the outbreak of Covid-19, Zambia restricted practically all meetings as we like most of the world went into lockdown. Churches are now allowed to meet as long as they obtain official permission to do so, which is linked to the church agreeing to follow prescribed health guidelines. These guidelines are, hand washing stations, masks, and a limit to only meeting for 1 hour. We are reluctantly complying to the best of our ability to these guidelines. Due to the restrictions on the length of the meeting, we have added additional meetings to try to keep the volume of teaching as close to what we were doing in the past.

Cases in Zambia have been low, very low. We really have had trouble understanding why it has not hit Zambia harder. It turns out that it just took longer to get here. We are just now starting to see a surge of cases. South Africa has been hit very hard, and we are just now seeing new cases rise by the 100’s per day. My only guess is that we have a relatively low rate of people traveling in and out of Zambia. With 18 million people in Zambia our population is 4 million people higher than the entire NW USA (WA, OR, ID, MT, CO), and yet we have only two commercial airports with only a handful of flights per day. We have gone from people being terrified of Covid-19 to people not believing it even exists, to now seeing that it is in fact real, and returning to fear.

Through all of these things we pray that our witness for the Gospel of Christ would shine through and bring many to the Kingdom of God.