

THE REA FAMILY

Missionaries to Zambia



Jan 2024

Prayer requests:

Cherri's mother
(Cancer)

New church plants

God to raise up
much needed
pastors

Sending Church:

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

Field Contact:

Zambia Number
260 974 080 082

US/Google Voice
Rings through
to Zambia
253-237-3010

Support Address:

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

Kenya Air and the \$400

On our last flight back to Zambia we flew with Delta/Kenya air. On arrival in Kenya we were charged an additional \$400 for our extra bags. I have never experienced this. After MANY calls to airlines I found out the reason for this, Delta Air does not have a "partnership agreement" with Kenya Air, so this gives Kenya Air the "right" to charge a second time for the luggage. There was no way to know this when flying back. This illustrates the unpredictability of expenses on the foreign field.

Emergency trip to the USA.

As many of you know, my mother in law has been diagnosed with inoperable cancer. She was undergoing a treatment that led to inflammation of her lungs. Cherri made an emergency trip back to the USA, as he mother was in the ICU. Thankfully they were able to stabilize her mother's oxygen levels and she has been able to return home. The stress of this is beyond description. This is an aspect of working as a missionary that is very difficult. We are talking with family about the situation and we are literally on the other side of the world. Do we spend the well over \$2000 for an emergency trip home for just my wife? We did, and it was the right decision. Now we are wondering, 'when should she return to Zambia?' On one hand she cannot stay for months, and on the other hand her mother is still very, very sick. Dealing with family issues like this is the single greatest hardship of living so far away. Every trip back to the USA on short notice is a 30+ hour flight and a ton of money. Please pray for my family as we deal with these hard aspects of life. Especially pray for my wife as she knows the next flight to Zambia may well be the last time she will see her mother in this life. Joy and I are still in Zambia and it is hard for us to be away from family during this time.

Ministry in Lusaka.

We have returned and things are going well. I met with two men who live in an area of Lusaka West that really needs a church. Both of these men are lost and struggling to understand salvation. I am planning to resume bible studies in that community this Friday evening. Work at the village on the eastern side of Lusaka has paused due to the village being busy with planting. The building we are allowed to use is full of faming inputs. This illustrates the need, eventually, to have our own property in that village. A lady in our church has been doing Bible studies and told me of a family on the north of

Lusaka who desires a church to be planted there. So many opportunities exist, but so few laborers are found. It is looking like two young men may be coming to Lusaka to help with ministry and to train for the ministry. This will be a great opportunity for them, and a great help here.

Economics.

Zambia is struggling with unsustainable debt. An international agreement of debt restructuring was in place but China pulled out of it at the last minute. With no plan in place to restructure this debt our local currency has lost value declining 20% this last year. The cost of basic items has skyrocketed, making living that was hard, much harder. Intermittent rains threated food security in parts of the nation. And crimes of theft are on the rise. Fuel prices are slated to rise a crippling 37% in the next few weeks. But where no hope is found in the world, hope is found in Christ. The physical hardships often open the eyes