

THE REA FAMILY



Missionaries to Zambia

Nov 2024

Prayer requests:
Cherri and our family

God to raise up
much needed
pastors

Zambia's economic
trials and severe
drought

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

Power and Drought

This last year we have had power for just a few hours per day. It was common to see no electricity from the grid for 3 days at a time and this was followed by only 1-3 hours before power going off for another undermined amount of time. I am so thankful for the investment we made in solar. We are almost able to be completely independent from the power grid. At the time the expense seemed too much, but after this last year we can see that it has totally paid for itself. The cost of running a diesel generator just to keep some lights on and food from spoiling is a much greater expense. In the 9+ years since being in Zambia we are on our third generator due to so much usage.

Bible Conferences

We have started doing a week long VBS type conference for the youth. Here school goes for 3 months and then takes a one month break. We have 3 of these breaks per year. We have started doing a week long meeting in the mornings for the kids who are out of school. It has been a huge success. The church is packed, kids are learning Biblical principles and they are hearing how to be saved. I am excited to see fruit from this in the future.

Economy and Jobs

MANY companies have simply shut down due to the lack of power in the nation. The drought has crippled our hydroelectric capacity. This combined with the population growth and increased demand for power has created a total electrical collapse. Rain is coming now, our water reserve is at about 3% and is still falling due to usage. Unemployment has skyrocketed and crime is rapidly rising. In the last year the countenance of the people has dramatically changed. A hardness and sorrow is now seen on the faces of people. Life just went from really hard to a whole lot worse.

Our young people in their early 20's are struggling to find work. I took one of our young men out to try to find a job. Every business asked the same question, "Do you have your grade 12 certificate?" He does not. A good number of our young men have not graduated from High School. The reasons for this are many, for example, parents have to provide fees for school fees and uniforms. If the parent lacks, the child sits out of school for a term. I think most of the young people we know have missed multiple terms of school. If a child tears their school uniform – they are not allowed to attend school until it is replaced. On one hand I can see how this teaches responsibility, but on the other hand it seems to punish the neediest pushing them further into poverty and

ensuring they cannot even get a job later in life.

Dogs vs. Mozambique Spitting Cobra

This week we woke up to find two of our guard dogs with swollen eyes from a spitting cobra attack. This is not the first time this has happened, so we know how to treat it – antibiotic eye wash and saline flush to the eyes. A few days later our gardener found the cobra – dead. Our dogs killed it. I have mixed emotions about this. On one hand – way to go DOGS!! You have earned your kibble this month. On the other hand, we could have woke up to a dead dog or two... And this has happened before as well. Our fist dog here was killed in the same way. We woke up, and he was dead. But thankfully this was not the case this week. The dogs won and the cobra lost. It was a big one too...