

THE REA FAMILY

Missionaries to Zambia



Feb 2026

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Personal Safety

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Witnessing: The following is a brief account of a few hours talking to people around the church.

The lost Jehovah's Witness (JWs): I met a JW named Emanuel (which is ironic as JWs do not believe Jesus is God). I took him to John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." The JWs teach that Jesus is a created being, a lesser created "god". However this verse directly contradicts this, as it teaches that all created things were created by Jesus. Even in the JWs New World Translation this is made very clear. Most of the time they will simply add to the word of God and say that this verse means "all OTHER things", however Emanuel could see that this is not correct. His plan was to go back to the leaders at his church and ask them about this contradiction. He has since broken off contact with me. Soul winning is often not about the facts, or logical reason – it is a combination of spiritual blindness along with cultural pressures. To accept the truth of John 1:3 he must not only reject the theological error he has been taught, he must also reject those friends, elders, family members and social circles that both taught this, and embrace it. This price is often higher than many are willing to pay.

The Lost Evangelical: The second conversation I had this day was with a military officer visiting family near our church. He goes to a large, well known church here that is a former SBC and is now Pentecostal. I asking him if he knew what it took to be right with God and sure one was going to Heaven. He had no idea and wondered if the Bible was even true. This is a fast growing trend in Zambia, the rejection of the Bible. Insane Charismatic chaos along with African nationalism drives this. I spent some time giving evidence for the reliability of the Scriptures and then presented a simple clear Gospel message. He had never heard it before and he went away promising to consider it. Imagine going to church and not hearing how to be saved. This is common in Africa. Churches abound, but the gospel is absent. People know all the terms, but they have never understood them or heard them placed into a correct Gospel message. Most believe Jesus saves you when you follow the law and live a good life. And Christianity is perceived through a cultural fog of animism and ancestor veneration. "Professions"

of faith come easy, real understanding and regeneration takes time.

Exchange Rate: Over the last 14 months the local currency has strengthened against the dollar by 35%. However local prices have stayed the same. There is not enough competition to force price adjustments and these things just take time. Most of the change has happened in the last few months. What this means is that a grocery bill that was \$250 less than a year ago now costs over \$370. It literally affects everything we buy since our income is in dollars. While this is good for Zambia and it shows signs that the economic crisis is reversing it is crushing to the local economy in a totally different way. Businesses pay salaries in Kwacha, but buy goods in dollars as they are mostly imported. Their goods have gotten cheaper – but all of their local expenses like salaries have gotten more expensive. When they make that extra profit in dollars it is eaten up by the higher cost (in dollars) of the salaries. So... prices tend not to fall, which hurts everyone with US dollar based income.