

THE REA FAMILY

Missionaries to Zambia

August 2026

Prayer requests:

Zambia's Presidential
Election
The Economy and High Costs
Personal Safety

Sending Church:

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Cost of Living:

Updated August 2026
[rea.teamzambia.com/
life-in-zambia/
cost-of-living](http://rea.teamzambia.com/life-in-zambia/cost-of-living)

Zambian Elections

Please be in prayer for the elections in Zambia. Overall things have been calm, but there have been isolated cases of violence, riots, arrests, and general chaos. A politician was stabbed. A gunfight broke out when the military arrested some opposition members. A poll worker was murdered very close to the church. We are avoiding all in-town travel until things stabilize. Most days it is business as usual, but normal turns to chaos in seconds here. We know people who were caught in the riot in downtown Lusaka a few days ago. Random cars were attacked simply for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Evangelism

A taxi driver near our church sat down with me recently, and for the first ten minutes I thought I was watching a genuine conversion. I asked him what it takes to be right with God and be sure of heaven. "You've got to trust Jesus Christ," he said. I pressed further. Do you have to do good works to get to heaven? Do you have to keep the law? Every answer was correct. He even understood eternal security, a concept most people here never grasp. I was nearly convinced this man was saved.

Then I asked one more question. "Are you bad enough, apart from Jesus Christ, that if He never died on the cross you would go to hell? Have you committed enough sin to deserve hell?" He said, "No. I'm a good person."

That answer undid everything before it. It illustrates the foggy nature of evangelism in Zambia. People are open, willing to discuss the Bible for as long as you will sit with them. But again and again, after ten or twenty minutes of careful questions, it comes out that the person believes he is, at his core, good. Not guilty. Not lost. Not helpless. Just good, with Jesus as a bonus for someone who did not really need saving.

This is a quietly self-righteous view of salvation, and it hides behind entirely correct language. Men and women here will tell you plainly, "I'm saved by grace," and in the very same breath tell you they must do good works to be saved, which is not grace at all. They will affirm every doctrine about Christ's sacrifice while never once believing they deserved judgment apart from it. A man cannot be saved until he sees himself as a guilty, lost, and helpless sinner. Without that, all the correct answers in the world leave him where he started.

I spent another twenty minutes trying to show this man that his own goodness had quietly become his savior, with Jesus tacked on as decoration. It is a strange and common blindness, one that wears the language of the Gospel while denying its foundation.

We see this every week when we go out and talk to people. Person after person is convinced he is going to heaven, standing on his own righteousness — his own law-keeping, his own daily prayers, his own goodness. He is blind to the fact that he has sinned and is separated from God. The only solution, for every man and woman in this city, is basic, simple, consistent Gospel preaching.

Cost of Living — Updated August 2026

Our comparison of everyday grocery prices here against the same items in the United States has been updated. The address is in the left column. Thank you for praying for us.