THE REA FAMILY

Missionaries to Zambia

November 2026

Prayer requests:

Power & Equipment
Our Young Adults' Growth
Reaching Broken People

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

Cost of Living:

rea.teamzambia.com/life-in-zambia/cost-of-living

Everything Breaks

It seems like everything breaks here. I know, stuff breaks all over the world, but it is more acute in a nation like Zambia, and for legitimate reasons. Lower-income nations demand cheaper goods. We miss the "cheap Chinese stuff" sold in the USA! Here we get even CHEAPER Chinese stuff, and, surprise, it just does not last. Then there is power. Our grid is unstable, and outages lasting 2–3 days are "normal." Surges from blown transformers and overburdened lines make appliances fail early, and they force us to keep backup systems: a diesel generator, solar, inverters, and lithium batteries. We also run on a well with a submersible pump, and an electric fence tops our security wall. Every one of these is essential for refrigeration, safety, or water, and every one of them can fail.

Here is one 60-day span. A freezer quit when ice built up on a wall and blocked the fan; we lost some food, and in all my years in the USA I never saw that. The water pump's capacitor failed. The truck needed an alternator and a turbo part, over $2,000. The main breaker went bad, then so did its replacement, causing random outages that drained our batteries. The charger between the generator and the batteries had to be reset and reprogrammed. A work truck died and left us stranded because a mechanic never tightened a battery cable. Nothing is easy, nothing is simple. I install, fix, and maintain most of these systems myself. It is trying at times, but it is also satisfying when a problem gets fixed.

Broken People

Things are not the only thing broken on the mission field. People are broken too. We minister to many whom life has simply thrown away: children abandoned by their parents, and teens who could not finish school and now face adulthood with little hope of a job that meets their most basic needs. Many are so consumed with surviving that it is hard to consider the future, and harder still to consider eternity.

But progress is made. The Lord works in His people. A recent "revelation" came with our young adults over one question: if a worker is sent to a shop and negotiates a discount, can he pocket the difference? To say this is common here would be an understatement. We spent a few weeks in Bible lessons on stewardship, ownership, and integrity, and the lessons were received and believed. These men are eight-plus years into their mentorship. They are faithful to church, and they are men of integrity, yet the culture they live in had set what is right and wrong in their minds, much as the culture in the USA can do to us!

The brokenness in people is the result of sin, and of a culture that embraces that sin while rejecting God's ways. Churches in the USA are almost always made up of people with a wide range of spiritual understanding and maturity. On a mission field, every member is a brand-new believer. Like broken things, this too can be challenging and also quite rewarding. Thank you for praying for us.