

# 2010 Zambia, Africa Mission Trip

## EPISODE Six

This final episode continues to describe the activities we will encounter at MWANDI MISSION. There is so much to tell and so little space. I encourage you to daily engage with us on our blog site: <http://tiatoday.wordpress.com/>. You might consider making a shortcut for the blog on your desktop. Please continue to lift our entire team up in prayer as we finalize our preparations, both physically and spiritually – Leah, Rebecca, Thomas, Bill, Shirley, Ray, Anne, Mike and Eric.

We ask you to pray faithfully for us daily during this trip that our Lord will work through us in a powerful way to be the hands, feet and even the voice of Christ glorifying God in all circumstances. Ask God to empower us with the Holy Spirit to be brave and enable us to say “Yes” when we are called by Him to do things beyond our comfort zone.



### Mwandi Mission Hospital –

This ministry is so vital to the health of this region, yet recently, it seems to be the most difficult to operate, maintain, staff and fund. The Zambian government gives a grant to the hospital of 4.5 million Kwacha per month (about \$9,700 US) and as a result has a say in the operations, making it very difficult to make local operational and staff decisions. The government proposes to reduce funding to the Health Sector from 11% to 8% of the National Budget next year. The PC(USA) has also provided annual funding. I don't want to give too dismal a picture, but it is a picture that

continually haunts me. The buildings are in a horrible state of disrepair with bats in the ceilings with missing ceiling tiles allowing droppings to fall to the floors. There are no regular staff doctors; instead it relies on volunteer doctors coming from different countries at irregular schedules. The “indoor” restrooms don't function; I have been communicating with a local British expatriate regarding necessary repairs. Some of the equipment is WWII vintage with steam generators. Meals are prepared on wood fires outside in an outdoor kitchen or by patients' families. Families that may travel for days with the sick or injured patients have to live in the open while they wait for proper care, doctors or for healing. One bright spot is a new maternity ward that has recently been constructed. Another was a shipping container arriving last fall in





answer to much prayer from Hickory, NC with, among other things, parts for prostheses, medical equipment and school supplies while a medical team from Hickory was present. Please be in prayer that the Lord may use our church and community to bring relief.

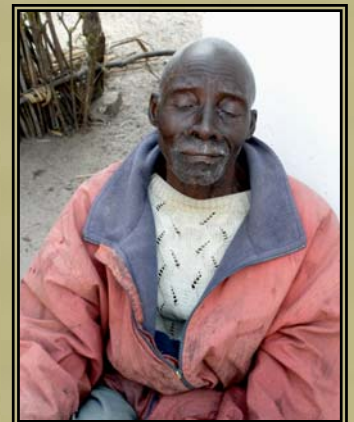
Other related HEALTH CARE ministries include: 1) The AIDS Relief Program which is working well with its new VCT (Voluntary Testing & Counseling) strategy - widening this service and making it available at public gatherings, the fishing camps, Church meetings, an after-dark/closing-time service and even a door-to-door and whole family service. Keep in mind that 1 in 3 people in Mwanzi are estimated to be HIV/AIDS positive vs. 1 in 5 for Zambia. 2) There is a milk formula program currently serving 40 HIV exposed babies. In the early

mornings at Simba House, we will see mothers participating in this program come to pick up the milk powder with their babies strapped to themselves with the traditional chitanga cloth. Either Keith or Ida Waddell, the Mission directors, has to place an order and drive to Livingstone to pick up the formula; sometimes when they order, there is no formula available in the country, leaving the babies and milk formula mothers without. For your information, Keith and Ida, have a wonderful blog site filled with stories, history and language lessons and day-to-day updates that you may find interesting to understand the culture and operations of a mission: <http://idaandkeith.blogspot.com/>.



## Kandiana –

Kandiana is the "old folk's" home built on the site of Mwanzi Mission. Most of the elderly in Zambia are looked after by their family, but there are a few who have out-lived their family due to AIDS, have been excommunicated or are unable to stay with their family for some other reason. The 16 residents of Kandiana have their food cooked by the hospital, which they sometimes supplement by fishing. I love going there. At the end of a day of work or witnessing so much suffering, it is a pleasure to go by and see the joy these survivors have at being alive. Yes, you also see pain, loneliness and sorrow in their wrinkled faces but mixed with those emotions are laughing, singing and dancing! Kandiana is also





funded by a Government Grant that Keith and Ida administer and gifts from other donors. Keith plants a garden at Kandiana with maize and soy beans for the residents to tend and use for food. Kandiana was originally a leprosy colony, which was changed to an old folk's home in the early 80's. These residents pre-dated the HIV/AIDS pandemic and outlived the current average Zambian life expectancy of 42 years. I'm somewhat reluctant to use statistics. You may compare that number to our average life expectancy in the USA of 76 years – 34 years longer! The average Zambian probably doesn't know that statistic and if they did, what would it mean to them and what would they compare it

to? Time in Africa doesn't have the same meaning or value as it does to our culture where time equals \$\$\$\$. What can we accomplish with 34 more years? As Christians the real question for us is, what would you and I have done differently if we knew we had a life expectancy of 42 years? Would we have served the Lord differently? Would we have treated our loved ones differently? The questions go on and on...



## Education –

Education in Zambia is provided at three levels: Primary (years 1 to 7), Junior Secondary (years 8 to 9) and Upper Secondary (years 10 to 12). Some schools provide a "basic" education covering years 1 to 9, as year 9 is considered to be a decent level of education for the majority of children. However, tuition is only free up to year 7 and most children drop out after year 7 when fees must be paid. Both government and private schools exist in Zambia. The OVC (described in Episode Five) has a weekday morning Preschool for the orphans and vulnerable children funded by donations. There is also a Teaching and Learning Centre Preschool in a classroom near the UCZ church offering morning

sessions. The private school system began largely as a result of Christian mission efforts during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mwanji UCZ Basic School, begun in 1882 as a Mission school, provides years 1 to 9 while Sesheke High School in the neighboring town, Sesheke, provides years 10 to 12. Due to the 40 mile distance to Sesheke, high school students must find boarding. As explained in Episode Five many of the OVC children can attend school through donor funded scholarships. Educational opportunities beyond secondary school are limited in Zambia. After secondary school most students study at the various colleges around the country. There are two main universities: the University of Zambia



(UNZA) and the Copperbelt University (CBU). Normally both select students on the basis of ability but competition for acceptance is intense. The introduction of fees in the late 1990s has made university level education inaccessible for most, although the government does provide state bursaries. Keith Waddell is a teacher at the Mission UCZ Basic School and also in charge of the construction of a new classroom block. He is a strong advocate for education in Lusaka dealing with the Zambian Education Secretary and the Provincial Education Officer and is trying to extend the school through high school. Currently there are around 900 students and 25 teachers. Three students share each textbook which is a good ratio for Zambia.

## Church -

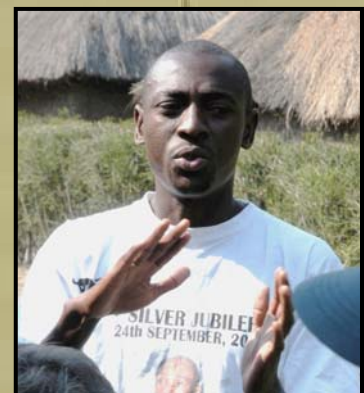
The United Church of Zambia is a union of Presbyterian, Congregational, Methodist and French Protestant denominations which has been running since 1884. The Mwandji UCZ Church located close to the Mission has a congregation of about 500, spanning all ages though with a majority of women. There has been a steady increase in the number of people over the past couple of years due to the leadership of the Reverend Silishebo, who arrived in August 2004. Alume (Men's Christian Fellowship) and Anamoyo (Women's Christian Fellowship) are made up of the middle-aged and



**The good news is that Mike received a donation from an organization called *Every Church Every Village* of five "Proclaimers", that are self-powered solar/hand-cranked/AC-DC audio bible tools containing the entire New Testament in the Lozi language along with music and sound effects! These Proclaimers will allow large groups to hear God's word in areas that don't have electricity, in other words, enabling the Great Commission to the world's oral majority. Praise the Lord for His provision!**

older members of the Church. They meet twice weekly, with Bible Studies, visiting the sick and elderly, cleaning the hospital, tidying the graveyard and generating some income for the Church by making and selling handicrafts. For the children, there is the Girls and Boys Brigade. The Youth Fellowship for the older teenagers is quite weak at the moment and it would be good to see that revived. The Choir gathers three times a week, as well as singing at the Sunday morning services. There is a strong emphasis on care in the community, with many members involved in Home Based Care or the OVC. The Deaconess takes the role of a social worker, supporting projects around the community.

Due to the cost, there are not enough Bibles and hymn books in Lozi, the local language. The majority of individuals do not have a Bible making it difficult to get a strong basic Christian education. While the members are heavily involved in the



Community, there is also need for a renewed interest in prayer.

Pastor Percy, a young and energetic man Mike and I met in 2008, is taking the initiative to start a Bible Mission School to train and equip

students in Disciple Making. These students are of various ages enrolled in four months of Christian leadership training starting in May with a 2010 youth theme of "NO MORE LIMITS", Zechariah 2: 1-5. The objectives include: 1) establishing churches and community projects in remote areas of Mwandi's influence, 2) mobilize these churches to evangelize their communities and 3) train servant leaders to shepherd and influence through focused Christian lifestyle and relationship-building. Mike has been asked to assist Pastor Percy in entrepreneurship training.



FRIDAY, May 21 - We leave our friends in Mwandi and drive back to Livingstone to spend a day and night, where we plan to visit Victoria Falls - perhaps from the side in Zimbabwe if we can get a day visa. As we travel for the two hours, I'm sure we will reflect on the dramatic impact and change this experience will have on each of our lives. We will have experiences as a group, but also as individuals - very personal spiritual changes that the Lord will work deep in our hearts. These will be hard to describe to others, but perhaps will become evident through a changed heart for Christ.

SATURDAY, May 22 - We leave Livingstone to Johannesburg, South Africa through Dulles, Washington DC and arrive in Charlotte on Sunday, May 23.

This is the last Episode before we leave on May 6; from now on remain in contact through the blog site. We hope and pray that these Episodes have opened your eyes to a beautiful, new and different culture in God's creation. Our team will immerse ourselves in the people of Zambia and place ourselves in God's hands, hands full of His love, mercy and grace. Perhaps a few of the people we come into contact with will experience Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit at work in us! I know that we will be changed when you see us again!



Amen