

# Evangelism Partners INTERNATIONAL



jsbepi@yahoo.com

5716 Melinda St. Ft. Worth, Texas 76117

817-789-5679

John and Sharon Booker

## GOD SIZE TASK WITH A GOD SIZE YIELD

*“Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, ‘Who will go and work today? Fields are white, and harvests waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?’ Loud and long the Master calleth, Rich reward He offers free; Who will answer, gladly saying, ‘Here am I, send me, send me?’”* by Daniel March

Seven members of NRHBC heard the call and said, “Here am I, send me.” Traveling 8,000 mile to Zambia, Africa, Brittany Booker, Cheryl Graves, Gail Gray, Brenda Erhlich and Russell Mason worked with the EPI team to reach **47,149** people with the Gospel message. Of those **26,045** responded with a YES to Jesus! We praise God that He would allow us to be a part of His harvest. We have reflected on the call that He extended to EPI one year ago in which He simply said Go and I will tell you what to do in going. We said yes, and He did the rest. Each person on the team had a story of how God arranged their schedules, finances and made provisions for their family and homes while away. The stories vary but the essence of each story is God in His Sovereignty took willing, ordinary individuals to accomplish a



God size task with a God size yield. As we pondered and prayed about the trip earlier in the year we had no idea how God would use this trip to change so many lives, including our own. He formed a team of seven very different individuals that worked tirelessly together producing a great planting in the hearts of the

Zambians. We were overwhelmed by how God wove our lives into a tapestry of His design as we witnessed: cross-cultural friendships formed; church members equipped to present the Gospel; a one day VBS completed with about 250 children in attendance; a vision planted for a women’s ministry and a daily increase of new believers streaming into the church for afternoon discipleship. The measureable success of the work done to strengthen Trinity Baptist Church will come in the days ahead. However, we received a recent email from Pastor Enock Enjovu as he reported over 100 new

people in attendance at last Sundays service. The crowd was so large, he reported, that his church membership had to stand to allow the visitors a place to sit. We are rejoicing that God could use us to help bring HIM renown.

Along with the village work lead by the five Americans, John and I were honored to be invited to speak in 40 Schools. Our four African Pastors completed 16 Jesus Film Shows in various compounds. EPI hosted a Women’s Conference in which Cheryl and I taught almost 400 women from 18 different churches. There is no way to know the impact made this side of Heaven. We simply rejoice that we could join the God of Heaven for so great a harvest.

**We Remain Amazed by His Grace!**



Sharing Wordless Book at VBS

## SUITCASE MINISTRY

Each afternoon people from the village would begin to arrive to the joyful sounds of singing. Excitement built as we would see those with whom we had visited earlier in the day come bringing others with them. Often those coming for the first time were reluctant but would soon join in with the

exuberance of the African form of worship. We rejoiced as some began to come day after day. We didn’t mention the clothes give away because our supply was limited. Six additional suitcases provided some very needed clothes, yet the need far exceeded the provision. At the close of

each session the clothes were spread out on the floor of the church and individuals would come to pick out a few things for their family. They were not picky but grateful for whatever was chosen. Everything was useful to someone, so each person who came was enriched by the Gospel,

befriended by the church and loved on by Americans.

**Thank you for your help !**



The Team Distributing Clothes

## A TESTIMONY OF TRANSFORMATION AND HOPE

The day began like many others since arriving in Lusaka, cold and windy. This particular morning we left the Seminary before 7 A.M. We entered the Head Teachers office. It was a brisk breezy day outside and we were met with a colder reception inside by the H.T. We could tell he was not excited about our presence. Once he saw the paperwork giving us permission to speak he excused himself and left us sitting in his office for a very long time; I began to pray. Finally he returned to escort us out to where the students had been assembled. With only a brief introduction, Loveness was handed the microphone. She prayed then introduced me. On our brief and brisk walk out to the assembly area, the Head Teacher announced that we had 20 min. I asked God to be my mouthpiece to speak only the words He intended for me to speak. Taking the microphone I immediately sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit. God gave me a clear and concise presentation complete with illustrations from His heart. Over half of that crowd of 900 students responded to the Lord Jesus. I thanked the students for their attention and gave them a word of challenge. Upon handing the microphone back to the Head Teacher I sensed a transformation. He began to thank us that out of all the hundreds of schools in Lusaka to visit we had chosen his. He turned to his student body and began to give his own testimony. As a young boy he had received Christ as his Savior. A child of extreme poverty his future looked bleak. However, being a follower of Christ had changed his life and future. He was standing before them as living proof of what Christ can do someone's life. He concluded by telling them how he was the only one in his family who had become a believer, to finish school and go on to receive a degree from the university. He then explained that God had a plan for each of their lives as well. Upon completion he asked if a student would volunteer to lead the assembly in prayer. A young lady came out of the crowd. With great boldness and confidence she lead us to the throne of God. I wept. Upon closing her prayer she made her way back into the crowd. A hush fell over the students as the Head Teacher called her to return to the front where he commended her fervor. He presented her a Bible we had donated to the school (to give a Bible away was unheard of as they are cherished and very few people own their own). She returned to her place among the students. He offered a few more words of encouragement then dismissed the students back to class. Walking back to his office to sign the official school log, I had such a sense of God's presence and pleasure. On our walk he explained the condition of the school. It was a school filled with children from homes of poverty. Ashamed of his past he had never shared his own story and yet on this day God touched his heart allowing him freedom to share. God's Word was shared and a testimony of his grace given. We don't know the full impact of that day. We do know that God has written all the days of our lives in His book. There are no coincidences in His economy... only a plan He started and will finish.



## BRENDA'S STORY...willing to let go and let God



I went half way around the world to experience my first mission trip...Zambia! Not only was it my first mission trip it was my first time to lead an evangelistic team. This was a very new experience for me and I was definitely out of my comfort zone. I knew I had to be willing to let go and let God do what He wanted with me. Before going, I prepared as I wanted to be able to look in each person's eye and share with them from my heart. The first morning we encountered a young man working in his yard. He was hot and sweaty and hesitant to stop his work. He eventually stopped and gave us his attention. Prepared to use an interpreter I stopped for interpretation frequently. I watched his face as he listened, occasionally nodding in agreement. As I concluded the presentation he responded in English. I was surprised to hear English but pleased to hear his response. Earlier he felt he had been too busy to listen but reluctant to say so. Trying to decide how to say no he felt compelled to allow us time to share. Although a believer he heard how to grow closer to God as it was explained in the presentation. He told of his struggle just that morning in regard to choice of reading material; the Bible or the paper. He chose the paper. He knew God had sent us to him. Before we left him He prayed for us, asking God for divine appointments all along our way. Walking away from his home that first day my confidence was bolstered creating a new boldness within. Those divine appointments occurred over and over as God directed our steps. Whenever I would say "God is Good"... their response was, "All the Time." Truly Our God is an Awesome God! I will never forget my precious friends of Trinity Baptist Church and will cherish the memories of their music, dance and joy for life.

## CHERYL'S STORY...seeds planted for Titus 2 Ministry

As our team walked the rough terrain of the Valley View compound, we had numerous opportunities to share the gospel with people of all ages and gender. I loved seeing the woman to woman interaction take place as they were bent over their wash tubs washing their clothes enjoying some girl chatter. Some homes had rope strung between two of anything for a clothesline. When it was full a bush or tree branch would do. Although their homes were very humble they were proud of them. One woman had a wonderful sense of humor as she invited us in. She said, "Welcome to my large home." It was one room. "Here is my kitchen (a pot in the center of the room), here is my bedroom (a rolled up mat in the corner) and here is my living room." She laughed as she showed us her home. We were frequently invited in to their homes. Most homes were very neat. The women were warm and receptive and revealed many needs as reflected in their prayer requests. Much like America, the need for spiritual growth and understanding is easily discerned as we visited with them.



with them.

I had the joy of working with several mature women in the Lord. I shared with the pastor's wife how God might be ready to develop a Titus 2 ministry using the leadership with whom she had been nurturing. I suggested that what I witnessed in these ladies was a readiness to now take up the mantle and begin to minister to the younger women in the community. There is a great need for teaching God's Word, training in prayer, and instructions on Godly love and care for family. Love-ness Enjovu (Pastor Enock's wife) has a passion to teach God's Word and Ennis Timbo (deacon John's wife) has a passion to disciple and encourage so the two will be a dynamic duo as they begin to develop a Titus 2 ministry in their compound. The joyous mandate belongs to each of us. We are to model the Christian life for the younger generation in Zambia and America. I pray that this will become a vital and viable ministry for the women of Trinity Baptist Church. What a privilege and joy it was to go and plant seeds that I pray will bear much fruit.



## RUSSELL'S STORY...equipped to serve

Being able to go to Lusaka, Zambia was a great honor and blessing. The fact that God called me to be His witness there is an incredible thing. I was nervous about doing the Village Ministry. I was going to have to walk down the streets with 3 local church members that I had just met, speak to people that I have never seen before, and then present the Gospel Message. The last was my biggest fear. I had never done this! However, God always equips when He calls and supplies His strength in our weakness. When we were out in the village, I can say that it was not me presenting, but God. I worked diligently, studying the "script", all the Bible verses, the transitions, and the prayer. However, when the pres-

sure is on and I am put on the spot I can forget everything, including my name. The day and time finally came. We were walking down the dirt road toward a market area. We walked right up to the first small hand built stall where a couple had some shoes and other things for sale. My interpreter, John Timbo, spoke to them. He then turned to me and said that he had asked if we could share a word with them from the Bible in English. They said Yes and John indicated that I should proceed. I can say I felt like I was in a pressure cooker. Suddenly the presentation took form in my mind, it was like someone was whispering in my ear. All I did was repeat what I was hearing in my minds ear. As I started to present, three others individuals walked up to see and hear what was

going on. I finally came to the place in the presentation where I asked for a commitment through faith in Jesus. Three of them said "Yes"! I lead them in the sinners prayer. What an amazing experience!!! John invited them to church that afternoon. That scene was repeated over and over again. Even now it is hard to believe; God used ME for His purpose! He afforded me the privilege to lead these new brothers and sisters to faith in His Son. Through this experience I developed friendships that will live into eternity. What God did in my life in Zambia is to be duplicated wherever I am. I pray I will be faithful to share Him at home or abroad.

## BRITTANY'S STORY...resilience, joy and contentment

My initial response to the sights of the city was astonishment coupled with a wave of sadness. I expected the conditions to be bad where we would be working. I thought I had prepared myself for what I was to encounter. I had seen photographs and documentaries, but nothing can really prepare someone from our level of living for the shock of 3<sup>rd</sup> world poverty. As I walked through the village each day all 5 of my senses were taking notes. I smelled the lack of sanitation, I saw the children of poverty as they ran through the village barefoot. I felt the hard packed dirt and tasted the dust as it blew into my mouth and up my nostrils. I heard the constant noise of so many people living in close quarters. I saw the discarded trash piled up along the pathways we walked. I saw the children rifle through the trash looking for anything with which to make an item to barter with. I struggled with the economic challenges of their country. I learned that in the Valley View

compound last year a typhoid epidemic had taken the lives of many. The people in need of water had dug shallow wells from which to draw water. The water was contaminated. The needs were many: sanitation, running water, no vocational skills, limited if any health care, joblessness, alcoholism, abandonment, etc.. I was inundated with a myriad of thoughts interrupting my nights as I tried to figure out solutions for all their unending needs. I eventually realized, to solve one problem would only cause another to surface. So focused was I on trying to figure out how people could live in such poverty and filth that I almost missed it. God began to show me a different side of the Zambian people which I admire and hope to bring into my own life. Resilience, joy and contentment, envelope their lives despite the staggering social issues that face them. I was challenged as I worshipped alongside the young adults my own age. These young people do not have any resources. They were born into poverty yet they regard what

little they do have with a grateful heart. I watched them and saw in them a contentment I don't see in many young people in America. They worshipped with fervor and had a depth of personal commitment I have rarely witnessed. They take great pride in the little that they do have and they give all the glory of the good right back to God despite living in utter poverty. It was life changing causing me to think differently about my life and the way I regard the many things that I am fortunate enough to have and enjoy. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the team that traveled to Zambia and worked with Trinity Baptist. I came away with much to ponder.

Brittany



## GAIL'S STORY...Evange Cube Evangelism



I am so glad that God allowed me to be a part of the team that went to Zambia this year. This was my first trip to Africa. The people are warm and the group of Zambian teams from Trinity Baptist Church were dedicated and delightful to work with. Our teams went door to door in the Valley View Compound each morning presenting the Gospel using the EvangeCube. We visited the people as they did their daily tasks—washing clothes, shopping at the roadside stands, drawing water and working. As team leader, I gave the presentation for the first couple of days using the different African team members as my interpreters.

They soon learned how to present the Gospel using the Cube. As soon as I could I turned the presentation over to them. They were eager to share always ready to help one another as needed.

The first day out in the village a couple of guys tried to disrupt a presentation in a local shop along the road. There were about five people present when the hecklers appeared. I started praying for God to intervene. After a few minutes they lost interest and left. We resumed the presentation and one of the men present prayed to accept Christ as His Savior. Later that same day as we were returning to the church for lunch another group of men came up to us and wanted to know what we were doing. We shared the presentation with them and all three prayed to accept Christ. We encountered many who said they were members of other churches. Regardless, we always shared the Gospel knowing that church membership is not what gets one to Heaven. We wanted to make sure to plant the seed of Salvation at every opportunity. We planted lots of seeds that week. Now we must pray and trust God to nurture and water the seed so that many more will come to know Him and grow through their involvement in Trinity Baptist Church.

The people of Zambia have so many needs. I pray God will lay it upon your heart to help support EPI to make every eternal investment possible while the door is open and hearts are receptive. Perhaps God would have you invest your time to go next year. I would encourage you to begin now asking HIM for direction. Should you go it will be an experience that will change your life forever. IT DID ME!!