

Evangelism Partners INTERNATIONAL



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July 2014

John and Sharon Booker

June 2014 Project Report and Testimonies

Dear Friends,

After traveling 32 hours, 7 members of NRHBC landed safely in Livingstone, Zambia on Sunday to begin our 2014 Project. After a GREAT time of fellowship and planning with our Zambian team on Monday, we began in earnest our outreach into the Libuya compound on Tuesday morning!

Walking down dusty paths we attracted much attention as white people are seldom seen in this compound. Our interpreters became very skilled in helping us gain an audience. Soon both the American and African team members were adept at sharing the EvangeCube and the Gospel message with many who had never heard an accurate presentation of the Gospel. As we moved in and around the compound each day, many unique and God ordained ministry experiences began to happen. Some of those will be shared in the following testimonies of team members. We would meet back at the construction sight for our lunch the women had prepared on open fire pits (in the hot sun). They started early carting in the water and food items to be prepared. Every meal was devoured with relish. What we couldn't eat Jonathan did. Our teams went out every day and made a great impact on the Libuyu Compound. The second week of the project 16 school assemblies were added to the program. Each team member had an opportunity to participate by sharing their testimony in the schools. Two Jesus Film meetings rounded out our project in Livingstone as the Gospel was preached and many received Christ! A special THANK YOU to the Nokenu Lodge and our host's Wilfred Chiyesu and his daughter Kathryn. We gave Wilfred the nickname "Mr. Accommodation". Their care for us was spectacular!

When the American team departed for the U.S., Sharon and I departed for the Eastern Region as we began our third week in Zambia. We met with almost 20 newly planted churches and conducted four days of training with pastors, deacons and church leaders. What a great time of fellowship with some very new believers whom God is raising up to fill leadership positions in many of their churches. As we finished our final week of training and planning, the winds began to howl and the skies grew dark as winter began to creep into the region. The primitive conditions of the guest house in which we stayed gave us a better appreciation for their living conditions. We were grateful for the heavy blankets as we crawled into bed after a freezing cold shower. With warm hearts we reflect on all that God has done. The following is the final report:

TOTAL AUDIENCE:.....19,051
TOTAL DECISIONS.....12,503
TOTAL BAPTIZED.....101
TOTAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS.....16
TOTAL CHURCHES PLANTED.....3

2014 Projects

Jan. -Zambia *
Feb-Zambia*
March-Zambia *
April-Zambia*
May-Zambia* ,
May- Malawi *
June-Zambia*



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Paula Brock



The first night we met with the African team members and heard the beautiful blend of voices my eyes filled with tears and my heart was flooded with a sense of God's pleasure. I knew the time was God directed and ordained. I was somewhat overwhelmed and nervous the first few days on the project. I wasn't sure why God brought me here and how I was to contribute to the team. I did have a peace in knowing that God was using this in my life to teach me obedience. It wasn't until the third day of the project that I realized He had brought me all the way to Africa to use the testimony of the loss of my husband to help others who had more recently lost their spouse. God being God, put me in several situations where my testimony of His amazing comfort and grace during the difficult days

after John's sudden death helped to encourage them. God even allowed me to use that testimony in the schools on the day I went on the school team.

While in the schools I was overwhelmed at the reverence of the students when we approached the time of prayer. I peeked several times to see how the students were behaving and realized, they had all adopted a position of prayer and had stayed there throughout the prayer. It was moving to see the students stand so reverently. After the prayer was offered I was stunned to see the number of hands raised who said they had said Yes to Jesus' invitation to come to Him.

It was a joy to work with one of the local deacons who is giving leadership to one of the sister churches. During the week I had the opportunity to witness his commitment to the Lord. Patrick had been called to be a pastor but because of the lack of resources had not yet had the opportunity to attend Bible College where he could be trained for pastoral care. God placed it on my heart to help him fulfill that call and get the Bible College training he needs. I was touched when he told me what a blessing it was to him to see a woman who could quote Scripture. This trip was life changing for me.

Lyndle Savage



I was so incredibly blessed by time in Livingstone, Zambia. I spent most of my time with Pastor Stackson Zulu. Due to planning a more extensive trip than the rest of the team I arrived in Livingstone a couple days ahead of everyone else. So I was already there for the Sunday morning service before everyone arrived around 1 PM (or as the locals call it 1300 hours). After a brief discussion with Pastor Stackson, he stated "I know why you arrived early, you are supposed to preach this Sunday!" I was honored and humbled by these wonderfully warm

and glowing with the Love of Christ people! Because of their warmth and hunger for the things of God, preaching has never come so easily!!! Stackson was on my door to door team almost every day, I learned so much from him as his faith is STRONG IN THE LORD!!! He told me a testimony of God's amazing power, as he was once ill and even pronounced dead, but GOD brought him back after a coma of 45 days. He explained that the company he worked for at that time had already purchased a coffin for him. BUT GOD!!! He told me how the medical staff attending him informed him after his "awakening" that the first 4 days of his coma he prayed nonstop! He explained that here in Africa people don't survive ICU, in fact well over 90% of people that go into ICU die in ICU. God healed Stackson, his recovery was slow, but He is alive and completely well and serving God with all his heart, mind, soul, and Glory to God with his WHOLE body! I will forever be changed by my experience in Africa and specifically in Zambia!!

Carolyn Hedgecock

Escorts of Angels

God came down and glory filled a small concrete one-room hut we visited my third day in Zambia and I will never forget the wonder of it. My two interpreters, Cecilia, Given, and I had set a goal of asking God for forty professions of faith that day because on the first day, we shared with fourteen people and eight prayed to receive Christ. Enthusiastic, we asked God for ten professions the next day, and fourteen people prayed to receive Christ. So on day three, we were going to ask for twenty but Cecilia said, "No, we need to ask for forty." Driven, we were determined to reach our goal but with little results.



Late in the morning, an elderly woman stepped outside and invited us into her small home. We shared the Gospel message with her and invited her to receive Christ as her Savior. She said she had already done that. Happy but a little disappointed, I asked her if there was anything we could pray with her about and she asked for prayer for her unwed daughters to marry. We prayed and then I showed her pictures of my family and told her about Macey, our miracle grandchild, who was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck which cut off oxygen to her brain. Macey had a hard time learning to walk but with therapy, God miraculously healed her. With divine timing, a little girl came inside the room scooting on her bottom the way Macey used to get around. The grandmother said she was her seven-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth who had never walked or stood.



We all began praying aloud in Zambian fashion (all at the same time), for Elizabeth to be healed. Heaven opened up. Resurrection power filled the room. I asked Elizabeth if she could stand up. With trusting eyes, she grabbed hold to my fingertips and stood straight and tall, not wobbly like you might expect. We all clapped, praised God, and rejoiced. She toddled from person to person about three or four times. Then with the escort of unseen angels, she walked steadily by herself to me. It was a true miracle!

Joe Hedgecock



The trip with EPI to Zambia was truly a life changing trip for me. I never dreamed I would ever go to Africa much less on a mission trip with John and Sharon Booker and EPI. After initial discussions with my wife Carolyn and much praying we decided that God was leading us to make the trip. Sharing the gospel with 800 to 1,000 school children and seeing 75 to 80% accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior has had a profound impact in my life. Sharing the gospel in neighborhoods from hut to hut, one on one with one to five people at once and seeing 90% plus accept Jesus Christ changes your life. The Holy Spirit was with each of us in the group during this time and it was amazing to see Him work.

The people we shared with were poor, very poor, yet they were happy and were open to listening to the gospel. They had childlike faith and after hearing the gospel accepted Jesus on the spot. We had Christian interpreters who were with us each day and worked with us untiringly day after day. We had great joy in working with these Christian men and women in the local churches and had wonderful fellowship, prayer and meals with them daily. What a bond we all shared because of our Christian faith.

The trip has given me interest in going on additional mission trips and sharing the gospel. The trip strengthened my faith and showed me how blessed we as Americans really are. It has made me more thankful for the blessings Carolyn and I have in our life. The trip has humbled me and drawn me closer to the Lord. Thank you EPI, John, Sharon and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for such a blessing and opportunity.

Patricia Maguire



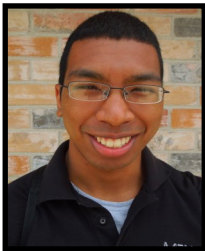
Joining the EPI team on a mission trip in Zambia was a testimony in itself as to how my life has changed since I put my faith in God. I grew up knowing about Jesus and believing in God as a child. However, my prayers did not come from my heart and I would not have thought about spending two weeks sharing God's Word with other people, even if it was God's Will, because I lived a life unto myself. I made my decisions based on my values. So when I knew God wanted me to be a part of the team I was excited to see what was ahead.

On the first day heading out to the village to share God's word, I was anxious yet thanking God for the opportunity. I knew that what was before me would not be happening if I had still been living my old life. Yet I was here because of my relationship with God. It was an experience of a lifetime. In Zambia the culture exudes warmth and welcome. People are ready to hear about God. The fellowship of believers came together from various churches to help build Livingstone Baptist Church. Many of the ones who served as interpreters came from other Baptist churches as well.

I had the opportunity to go to the schools one day and share my testimony. I was inspired by the head teacher who was so excited to have us at his school to share with his students whom he had already introduced to Christianity. I know that he will continue to water any seeds that were planted that day. To honor God and celebrate my new journey that I am living today with my spiritual family, I chose to be baptized in the Mulamba River. The morning was cold and only a few of us were baptized. I waded into the river water and felt a sense of completion as I was immersed into the waters. While speaking in the schools my recent baptism became part of my testimony to the children.



Jonathan Sorne



Being in Africa really did broaden my perspective. To be honest I was nervous before the trip, but God's grace was sufficient. During the times when my strength was inadequate, He was more than adequate.

One day my Interpreter Patrick, who was from a local church, lead me to this old man's house. Patrick was telling me about how this man's leg had been crippled for four years and because of it his wife even left him. We asked him if he had received Christ into his heart and he said he believed in Jesus but he didn't know how to receive him as Lord and Savior.

So we shared with him and he indicated he was ready to take that step. After praying with him and introducing him to Christ we asked if we could pray with him about anything else. He asked us to pray for his leg that he might be able to walk again. He at that point could only walk a very short distance before his leg would give way. After praying for him and asking God to strengthen his leg and make him whole, he walked with confidence and said he had strength in the leg he had not had in a long time. The look on his face revealed a changed man.

I also had the privilege of preaching my very first sermon. I was nervous until I got up to share and God took all of that away. I thought God had already given me a message until Saturday night. It was exciting to share what God had put on my heart. I learned that God is faithful and that His love extends all the way to Africa. I was truly blessed for having the privilege to go and be a part of the EPI team. I am grateful for so many you who helped make this trip possible for me. THANK YOU!!!