

Evangelism Partners INTERNATIONAL

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John and Sharon Booker

ANOTHER LIFE CHANGED

Dear Friends,

We have returned from Zambia where we have shared the gospel with over 13,000 people, many of whom had never heard the life saving truth of God's Word. However, each person who by faith receives Christ has a unique story to tell of how God has changed their life. The following testimony is the continuing story of Anastaia Phiri, the former witchdoctor of Kolomo village.

"Two years ago, on the final day of our project in 2013, we set up the Jesus Film Show in a large open area next to a school in Kolomo village. It was a Saturday evening and the weather was ideal for doing a film show with a moderate temperature for the middle of June in Zambia, Africa. As always we set up the film show early to allow time for playing music to help attract attention to the program. One of the people who heard the music and decided to attend the event was the witchdoctor of Kolomo village along with his entire family. He admitted later that he had come to disrupt the meeting. After showing the film, I preached the simple gospel message with Iwell as my interpreter. After preaching, we extended an altar call for those receiving Christ to come forward. To our amazement one of the first people to come out of the crowd was the witchdoctor and his family. The next morning Bethel Baptist Church was planted and when we arrived for the planting of the church, the witchdoctor and his family were already there sitting on the steps of the school building where the church would be meeting. Almost exactly two years later, we arrived at the recently completed church building of Bethel Baptist Church and almost like a magnet my eyes were drawn to this man who I knew was Anastaia Phiri. Oh how my heart leaped with joy as we drove up and stopped the bus. I knew it was him but he looked so different. This was the man who had given up everything he owned to follow Christ. The morning after he was saved, he contacted Iwell and asked for help with burning everything he owned, including his home. He was making a clean break with his former lifestyle to begin a NEW LIFE with Jesus. As I taught the men's Sunday School class of 22 men and then brought the message for the Bethel church service, I could hardly keep my eyes from falling upon this man that God was so remarkably changing. He took us to his new house after the service and showed us all that God had restored to him, even more than he had before. His crops were the best in the village. Another life changed in Zambia, Africa. It would have been worth travelling half way around the world, if he had been the only who came to Christ."



2015 Projects

January— Zambia *

February—Zambia *

March—Zambia *

April— Zambia*

May— Zambia*

June—Zambia*

July—Zambia

August—Zambia

September—Zambia

October—Mozambique

November—Zambia

December—Zambia

May / June 2015 Project

Total Audience— 13,519

Total Decisions— 9,833

Total Baptized— 142

Total Venues— 33

Total Churches Planted—22

Evangelism Partners
International

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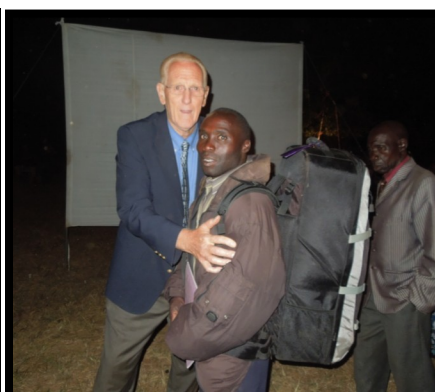
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SOLAR POWER PASSED THE TEST

After a 30 hour flight into Lusaka and a nights sleep, we boarded a Zambian bus for an 8 hour bus ride out to Sinda. We checked into the Sinda Motel at about 8 pm that evening and were greeted with two broken down beds with 2 inch foam rubber mattresses, one working light bulb (no light in the bathroom), and no running water. We had a 35 gallon plastic container filled with "some what" clean water to use for bathing and flushing the toilet. Although the commode did not flush, at least we had a commode as opposed to a hole in the ground. After stowing our four suitcases along the wall on the floor and propping up the beds, we took a cold bath and crashed into bed (literally). The next day was scheduled as a rest day, however we spent most of the day trying to figure out how we were going to make this derelict room livable since it was our home for the next three weeks. We came to a new understanding of the scripture verse..."with food and raiment be content." Iwell spent most of the day running back and forth to the shopping area. The bathroom light had to be replaced, the one 220 volt outlet had to be replaced also (Iwell brought our bus mechanic Amos who made the repairs). Iwell brought two wooden benches from his church for us to set our suitcases on and a small wooden table for us to set between our beds upon which sat a power strip that was plugged into the ONE power outlet. All of our electronic devices and the step down convertor made their home on that table for the next 3 weeks. We purchased four small rugs that became comfort zones for our feet and we hoped we did not step on anything at night as we flash-lighted to the bathroom.

After our one rest day (of sorts), we arose early the next morning and departed for Chama in the uppermost part of the Eastern Province. The first 175 KM was on tarmac roads as we made our way to Lundazi however the second 175 Km (100 miles) we traveled on dirt roads which resembled jeep trails in quality. After traveling for 7 hours we finally arrived into Lundazi later than expected and then traveled late into the night for 7 more hours to reach Chama. Our first hint of trouble to come happened just as we got into Chama and the bus engine just quite running. Iwell had brought along with the team a new believer who was a mechanic and he quickly had the engine running again as we arrived into Chama at almost midnight. We spent the remainder of that first week showing the Jesus Film and planting churches. After having planted 20 churches in Chama, we headed back to Lundazi on Saturday only to find ourselves sitting on the side of the road after about 2 hours of driving. After several failed attempts at fixing the problem (contaminated diesel), Iwell flagged down an 18 wheeler and in climbed Iwell, the mechanic (he had to get parts to repair the bus), and Sharon and I. Amos (the mechanic) was not able to get transport back to the bus until the next day which meant the team of counselors (12 people) had to sleep on the road. (women in the bus and men in the bush). We had a Jesus Film scheduled for Sunday evening in Lundazi, however, the equipment was in the bus. Moving forward in faith, Sharon, Iwell, and I traveled Sunday afternoon for what seemed like forever, to reach the venue only to find a group of about 100 people waiting for us to arrive. These were the leaders of the 9 churches that had been planted in January of this year. Iwell had planted the churches but rain had prevented the new believers from being baptized. Many had come hoping to be baptized, however our late arrival would prevent that. We did however meet with the leaders and spent some time encouraging them. As dusk approached, the bus arrived and the Jesus Film equipment was quickly set up as people were arriving from the surrounding villages to view the film. Once again we encountered a fuel problem, but this time with the generator. We quickly retrieved the back pack J.F. system from the bus and in less than 10 minutes set it up.(we brought it as a back up system just in case). Not knowing if the battery was charged up enough to show the entire film, we started the projector. We were absolutely amazed as the picture almost filled the big screen and was crystal clear. My big concern about the back pack system was the sound. **WOULD IT BE LOUD ENOUGH FOR LARGE CROWDS?** My concerns were immediately alleviated! We had purchased the unit with two megaphone speakers instead of one and the sound was more than adequate for the almost 2000 people who watched. The back pack system operated flawlessly the entire evening and the battery had almost half its charge left! We had come to Chama and Lundazi to begin making preparations for Raphael Zulu and David Njobvu to come and plant their lives to reach the lost and now we knew that the back pack system would be perfect for their ministry to the many unreached villages all around. I had charged the battery with the solar panel in the U.S. and now it had passed the test!



A Story of JOY

As we turned off the tarmac into a very small village we discovered JOY! Joy Baptist Church, a small temporary building, made of river grass, stood next to an already dug foundation for a new building. Our mission that day was to do a Baptism, share in the Lord's Supper and hold a Jesus Film Show. We were a little disappointed that so few people were present but we did not yet know the story of this newly planted church and its struggles. We made our way out to the river to baptize 7 or 8 and then back to the little church. While we visited with the headman and the Elder, serving as overseer, we learned the story of this church, and celebrated with great joy at the commitment of the faithful few. The church, planted only a short time back almost collapsed before it started. The new believers had no place to meet. Originally, they would gather under a tree in the middle of the village. When the congregation grew, they moved to the local water well. The rains came and with it came discouragement. It was difficult to meet and soon people began to give up hope. One faithful believer, unwilling to succumb to the elements and discouragement, offered his home in hopes of saving the church. Joy resurfaced and the church began to grow again soon outgrowing the hut in which they met. By this time, the headman had become a believer and member of the church. He gave a piece of land and suggested they build a temporary building of river grass and mud in which to meet. As the congregation grew, they desired to have a permanent home in which to worship. Currently, the foundation has been dug, the bricks are being formed and soon the structure will be underway. The pictures below are the chronology of Joy Baptist Church. The woman and two young men are a record of only one family affected by the planting of this church. The woman and both grandsons have come to faith in Christ because Joy Baptist Church teaches the Word of God. Faith is being built and Joy has returned to this village. Thank you for sharing in their JOY!!!!



Church 1st met under tree



Village Water Well



New Believers Hut 3rd site



Temporary Building in Background



FOUNDATION dug beside Temporary Church



Proud Grandmother with grandsons recently baptized

EPI YARD SALE SEPTEMBER 10-12....GOAL \$10,000

We plan to move Raphael Zulu and his family to Chama in August 2015. Our goal is to move David Njobvu and family to Lundazi in October (before rains come). The proceeds from the yard sale will make it possible to plant our second missionary. Anything that you would donate to Goodwill we can use. Please leave clothing on hangers. If you do not have a way to bring larger items, we can arrange a pick up. We are accepting donations **NOW!** Cash donations are gladly accepted and we will need those in order to reach our goal. Contact information is below:

5716 Melinda St. (from church...west on Glenview Dr. to Melinda St. on right)
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EACH HOME MISSIONARY NEEDS:

House (they will build it).....\$1800
Solar powered Jesus Films system.....\$3500
Motorcycle LG 250cc 4-stroke.....\$2000
12 months support (\$100 mo.).....\$1200
Seed and fertilizer for first crop.....\$800
Bible School and travel for one year... \$560

TOTAL FOR FIRST YEAR.....\$9860