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## God-given Visions Have No Limits

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*“Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint.” Proverbs 29:18*

Oswald Chamber says, “There is a difference between an ideal and a vision. An ideal has no moral inspiration, a vision has. The people who give themselves over to ideals rarely do anything. But wherever there is a vision, there is also a life or rectitude because the vision impacts moral incentive.”

Dear Family and Friends,

Once again we returned from Zambia with full and grateful hearts. It has been said before, that when God called John and I to this ministry we didn't fully understand what He was calling us to. We only knew He was asking us to say “YES” and to step over the threshold of sight into the unseen by faith. With each step He has called us out into deeper waters of trust. The vision we now have is far beyond our grasp. With each step He continues to develop in us a more confident faith. Now, because of the history we have with the Lord, we are able to look back and remember His faithfulness so that we can look forward with great expectations to what lies ahead.

The three of us (John, Iwell and myself) arrived in Sinda on the final days of Bible School. John had planned it that way. With all the men present we had the opportunity to interact with each one individually. “The school,” although rural and hardly state-of-the-art,” is one of the most effective and organized in the country,” reported Darius Musuka, who taught Christian Beliefs 1 & 2. Darius is a teacher at the Zambia Baptist Seminary in Lusaka. Another seminary teacher, Luke Blair taught Church Administration. Luke is currently President of the Zambia Baptist Fellowship. Ted Syamaila, taught English Literacy Levels 1&2. He holds a degree in education from the University of Zambia. He currently teaches English in the public schools. Iwell taught Survey of the New Testament and had completed his teaching schedule in time to meet us in Lusaka. We were impressed with the level of training the men received under such capable hands. They took their finals the day after we arrived with all receiving very high marks.

In 2014 we prayer walked our training facility and prayed that God would make our training facility a sending station into all the world. We are now seeing that prayer answered. During the week of school four men from three different countries attended. One of the four men will be the replacement for Cosmos Phiri, the missionary who was recently killed while returning home from a Jesus Film project. In marveling at how God is expanding EPI's territory, Iwell informed us that pastor's from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Kenya and Tanzania were all requesting opportunity to join the EPI team and be trained for church planting. We are beyond excited at the prospects that EPI could have that kind of far-reaching affect.

In further discussions with Iwell, he told us the Zambian government has become aware of the work of EPI. Iwell, has received numerous requests from the government to show the Jesus Film and share the Gospel message to called meetings of governmental officials. In one particular such gathering, three officials were saved and are now active members of the Baptist Church in Katete. The demand has increased as agencies interact and report the changes taking place in their districts. Other religious groups that have come in to their area have stirred up strife. They see the change in those who have come to faith in Jesus Christ and are being discipled by the EPI missionaries. Though they might not understand the dynamics of one controlled by the Holy Spirit, they do understand change for the good.

So, to say God is at work is an understatement. Of course with every opportunity is the challenge of trusting God for the provisions. We can't think of a better way to invest resources, time, energy and talent than to be on the front-line with God as our Commander-in-Chief. He will not retreat, give up, give over or give in. We are on the winning team. Would you like to join us? It is always an open invitation. **For every \$ you invest 3 will hear the Gospel and 2 will respond!** Great Odds!



**Pool of 25 Missionaries just completed a semester of Bible**



Kalengo Lungu was planted in March 2017. He has planted 4 churches. On this Sunday we baptized 82 from those four churches. The day was cool, the water was cold. Only 40 were expected. We returned to Kalengo's compound and participated in the Lord's Supper.



We always enjoy an opportunity to visit one of the rural churches. This church had built its walls when the rain came and washed them away. Just our presence was an encouragement to them. Please pray for these brothers.

### The Bus Ride

The long jarring ride from Lusaka to Sinda or vice versa can take anywhere from 6 to 8 hours depending on the driver and number of pick-ups along the way. The bus is always crowded. Travelers are content to sit shoulder to shoulder, hip to hip with only one scheduled bathroom stop along the way. Travel in this manner is only available to a "privileged few." Many of the travelers are under heavy burdens, so the bus becomes a place of rest for their weary bodies. With no air-conditioning and little ventilation, they sleep while we struggle to catch a breath of fresh air.

On our recent return trip from Sinda to Lusaka our bus broke down. We were put off the bus and had to wait on the side of the road until another bus with room for us came along. It was a humbling experience. The first two buses picked up the majority of our traveling companions. An hour later God sent a bus that had room for the rest of us. Although we had front row seats on our first ride we were delighted to have 'ANY' seats to finish our trip, even if they were at the back of the bus... they were aisle seats. PTL!

My seat-mate was a little boy holding his toddler sister. When I sat down she was asleep. Imagine her surprise when she woke up to a white lady sitting next to her! Both children were timid at first and I was unable to communicate with them verbally. However, food is a universal language, after sharing with them a snack and an extra drink from my bag, we became friends.

Although the bus ride back to Lusaka had a few twists and turns along the way, we learned some things that were invaluable. God demonstrates His love to us in the smallest of things... a bus with room for us, aisle seats in the back of the bus on one of the cooler days and two sweet children with which to share a snack and smiles .