

Revealing Jesus through
EDUCATION, HUMANITARIAN SERVICE & CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Small Town, Small Church, Big Ministry

Haskell sends out 67 self-supporting evangelists

Haskell, Texas, population 3,190, sits in the dry plains north of Abilene. Around 100 people attend the Haskell Church of Christ's Sunday morning service. But this small church in this small town has had a big impact on developing church leaders in Zambia.

In 2005 the Haskell congregation began sponsoring 10 students at Namwianga Mission. As those students finished their training, the Haskell church took on more sponsorships, sometimes supporting as many as 15 students a year. Their 15-year total stands at 80, including 67 sponsored graduates trained at Namwianga and now leading in congregations throughout Zambia, and another 13 currently in college.

That total makes the Haskell Church of Christ the largest congregational supporter of Zambia Mission's U.S. Sponsorship Program.



Gerald McCoy is the driving force behind Haskell's sponsorships. He and his wife Mary Nell were part of the Zambia Medical Mission teams in 2002 and 2003. McCoy, a retired teacher, saw firsthand the potential for training teachers at

George Benson Christian College (GBCC) who could then become self-supporting church planters and evangelists. He shared his assessment with other Haskell church leaders, and the partnership with Namwianga began. McCoy's enthusiastic support of sponsorship has encouraged the congregation to continue its generous funding.

"The Haskell congregation's influence on the spread of the gospel in Zambia is inspiring, especially for such a small

congregation," said Linda Gregersen, coordinator of the U.S. Sponsorship Program. "Haskell-supported graduates are teaching and evangelizing throughout Zambia. The commitment of Gerald McCoy and the Haskell church has made an eternal difference."



Haskell-sponsored graduate Victor Nsemu went to a remote mission field in Zambia when he completed his studies at GBCC. He began teaching in a school near Zambia's border with Angola in 2015. He started a congregation in a town on the Zambian side and reached out

to Angolans who crossed into Zambia for business. One of those he baptized was a member of the royal family in Angola, the son of a tribal chief. The man's family also became Christians and worshipped with the Zambian congregation frequently.

The successful efforts of self-supporting evangelists like Nsemu will keep the small Haskell church involved in the big task of building leaders and changing lives through sponsorship. If you or your congregation would like to be part of this important ministry to train self-supporting evangelists, find out more at www.zambiamission.org/sponsorstudent.



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to our generous donors who gave over \$50,000 to pay for medicines and supplies that were shipped to Zambia in February. They were originally intended for our annual Zambia Medical Mission scheduled for July 11-25. But because the mission was canceled due to the COVID-19 crisis, the medicines and supplies will be used at Namwianga Hospital and distributed to local clinics in the area. The vitamins, painkillers and drugs—especially drugs not readily available in Zambia—will provide welcome relief for Zambians who need them. Cleaning supplies and PPE (masks, gowns and gloves) will help the community fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We appreciate the generosity of our faithful supporters!

A New Kind of Lesson Delivery

Rajiv Siamweela, Assistant Sponsorship Coordinator at Namwianga Mission, uses a motorbike to deliver coursework, textbooks and World Bible School lessons to sponsored students who live in remote rural areas without internet access. He meets individually with each student to explain the requirements and to arrange for picking up the completed lessons.

Siamweela reports that parents and guardians are happy with this effort: "They are saying it will encourage pupils to work even harder."



Namwianga Responds to COVID-19

Protective measures aim to prevent outbreak



The COVID-19 pandemic hit Zambia in mid-March. Cases in the country have been climbing steadily. Most of the outbreaks are concentrated in the capital city of Lusaka and areas in the northern part of the country. Kalomo District where Namwianga is located has been spared so far. No one associated with Namwianga has contracted the disease, and

Namwianga leaders are doing everything possible to avoid any cases. Handwashing stations are set up outside each office and building. Mission staff members are prohibited from traveling to large cities. Masks are available, and social distancing is encouraged.

Namwianga's orphan care homes have taken measures to reduce the possibility of infection. Eric's House had 11 kids return from boarding schools in March, so all of the 21 members in the household self-quarantined for two weeks. Schoolwork continues in homeschool style. The Haven childcare homes adopted new protocols requiring employees to undergo daily temperature checks and wear masks.

Namwianga Mission Hospital set up an outdoor triage area to screen all incoming patients. Hospital staff members have

been trained extensively in COVID-19 response protocols. Dr. Stephen Chanda and a team from the hospital addressed all students at Namwianga Christian Secondary School and George Benson Christian College on March 18. They explained the origin and spread of the coronavirus, symptoms of COVID-19 and protective measures that should be adopted to prevent the spread of the virus. Hospital staff members are disseminating information throughout the community through meetings and media. Namwianga Christian Radio offers regular updates and informational programs about COVID-19 and prevention.



Dr. Chanda trains hospital staff.

One of the Namwianga community's first responses to the coronavirus threat was fervent prayer, reported church leader John Simuuba. "Before the government required churches to stop meeting, churches gathered to pray for protection from COVID-19. Now the prayers continue as families and small groups meet privately in homes for worship and Bible study," he said. Namwianga Christian Radio broadcasts sermons on Sunday, and listeners have responded with enthusiasm.

Face Masks Protect Namwianga Community

Your help is needed

Dr. Stephen Chanda of Namwianga Mission Hospital believes that wearing face masks is key in the fight to avoid an outbreak of COVID-19 in the Namwianga community. "Facial masks play an important role in reducing the spread of COVID-19, especially if everybody is wearing them," he said. His support is part of the motivation for an effort to provide 3,000 reusable cloth masks at no charge to the Namwianga Mission community.

Americans Benita Thomas and Sheryl Ramsey organized a team of Namwianga seamstresses to sew the masks from locally available cotton chitenge cloth. The seamstresses,



all mothers who are raising orphans, are paid a small fee for their efforts. The income helps to support their families in a time when many have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The goal, said Thomas, is to provide masks to all residents and employees of Namwianga Mission and to their families. If funding is available, additional masks will be given to residents in the surrounding community and to local churches.

The mask project will cost \$3,000. If you would like to help fund this life-saving effort, visit www.zambiamission.org/masks to donate online or send your donation to Zambia Mission Fund, Box 3393, Abilene, TX 79604.

COVID-19 Closures Affect School and College

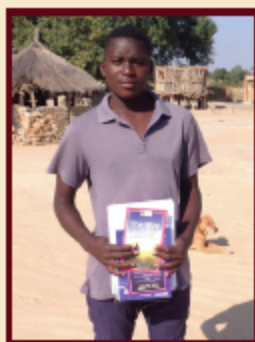
New lesson deliveries keep students learning during shutdown

The Ministry of Education in Zambia took the threat of the pandemic quite seriously. On March 17 the Ministry ordered that all schools and colleges were to close on March 20, three weeks ahead of a scheduled four-week break between terms. Namwianga Christian Secondary School and George Benson Christian College students were provided assignments and resources to complete their Term 1 coursework at home. Vulnerable students were sent home with a 55-pound bag of mealie meal to help their families.

Both the college and secondary school have moved all classes to online formats, and those online classes began in May for Term 2. Coursework is printed out for students who live in remote rural areas without Internet access.

The postal system in Zambia is unreliable, so printed lessons cannot be mailed to rural students. Instead, the Mission established set locations where students can pick up and drop off their coursework. Students in remote areas had lessons delivered by motorbike (see related story).

Namwianga Christian Radio station is broadcasting lessons for both the secondary school and the college.



Enock Siankumba holds lessons delivered by Rajiv Siamweela on his motorbike.

Administrators and teachers at Namwianga Christian Secondary School (NCSS) and George Benson Christian College (GBCC) immediately began making contingency plans for students to continue their educations. At this point, Zambian schools are not expected to reopen for all students in the near future. The Zambian government recently announced that grades 7, 9 and

12 will return to school in June. Namwianga Secondary is preparing for that according to government guidelines. GBCC is also moving forward with NCSS to continue educating college students and other grade levels by distance learning.



Namwianga Christian Radio Station Manager Robby Banda (right) meets with school and college leaders to plan for broadcasting lessons and sermons on the radio.

Food Relief Deliveries Ease Hunger for Many

Some areas still need help

A generous response by donors enabled essential food relief deliveries in February, a time when many families had absolutely nothing left to eat as they waited for harvest. In March and April the harvest began, and food is now plentiful in many areas. Namwianga Mission Food Relief Coordinator Wilson Siazilo reported, "The markets are back to life, selling all sorts of food: watermelons, sweet potatoes, cassava, fresh and dried maize, and peanuts."

Siazilo has received phone calls and letters of gratitude from congregations where food relief made a difference: "... thanking our brothers and sisters in the U.S. who have generously shared with us."

But not all areas received the needed rainfall. Siazilo reported that the southern part of Kalomo District and the Gwembe Valley area had very little rain, and the people there harvested little or nothing. Siazilo estimates that 3,700 families in the affected areas are facing another year of hunger and desperation. Without harvested crops, hungry people resort to eating tree roots, tubers and wild fruits that

are sometimes poisonous — or they eat nothing. Food deliveries will continue in these areas.



These food relief efforts will require funding for at least another year to help the people who had no harvest. Your generous support will ease their suffering and give them hope for the future.

Please donate online at www.zambiamission.org/hunger or by mailing a check to Zambia Mission Fund, P. O. Box 3393, Abilene, TX 79604.

Legacy Giving Ensures Namwianga's Future



A legacy gift to Zambia Mission Fund (ZMF) is a meaningful way to serve the needs of the Zambian people and share the good news of Jesus' love and salvation beyond your lifetime.

There are several simple ways to make a legacy gift.

- Name Zambia Mission Fund in your will.
- Name Zambia Mission Fund as a beneficiary on a 401K, IRA, charitable gift annuity or insurance policy. Naming a charity as the beneficiary of a retirement account has the

added benefit of avoiding income taxes on amounts distributed to charity.

- Establish a checking or savings account that names Zambia Mission Fund as beneficiary. During your lifetime the funds are available for your use.

Your lifetime of service deserves a legacy of service. Please contact Ray Ferguson, ZMF Planned Giving Specialist, at ray.ferguson@condley.com or 325-677-6251 if you would like additional information.

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