

Revealing Jesus through
EDUCATION, HUMANITARIAN SERVICE & CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Family Advocate Team Reunites Haven Children with Families

They're a team of two. Jana Miller and Michael Sibajene are The Haven Family Advocate Team. Their job is to reunite the babies and children who have been placed at The Haven with their biological families.

Children are placed in Namwianga Mission's Haven care because of a family tragedy — usually the death of a mother. Haven staffers work with the local Social Welfare office to provide the best possible situation for each child. The goal of The Haven is always to help the children thrive so they can be back in a family setting as soon as possible.

Sometimes the child will go home to live with an aunt, uncle or grandparent. Sometimes a father remarries and the new family unit welcomes the child back. Every situation is different. Some little ones go home within six months. Others remain at The Haven for up to four years. The majority of kids are home with relatives before they are two years old.

Miller is the family advocate, serving as a liaison between The Haven, Social Welfare and the families of the children placed at The Haven. Sibajene serves as translator, driver, mechanic, friendly face and conversationalist. They spend their days traveling to visit the children who have already gone home and the families of the children currently at The Haven. Even with the restrictions from COVID-19 this year, the pair has already logged more than 12,400 miles for these visits.

“Two key elements to a successful reintegration are communication and relationship,” said Miller. “During the

reunification process, we are visiting the families at their homes, and the families also come to visit and stay at The Haven for a few days at a time to promote bonding. These visits are crucial to ensuring both the child and the family are ready for each other.”

The diet, style of play and language at The Haven are strategically planned so that the children will be able to

transition more easily back with their families. Miller and Sibajene continue to visit children after they are reunited.

Families also are supported through the Goat Program. Each child is given at least one goat when they leave The Haven. The goat acts as a sort of savings account.

The idea is for the family to start a herd that will eventually help provide school fees for the children.

Miller finds great satisfaction in her job. “I see the joy of families seeing their little ones for the first time in a while. The pride in their voices, calling everyone to come see their child. The tears of grief and gratitude. I get to hear the families exclaim, “Leza Mupati.” (God is big) “Leza Mwabeleka.” (God is working) “Leza Mubotu.” (God is good). And I agree wholeheartedly, as we marvel together at the miracles God has breathed into their child.”

If you would like to sponsor a Haven child or provide a goat for a reunited Haven family, visit zambiamission.org/haven.



Radio Station Spreads Gospel Message During Shutdown

Messages reach community, produce results

No large church gatherings were allowed in the initial weeks of the Zambian government's COVID-19 shutdown in March and April. Schools were ordered closed.

Namwianga Christian Radio always has broadcast Bible-based programs, but during the shutdown the station ramped up gospel messages by airing additional sermons on Saturdays and Sundays.

Evangelism and Spiritual Growth (ESG) team members Nixon Siamungande and Harrison Siamafumba found an audience of radio listeners eager to hear the Word of God. After their programs, Siamungande reported that listeners called in asking for prayers and Bible studies. Some asked to be baptized. ESG team members responded to these individual requests. At least 10 listeners were baptized. Prayers were offered. Bible studies were conducted.

The radio station also aired informational programs about COVID-19 and safety protocols. Broadcasting educational



Nixon Siamungande baptizes a radio listener

programming and academic lessons helped meet the needs of students who were out of school because of the shutdown. "The radio station was a vital part of Namwianga's response to the COVID-19 shutdown," said station manager Robby Banda. "Our programs played an important role in educating and spiritually influencing the community."

Your support is needed to help Namwianga Christian Radio (NCR) spread the gospel message to a receptive audience. The cost to fund one hour of programming on NCR is \$40. Find out more and donate online at zambiamission.org/radio.

One Boy's Determination and Desperate Search for Help

You can make a difference

It's 60 miles from Mulamfu, Boiken's village, to Namwianga Mission near the town of Kalomo. That's how far Boiken planned to walk. At church one Sunday he heard people talking about Namwianga Mission's Student Sponsorship Program. "Go there," they said. "They will help you."

It was October, and schools had just reopened after the COVID shutdown in March. Boiken couldn't return to the local high school where he had started 10th grade in January. His father had suffered a stroke and couldn't work. There was no money to pay the school fees, and the school would not let him in without payment. Boiken was convinced that Namwianga was the only place he could get help and continue his education.



rode into the town of Kalomo. That night he slept in the train station because he had no other place to go.

A Namwianga staff member found Boiken at the train station. Crying and desperate, Boiken told his story. The staff member took him to Namwianga's on-site Sponsorship Coordinator Rajiv Siamweela. Rajiv listened to Boiken's story and cried, too. He got Boiken enrolled in Namwianga Christian Secondary School (NCSS).

Boiken is the newest sponsored student at the school. He joins the other 204 students at NCSS and George Benson Christian College who are getting life-changing educations to prepare them for a bright future.

Boiken packed his possessions in a green plastic bag, placed it on his head and took off for Namwianga on foot. He walked the first 25 miles, then caught a ride on the back of a truck and

The Student Sponsorship Program at Namwianga Mission changes lives and prepares leaders who will spread the gospel throughout Zambia. If you wish to support students like Boiken, visit zambiamission.org/sponsorship.

Food Relief Efforts Now Target Gwembe Valley

Your generosity continues to feed the hungry

The generosity of donors made it possible for Namwianga Mission's food relief team to feed more than 160,000 hungry Zambians in 2020. Relief coordinator Wilson Siazilo reported an outpouring of gratitude from those who received the food.

At Simakakata, a community where most residents are blind, a devotional was held before food was distributed. A local church elder offered this prayer of gratitude:

Our God and our father in heaven, we thank you for your presence and mercy for us. We know it's you, God, who has provided this food to us through our brothers and sisters in America. Some of them we have never met and may not meet in our human nature, but they have heard your voice and give what you have provided. Thank you, God! Help us to appreciate whatever will be given to us. Amen.

Food relief deliveries eased somewhat after the harvest season ended in May. Most areas of southern Zambia had

sufficient rainfall and harvested good crops. However, the Gwembe Valley, an area south and east of Namwianga, suffered another season of drought. Thousands of Gwembe residents are enduring a second year of crop failure and hunger.

Namwianga's food relief deliveries will continue in the Gwembe Valley until the next harvest in 2021. Siazilo reported that Namwianga is delivering bags of mealie meal (ground corn) and providing seeds for farmers to plant in December when – hopefully – the annual rainy season begins.



You can help feed the hungry people in the Gwembe Valley by donating online at zambiamission.org/hunger.

Community Garden Workshop

Garden provides food for families



As part of Zambia Mission Fund's food relief efforts, a community garden was constructed in Zyangale village, about 20 miles from Namwianga Mission. Sixty raised garden beds now provide fresh vegetables to the entire community.

Namwianga Farm Manager Thomas Simubali led a Survival Gardening Workshop, training representatives from 55 households. Participants learned how to construct raised beds, create organic fertilizer, rotate crops and reduce pests and disease. Participants also installed a bucket drip irrigation system so that even in times of limited rainfall the garden can thrive on water provided by a nearby well.

Community gardens feed entire communities. The Zyangale project was funded by a generous donor family. You can direct your food relief gift to community gardens at zambiamission.org/hunger.

Water Wells Change Lives

Your support makes it happen

Namwianga Mission's clean water team drilled 21 wells in 21 villages in October. That's an amazing number and an amazing accomplishment. But it represents an even more amazing transformation for the villages that now have sources of clear clean water.

Water wells change lives. School-age children who once spent hours each day traveling long distances to collect water from polluted streams or ponds can resume their education. There will be fewer waterborne illnesses that cause distress and lost productivity.

A celebration of praise and thanksgiving to God is held in each village when a well is completed. Your generous support of Zambia Mission Fund's clean water initiatives makes this possible. Thank you!



Find out more at zambiamission.org/water.

COVID-19 Update

Thankfully, COVID-19 has not devastated Zambia or Namwianga Mission like it has many other parts of the world. There have been some cases of the disease at Namwianga, but most have been mild. All those who became ill have recovered.

At the start of the school year in February, all Namwianga college and high school students were tested for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Those who tested positive were moved into isolation facilities for the recommended time period. None of the students developed symptoms. The only Namwianga-related COVID-19 death was a patient from outside the Namwianga community

who came to the hospital in a late stage of the disease. Zambia Ministry of Health protocol required that the patient be transported to an advanced treatment center, and the patient died during that process.



Your donations paid for many of Namwianga's COVID-19 preventive measures and protective equipment that helped keep the Namwianga campus safe. Hand-washing stations were set up outside classrooms, dorms and other campus buildings. Extra cleaning protocols were put in place. Mask-wearing and social distancing practices were implemented, and some activities were temporarily suspended. All preventive measures remain in place. **Thank you for your prayers and support.**

Influence Beyond Your Lifetime Legacy Society addresses future needs



The newly established Zambia Mission Legacy Society was formed to ensure that the great work of revealing Jesus in Zambia will be continued for generations to come. Anyone can become a member by including Zambia Mission Fund in a will or trust or by naming Zambia Mission Fund as the beneficiary of a new or existing IRA, life insurance policy, savings account or checking account.

Allen and Benita Thomas are Charter Members of the Legacy Society. "We have seen firsthand the great work that Zambia Mission Fund does. Our

legacy gift is one way that we can help the work in the future."

We are pleased to recognize two new Charter Members of Zambia Mission Legacy Society: James Strother and Margaret Rose.

The deadline for becoming a Charter Member has been extended to May 31. If you would like more information, please call 1-800-993-3461, email info@zambiamission.org or visit zambiamission.org/legacy.

A Message from ZMF Board Chairman Klay Bartee

Dear Friends of Namwianga Mission,

Amazing. That's the word I have used again and again to describe your generous response to our appeals for funding in 2020.

Our end-of-year Signature Campaign challenge to fund basic expenses was met with a tremendous outpouring of support. The mid-year request for funds for Namwianga Mission Hospital resulted in a huge response. We also asked your help to fund a post-operative ward at the hospital, and construction is now

underway. Many of you sponsored students and orphans. You paid for water wells, food relief, bicycles and Bibles. You funded medicine and Clean Delivery Kits and more. Thank you!

Truly God has done "more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20) in providing for our needs through kindhearted supporters like you. **Thank you again for your amazing generosity.**



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