

Revealing Jesus through
EDUCATION, HUMANITARIAN SERVICE & CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Star Ferguson Serves Zambia Medical Mission

The flatbed pharmacy truck (lorry) is loaded with red plastic footlocker style trunks filled with all kinds of pills, capsules, vitamins, and prescription drugs. There are also boxes of wound care supplies, equipment for making liquid suspension drugs, tables, and everything else needed to set up a mobile pharmacy at a remote Zambia Medical Mission clinic site. The truck will snake its way over rough dirt roads as part of the ZMM caravan until it arrives at the designated village. There the ZMM team will spring into action, setting up a canopy style tent next to a yellow school bus that has emptied its team passengers and parked in a strategic location. Many of the red trunks will be moved onto the seats of the yellow bus, affectionately named "Pills on Wheels," and within a couple of hours, the ZMM mobile pharmacy will be ready to serve as many as 2,000 patients a day.



time ZMM volunteer from Abilene, Texas. Star and her daughter Rebekah made their first trip to Zambia as part of the 1999 Zambia Medical Mission. Star worked in the pharmacy on that trip and returned home convinced that she could make a difference by using her time and skills in the ZMM pharmacy program. She began collecting donated medicines, purchasing drugs from suppliers, and enlisting family and friends in preparing dose packs. Her husband Ray and their son John came along on the next trip in 2000, and the entire family has been involved in a myriad of ways ever since.

Star works all year getting the pharmacy stocked and ready for Zambia Medical Mission. She coordinates with medical mission doctors and ZMM administrators to prepare the pharmaceutical list, and then she goes to work raising funds and procuring the pills, capsules, ointments, injections, vitamins, and all the other drugs that will be needed by the over 12,000 – 15,000 people who are treated every year on the medical mission. Companies,



The amazing manager behind all this efficiency and effectiveness is Star Ferguson, a long-

■ *Continued on Page 2*

INSIDE



New Namwianga Leader



Harding President Visits Namwianga



Sponsorship Success Story

The Path of a Pill



Medicine purchased in the US is shipped by container from Abilene to Zambia



ZMM team members prepare dose packs at Namwianga



Medicine is loaded onto flatbed truck for ZMM clinics



Patient sees ZMM doctor at clinic site and receives prescription



Prescription is handed in at the front of the bus

■ Continued from Page 1

charities, individuals, churches, and school groups donate the \$80,000 needed for the medicines. Because she works with international aid organizations and James McCoy's community pharmacy in Abilene, Star estimates that she is able to stretch the donations to provide medicines that are worth more than \$160,000.

Star and her ZMM pharmacy team have developed some great innovations that make the pharmacy work more efficiently. They use red plastic trunks (footlockers) for shipping and storing pills: "The footlockers keep the medicine secure and clean, and they're easy to load and stack on the backs of open trucks for the trip out into the bush," Star notes. The pharmacy uses only red trunks, so they are easy to spot and keep separate from other ZMM ministry supplies.



Another innovation is "Pills on Wheels," the yellow school bus that now houses most of the pharmacy. Patients hand their prescriptions in at the front of the bus. A ZMM team worker goes down the bus aisle pulling the needed prescriptions from the trunks, and the prescriptions are handed out at the back of the bus where a nurse gives instructions to the patients. A nearby canopy tent is set up for special needs like liquid suspensions.

Star says her greatest challenge in the ZMM pharmacy work is not being able to help every physical need of the patients who come to the clinics: "There are certain conditions that we just cannot treat in these circumstances with limited resources, and that's hard for me to accept."

Star says her greatest challenge in the ZMM pharmacy work is not being able to help every physical need of the patients who come to the clinics: "There are certain conditions that we just cannot treat in these circumstances with limited resources, and that's hard for me to accept."

The entire Ferguson family is deeply involved in the medical mission work. Star's husband Ray has served since 2005 as Director of the ZMM clinics. Son John made several trips with ZMM and worked in dental, kitchen, and children's ministry as well as pharmacy. Rebekah was just 15 when she made her first trip to Zambia, but her experiences on medical mission trips helped her choose a career in medicine, and now Dr. Rebekah Duke is a pharmacist. Star has also involved her parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, and a host of other individuals in helping her sort medicines and pack pills for Zambia, and several family members have gone with her to Zambia. "Experiencing the medical mission with my husband, son, daughter, son-in-law, and parents has been the most rewarding part of this work," says Star. "It has been great to see the ripple effect of our experiences and how they have influenced our spiritual lives."



ZMM worker fills prescription on the bus



Patient receives prescription and instructions at the back of the bus

Kaliyangile Is New Field Superintendent



Itone Kaliyangile is new to his position as Field Superintendent, but he has a long history at Namwianga Mission. After attending high school at Namwianga, Kaliyangile moved to the US and earned his degree in mathematics from Abilene Christian University in 1993. He served at

George Benson Christian College as a lecturer in math and computers until being tapped for the position of college administrator (Principal) in 2008.

In 2010 Kaliyangile was hired by the government of Zambia to be a member of the Police and Prison Service Commission in the capital city of Lusaka. There he was in charge of the promotion and discipline of police and prison officers. When his term in government ended

in 2013, Kaliyangile moved back to Namwianga and continued his teaching career.

Two years ago Kaliyangile once again took over as Principal of GBCC and began working toward his MBA in Leadership and Sustainability through the University of Cumbria in the UK. In April he was chosen to fill the Field Superintendent's role when Interim Superintendent Thomas Siafwiyo stepped down after capably leading Namwianga for over a year. Siafwiyo compares the transition to Moses and Joshua in the book of Exodus: ***"Moses led for his time because he knew there was a Joshua to pick up the task. I was happy to serve because I too knew that God would provide a Joshua for Namwianga. That man is Itone Kaliyangile."***

Kaliyangile is excited about serving an organization that he has been part of for over 30 years. ***"There are challenges ahead," he says, "but I count this job as a calling."***

Harding President Visits Namwianga

"I feel like I'm coming home to a place I've never been before." Those were the words Dr. Bruce McLarty, President of Harding University, used to describe his



time at Namwianga Mission in June. McLarty and his wife Ann spent a week visiting the Harding speech pathology program (HIZ Path) and exploring the various ministries

at Namwianga. McLarty taught classes, preached in chapel, met with administrators and staff, took a history



tour with missionary Roy Merritt, and even observed cattle operations at Namwianga Farm. He and Ann also spent time at The Haven, Namwianga's in-home orphan care ministry.

McLarty had heard about Namwianga during his days as a Harding student, and he had also done a graduate level study of early Namwianga missionary Dow Merritt. Harding University currently has three programs that send American students to Namwianga: HIZ - Harding in Zambia (study abroad), HIZ Path (speech pathology), and HUPT (physical therapy).

In Memory



Kenneth Elder, longtime missionary in Zambia, died March 1 at the age of 95. After serving and being wounded in WWII, Ken attended Harding College. He married Iris Merritt, daughter of missionary Dow Merritt

and sister to Roy Merritt. The Elders began mission work in Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) in 1949 and continued until 1979, serving at both Namwianga Mission and Kabanga Mission. Ken Elder is survived by his wife Iris and five children. An infant son died while they were in Zambia and is buried at Namwianga.

Sponsorship Success Story



Seby Siabaswi first came to Namwianga in 2008 as a tenth grade sponsored student. When he completed high school in 2010, he earned the highest possible score on the government exit exam and earned a scholarship to Copperbelt University to study engineering. However, even

a scholarship doesn't help those who have no way to pay for living expenses and incidentals, and Siabaswi's family could not provide any support for him. His US sponsor agreed to continue helping him, and he began his studies at Copperbelt in 2012.

Siabaswi graduated this year with a degree in civil engineering and a specialty in construction management.

His dissertation project assessed groundwater quality in a compound near Kitwe, Zambia, and was chosen best in his class.

Although he was offered jobs in the private sector after graduation, Siabaswi chose to honor his commitment to Namwianga and has returned to work at the Mission. His new title is Project Manager, and his main responsibility will be water management and overseeing water and construction projects.

The 24-year-old Siabaswi is delighted to be back at Namwianga: "I could not have managed to get my education if it wasn't for sponsorship. The people at Namwianga have had confidence in me, and I really want to work to improve our Mission."

Sponsorship builds leaders and changes lives. Learn more at www.zambiamission.org/sponsorastudent.



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