

Revealing Jesus through
EDUCATION, HUMANITARIAN SERVICE & CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Namwianga's Health Center Serves Community



When Annie Mwakiposa's grandson was sick with a fever, she carried him in her arms to Namwianga Zonal Health Center. She had to figure out a way to travel the four miles from her home in Kalomo. She has no car, so she has to catch a ride or walk. That day, she walked. And as she traveled to Namwianga, she passed the Kalomo Hospital, a government facility that provides inpatient and outpatient care to the community.



Mrs. Mwakiposa was asked why she came to NZHC when the Kalomo Hospital is so much closer to her home. Without hesitation, she poured out her praise for Namwianga's center: "They are good people. They care a lot. Whatever you tell them, they will give you the medicine accordingly. Even the environment of this place is clean. The people who are here, they are good people. I can feel the Spirit (of Jesus)."

Her response does not surprise NZHC Administrator Shepherd Mbumwae. He is proud of the job his committed staff is doing in treating and caring for patients. "We treat 1500 outpatients every month," said Mbumwae. "We have set out to be a first-level hospital. We are faith-based, so we want staff members who are disciplined and hardworking, and that is what we have here."

The NZHC was recently selected as a Center of Excellence by USAID and the Churches Hospital Association of Zambia. The Center also was recognized by the Zambia Ministry of Health for its quality efforts in infection prevention and mother-child health. "We do deliveries," Mbumwae noted, "and we have never lost a child in our deliveries." Cleanliness is a challenge in a rural setting, but Mbumwae lauds the work of his staff: "All the way from the nurses to the cleaners (custodians), we work as a team. They keep our center very clean."



Namwianga's health center has earned praise for its new surgery theater. Dr. Namani Moonze performs cataract surgery there each July, and he calls it one of the best theaters in Zambia.

The excellent treatment and caring staff members will keep people like Annie Mwakipose coming to NZHC.

Read more at

www.zambiamission.org/hospital/

INSIDE



From Hollywood to Namwianga



Sponsor Needed



New Construction

Raise the Roof



Generous donors helped to “Raise the Roof” at Namwianga Christian Secondary School. Zambia Mission Fund used its Facebook page in November and December

to highlight the need for a new roof on a girls’ dorm. The promotion was part of Giving Tuesday, a day designated by social media to encourage donating to worthy causes.

Photos of the current dorm roof and posts about the importance of educating young women seemed to touch the hearts of many readers. To date \$13,000 has been raised—enough to put a new roof on the girls’ dorm plus half the amount needed to install a new ceiling. Construction will begin as soon as the current school term ends in April. If you would like to help Raise the Roof, you can donate online at www.zambiamission.org/raisetherooft/.

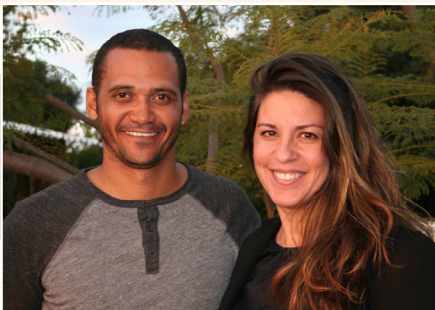
Sponsorship



What would you do to go to college?

Samora Chibomba is willing to do whatever it takes. He borrowed a bicycle and rode six hours to get started at George Benson Christian College. He tied a goat to the back of the bike and brought it with him, hoping to sell the goat and use the money to buy school supplies.

The US Sponsorship Program supports students like Samora, providing the funds they need to attend high school or college. If you are interested in sponsoring Samora or one of the other students in the sponsorship program, you can learn more or donate online at www.zambiamission.org/sponsorastudent/.



From Hollywood to Namwianga

The road to Namwianga Mission’s Eric’s House in Kalomo, Zambia was an unusual one for Jason and Cintia Kumalo. Just a few years ago they were living in Hollywood. Jason was an assistant director and Cintia was a makeup artist. Their respective 16-18 hour workdays were spent on movie sets or out-of-town location shoots, working with Hollywood’s makers and shakers.

It seemed like the life they wanted. But in 2012 their daughter Marisa was born. Suddenly those long workdays and time away from each other and their daughter didn’t make sense.

As they considered their options, Jason and Cintia contemplated a move back to Victoria, British Columbia. Cintia had grown up there after emigrating with her parents from Mexico when she was 8 years old. Jason had come to Victoria from Zambia to attend high school, the high school where Cintia and Jason first met. And Victoria is where they later married. Canada seemed like it might be the place for the family life they wanted. But then the phone rang.

Jason heard his mother’s request. “Could you come to Zambia and be the house parents at Eric’s House? Just for a year?” Kathi Merritt pleaded. Kathi and husband Roy

oversee the in-home orphan care at Namwianga Mission and had themselves been house parents at Eric’s House for many years. But they had retired from that role, and the replacement house parents had lasted only a year before calling it quits.

Jason and Cintia mulled it over, prayed hard and decided to take on the challenge. They had some savings they could live on for a while. Within a month they sold their belongings, said their goodbyes to Hollywood and were on their way to a new life in Zambia.

For Jason, the move to Zambia was a return to his roots. He was born at Namwianga and lived there until he went to Canada for high school. His mother Kathi began caring for orphans when Jason was young, and by the time she married Roy Merritt in 1993, she was raising six children in addition to Jason and his brother Andrew. Over the next 20 years Jason returned for only a few weeks at a time, but the move still felt like a return to a familiar place.

Eric’s House was originally established in 1996 to care for boys who had been living on the streets of Livingstone, about 80 miles away. As the years passed, most of the original street boys moved on and were replaced by orphans

New Construction

Namwianga Zonal Health Center needs housing for its medical personnel. The community has pitched in to help build a new staff house by donating sand, rocks and handmade bricks. Area commercial farmers offered their tractors and trailers to haul the donated goods to Namwianga.



Zambia Medical Mission Director Ellie Hamby notes that the area's Chief has been influential in the effort: "Chief Sipatunyana encouraged all the people in the area to do their part to help Namwianga serve the people. There has been a tremendous response from the community. It shows how important NZHC is to them."

PTA Donates Vehicle

In November the Executive Committee of the Namwianga Christian Secondary School PTA presented the school with a Toyota minivan. PTA Chairman Maxwell Mwiinga said the PTA donated the vehicle to transport pupils to and from Namwianga Zonal Health Center. Head teacher Marton Sinyama thanked the committee and said the minivan will help students receive treatment quicker and will be especially helpful for night time clinic visits.



NZHC serves the medical needs of the students who live in the dorms at Namwianga Christian Secondary School. The health center is only a mile from the school. But that mile is a long way to walk if you're sick. And, for safety reasons, students who get sick in the night must have someone drive them to the clinic.



and abandoned children. While the Merritts lived in Eric's House, they had four girls in the mix, but when they retired and moved into a house next door, Eric's House became an all-male domain and is still all-male—well, except for Cintia, Marisa and now 2-year-old Arya.

Jason says that the organizational and planning tasks he performed in the film industry were great training for the kinds of projects he does now with the boys at Eric's House. Donations from individuals and churches provide most of the operating expenses for Eric's House and the three other in-home orphan care homes at Namwianga. But Jason and Cintia have developed projects to add to the financial resources. "Our goal is to do as much for ourselves as we can," Jason said. With that goal in mind, they started a garden project to involve the boys in providing food for the orphan care homes. In just one year the gardens were producing enough to feed all the homes with extra to sell.

Pigs were the next food-generating project for Eric's House, followed by poultry. Broilers, layers and a few ducks provide meat and eggs for the huge appetites of the boys. The boys are involved in every aspect of the farming project, spending Saturdays and school holidays working in the gardens and tending the animals.



Jason and Cintia also spend many hours trying to meet the academic, spiritual and emotional needs of the boys in their care. Jason leads worship at the Namwianga congregation and involves many of the Eric's House boys in that. Cintia tries to make sure that each boy is getting the academic services he needs, including volunteer tutors. The boys' support does not end after high school. Cintia finds job training or college opportunities so that they will have a way to support themselves. And Jason and Cintia spend hours counseling and advising the boys in their care.

Five years after leaving Hollywood for the African bush, Jason and Cintia have found the life they want. The rewards are great, but the financial challenges are also great. As Jason puts it, "Ours is a riches to rags story." Their savings lasted a little more than a year. Since then they have relied on donations and some independent video contracting work Jason does. They would welcome a congregation or individuals to provide significant support for their family. The challenge of financially helping the boys in their care is also great. High school is not free in Zambia, and college tuition and job training programs are expensive. If you would like to help support Jason and Cintia or one of the boys in their care, please visit www.zambiamission.org/missionaries/ or www.zambiamission.org/orphancare/.



**Zambia Mission Fund
FRIENDS OF NAMWIANGA DINNER**

NAMWIANGA'S HISTORY

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY

ROY MERRITT

MISSIONARY * AUTHOR * ELDER

**FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018
6:30 P.M.**

HARDING UNIVERSITY

CONE CHAPEL
SEARCY, ARKANSAS

- *The Dinner is FREE* -

RSVP AT www.zambiamission.org/events
OR 800-993-3461

Weekend Outreach

Sponsored students at George Benson Christian College attend special training sessions to prepare them for evangelism and church planting. For students in their final year of college, the training culminated in a three-day outreach in November. Forty-eight students were sent in small groups to minister in six villages. Students went house-to-house conducting Bible studies and inviting community members to special church services.



Student Hawkings Sibulinjase summed up his experience: "The outreach helped to expose and prepare us for various situations we will be meeting. . . . I am equipped to be a good worker in the church when I graduate. I feel I can be sent to any part of the country and I will be able to start a church."



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