

### KALOMO REPORTER NEWSLETTER

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# Revealing Jesus through EDUCATION, HUMANITARIAN SERVICE & CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

## Namwianga Christian Radio Touches Lives



It was a program on Namwangia Christian Radio (NCR) that saved a broken marriage. Thomas (not his real name) heard

a live broadcast by station manager Bruce Munsaka. The Biblical message touched the recently divorced Thomas. He called the radio station and requested a visit from Munsaka. Through counseling and Bible study with Munsaka, Thomas realized that he and his wife should reconcile. She agreed and the two are now actively involved in a Kalomo congregation as a united family.



Munsaka tells this story to illustrate how NCR fulfills the statement on the station's entrance sign that reads "Vision: to win souls to Jesus Christ." Namwianga's radio station has the strongest signal and the widest broadcast radius of any radio station in Zambia. "The potential for reaching out with the gospel," Munsaka says, "is huge."

The first program of the day is a short sermon at 5:00 a.m. Until the closing sermon and prayer at midnight, listeners tune in to hear news, music,

Bible readings, sermons, and informational programs on education, agriculture, and health. NCR is licensed as a community radio station, and the community is deeply involved in programming. Local police officers use the radio station to explain traffic laws and encourage safety. Community events are announced, and families use the station to pass on information about funerals and reunions. Churches promote their events, and community organizations offer invitations to meetings and programs through announcements on NCR.

NCR uses local talent when possible. Students in Namwianga's Christian Leadership Development program preach on the radio. George Benson Christian College students broadcast shows and sometimes run the station. Mission employees from the clinic, schools, and spiritual departments speak or host programs. Namwianga high school students participate in a quiz program, and college students share their views on a show called "Spit It Out." *Continued on next page* 



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Follow-up calls from listeners are not unusual. Tebbia Kambulu, a nurse at Namwianga Zonal Health Center, used one of the radio station's programs to explain the health dangers of some traditional marriage practices. Calls came in from three "headmen" who lead nearby villages. After additional education and conversations with Mrs. Kambulu, the headmen became advocates for change, encouraging their villagers to abandon the harmful traditional practices.

The radio station's lineup of programs appeals to all ages and life stages. "Let the Children Learn" broadcasts in the Chitonga language and features local teachers who share educational tips. The "Women in Development" program uses local speakers to teach young girls how to grow up and live a Christian life. Older women and mothers provide instruction to young mothers on how to take care of their homes according to Biblical values. The "Men in Development" program features older Christian men who explain how to be leaders in the home, church, and community. And "Inside the Mission" highlights various Namwianga Mission ministries and activities.

Until recently the station was limited to studio broadcasts. That changed when station employee Max Munkombwe

found a way to do live shows using his personal smart phone. In June a teacher took the phone along on a student outreach to broadcast the sermon from a village congregation. School programs, church lectureships, and hospital events can now be heard live on NCR.



Radio station director Robby Banda believes the radio station changes people's lives, provides education on important life topics, and informs them about what is going on in their community. "Good things are happening," says Banda. "The radio station is effective in touching people's lives."

Namwianga Christian Radio requires \$1,200 per month for operating expenses and needs one-time funding of \$14,000 for equipment upgrades. If these funds are not raised in the near future, the radio station will be unable to continue the good work of winning souls to Jesus Christ. Contact Zambia Mission Fund Board Chairman Klay Bartee (325-280-9757 or kbartee@harding.edu) if you are interested in touching lives through the radio ministry.

# Namwianga Reunion



Organizer Loreta Peikin called the Namwianga Reunion at Harding University "a room of witnesses." Peikin and her sister Lola Berryhill, daughters of missionary Orville Brittell, invited former and current missionaries and family members of missionaries to gather on March 31 and April 1 in Harding's Cone Chapel for a time of renewing friendships and remembering experiences at Namwianga Mission. The 111 who attended included family members representing many of the early missionaries. Other reunion attendees taught at Namwianga's school, served as missionaries, or spent part or all of their childhoods at Namwianga Mission with missionary parents.



The reunion celebrated God's work at Namwianga Mission and honored those who worked there. At Saturday night's reunion dinner, Roy and Kathi Merritt were recognized for their service at Namwianga Mission. Roy's work spans 50 years (1968 – 2018).

Roy's sister Iris Merritt Elder, 96, was the oldest in attendance. She is the last living member of the first American missionary team that arrived in Zambia in 1926. Elder served in the mission field many years and was instrumental in translating the Bible into the Chitonga language.



Jim Pinegar had kept few ties to Namwianga since teaching there in the late sixties. He renewed friendships and relived memories at the reunion, and he also learned that he has a namesake at Namwianga. Mission employee Pinegar Muuka was born soon after Jim transported Muuka's mother to the hospital in his vehicle, and she named her son after him. Jim and his namesake Pinegar are now friends on Facebook.

John Reese, President of World Bible School, called the reunion "an occasion that brought together many of us who had not seen each other in years—a great 'family reunion.' Common elements included our love for the Lord's mission and Namwianga's unique role in that mission."



### Healing Hands International Visits Namwianga

In June Namwianga Mission welcomed Cindy Herring and Ashley Reeves from Healing Hands International (HHI). For several years Healing Hands has partnered with Zambia Mission Fund in drilling water wells, teaching drip irrigation, providing medical equipment and supplies, and distributing M.A.G.I. boxes to children.

Herring and Reeves came to see the work at Namwianga and to plan future projects. They toured Namwianga Zonal Health Center to see the ophthalmic microscope donated by HHI for the surgery theater and spent time at The Haven learning about Namwianga's in-home orphan care. They also visited a community garden that uses drip irrigation, a result of training and equipment donated by HHI. And they visited schools to distribute M.A.G.I. boxes filled with toys, school supplies, clothing, and candy to delighted children.

"From the moment we stepped off the plane, we found a family in our partners, Zambia Mission Fund," said Herring, director of the M.A.G.I. Project. Reeves added, "It's been so rewarding to see the items that were donated (by Healing Hands) being put to such wonderful use."







### **GBCC Grads Praised**



Zambia Mission Fund board members Ken Hobby (left) and Bill Baker (second from right) were joined by Baker's friends John and Lesa Smith in June for a two-week trip through northern Zambia. Their purpose was to visit graduates of George Benson Christian College (GBCC) who are teaching in local schools and planting churches. The group made up to three stops a day, either at a school or a gathering place where the GBCC grads came to meet them. They talked to 40 graduates. Hobby estimated that GBCC graduates have planted more than 250 congregations since 2000.

The American travelers also met with several head teachers who supervise the GBCC teachers and with village "headmen" who lead their communities. All encouraged GBCC to send more graduates to their schools. Hobby said the leaders told him GBCC grads "do their jobs, work hard, and they behave themselves."

Contact Zambia Mission Fund at **800-993-3461** or go to **www.zambiamission.org/sponsorastudent** to learn more about sponsoring a GBCC student.

### **New Roofs**

The "Raise the Roof" project has raised \$46,000 to fund new roofs at Namwianga Mission. Work began on roofs at Namwianga Christian Secondary School as soon as students left for the term break on April 27. Project manager Sebby Siabaswi had three crews at work, and in three weeks there were new roofs on three buildings: a girls' dorm, a boys' dorm, and the high school kitchen. In late June construction began on a new roof for a men's dorm at George Benson Christian College.

At a June 14 dedication ceremony for the new roof for the girls' dorm, administrators and dorm residents expressed appreciation and acknowledged the generosity of donors. Funding is still needed for new roofs on college and high school classrooms. Find out more and donate online at www.zambiamission.org/raisetheroof/.



### Bicycle Evangelists Train and Plan for Growth

The fast-growing Bicycle Evangelism program sends volunteers into new areas to plant congregations. Namwianga's Evangelism and Spiritual Growth (ESG) team hosts training sessions for the bicycle evangelists three times each year. The recent conference on June 13 and 14 featured classes on church planting and evangelism, along with sessions for planning and reporting. The 70-plus evangelists reported that 20 new congregations have been planted since 2014.



The June conference included the first-ever female participants. Vainess Moonga and Elinah Mazala heard about the workshop from the bicycle evangelists in their area. The two grandmothers have been walking as far as 35 kilometers

to teach and encourage other women. "The book of Titus tells the older women to go and teach younger women to respect their husbands and love their children, and that's what we do," said Moonga.

Moonga and Mazala reported that the male evangelists welcomed them at the seminar. "We have enjoyed this very much," said Moonga. "The lessons are very powerful."



Rodgers Namuswa leads Namwianga's Evangelism and Spiritual Growth team. He assured Moonga and Mazala that they would receive bicycles soon so that they can expand their ministry to more women. Namuswa noted that a benefit of the bicycle evangelism program is the networking that brings new workers like Moonga and Mazala into contact with others who are spreading the gospel.

Visit www.zambiamission.org/bicycleevangelist/ to find out more about the bicycle evangelism program.







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