

ZAMBIA MEDICAL MISSION

By Shelli Starkey

Over sixteen thousand of God's children were treated during ZMM this July. Each and everyone of them had a story...a personal story...a need, a hope. It is easy to look out at the masses that gather for the clinics and be overwhelmed by the obvious physical suffering we can see evidenced on the bodies of those who come. And we are compelled to help! But I've often tried to imagine what the spirits living inside these bodies would look like if we could see them. What "*spiritual* wounds" would make us want to turn our eyes? How many souls would appear drawn and gaunt from *spiritual* starvation?

Eness Simulambo had to borrow clothing that would adequately cover her, in order to bring her children to the clinic at Simalundu. After the children had seen the doctors, she sat down in our spiritual counseling area. Their bodies showed evidence of an abusive, neglectful husband and father...broken, twisted fingers, swollen bellies, bruises and a scar next to the baby's eye—from a whip that was used on his mother while he was in her arms. With a voice that was so soft and weak, yet screaming with hopelessness, in Tonga, she shared her 'personal story' with us. My dear friend and interpreter, Georgina, looked at me and asked..."what encouragement can you offer?" How utterly useless I felt at that moment! What could I possibly offer that would not seem trite? What could I offer that would be of real, tangible help? After stammering through a few futile suggestions for some temporal answers, it occurred to me that God had given me an opportunity to "see a spirit," and offer **HIS personal** promise of love, healing and hope! So, Eness learned that day, that there is such a thing as a perfect union—Christ and The Church. And she learned that there is a perfect Father who would withhold no good thing from His children. Eness gratefully welcomed this knowledge and was personally welcomed into the kingdom on July 15, 2009.

Memorable Moments—2009 Zambia Medical Mission

By Star Ferguson

Physical Healing and Spiritual Hope

A Zambian man hobbled to the bush clinic at Kanchindu. His knees were swollen from years of hard, manual labor, trying to farm infertile, dry, rocky soil. He received pain relievers from the doctors and vitamins in the pharmacy. He accepted the prayers and spiritual counseling offered to him. After Bible Study with the spiritual leaders, he decided to be baptized. When asked if he was seeking spiritual healing or physical healing, he replied, "My knees are so painful and might cause me to die. But whether my knees are healed or not, I must know where my soul will be."

Making It Special

Included on the 2009 Zambia Medical Mission team were two pharmacists, one pharmacy student and a pharmacy intern. During the medical mission, special prescriptions were needed to appropriately treat a patient. The two pharmacists were very knowledgeable in compounding medicines, and when one patient needed an antiviral topical ointment for his lip, the pharmacist gave instructions to the intern on how to make this with the few ingredients there were in the very rural setting. Using a handheld lighter, the pharmacy intern melted the balm out of its tube and poured the contents into a mortar and pestle. She then opened the acyclovir capsules, mixed them into the balm and put both ingredients back into the lip balm container. After the balm had hardened, the patient was able to stop the spread of the infection on his lip. Other prescriptions made especially for patients included suspensions for infants and liquid antihistamines for children.

God at Work

- through the day of dignity given to each patient
- physical healing for Zambian patients and team members during the 2 week marathon of clinics filled with all kinds of illnesses and diseases
- servant hearts as medical doctors volunteered to serve the evening meal to other team members
- 2 Zambian babies born in the winter, 7 hours from any clinic or hospital, with only a midwife to aid in the birthing
- 99 baptisms of men and women who chose hope, rather than witchcraft
- through the exhausting situations to bring humility and compassion my focus
- 50 wheel chairs assembled and delivered to the destitute including a man with elephantitis, a 12 year old suffering from seizures and mental challenges, an old woman who just couldn't walk one more step
- the gift of vision from donated eye glasses given to Zambians who had never been able to see past the end of their arm.
- a cup of water shared at the village well as a child pumped water for an old woman carrying a large bucket.

Zambia Medical Mission 2009

Medical	Dental	Optical	Totals	Baptisms
11,572	1,800	3,051	16,423	99



Chikwa Simambo in front of home

The people of Simalundu Village are the displaced people of the Gwembe Valley. In the 1950's Kariba Dam, a hydroelectric dam in the Kariba Gorge of the Zambezi River basin was built. It is one of the largest dams in the world at 128 meters high and 579 meters long. The creation of the reservoir forced resettlement of about 57,000 Tonga people living along the Zambezi in both Zambia and Zimbabwe. Several thousand large animals threatened by the rising water were rescued by Operation Noah, but the people resettled for the project had no such "rescue" effort, and were forced to leave their homes and fertile lands that had been under cultivation for hundreds of years. The reservoir flooded the communities where for centuries these people had farmed, fished, worshipped, raised their children and buried their dead. They were resettled to poor lands with no development assistance, and left to fend for themselves. According to anthropologist Thayer Scudder, who has studied these communities since the late 1950s, "Today, most are still 'development refugees.' Many live in less-productive, problem-prone areas, some of which have been so seriously degraded within the last generation that they resemble lands on the edge of the Sahara Desert. Kariba remains the worst dam-resettlement disaster in African history.

In 2003, we conducted a medical mission to Simalundu Village and the situation of the people had not changed significantly since their relocation. While there, Chikwa Simambo walked to the clinic to receive medical care. He received the care and then was asked if he wanted to learn about Jesus. Chikwa was very interested and after a Bible study, he was baptized leaving his Animistic beliefs behind and now trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. In July of this year, we returned to Simalundu to conduct another medical mission clinic. One of our first patients was Chikwa Simambo. He was brought in a makeshift wooden cart pulled by two oxen. Chikwa started having significant health problems a few months ago and lost his ability to walk. When the local church leader saw Chikwa he told us the story of his being baptized in 2003 and how he has been faithful to attend church and is now one of the church leaders at the local congregation. We were very pleased to be able to give Chikwa a new wheelchair. Now he can move about on his own and no longer has to be pulled in a cart behind oxen. He kept saying how happy he was to have received this wheelchair and that it was going to make his life and the lives of those living with him so much easier. He and his family still struggle to survive in this barren land around Simalundu but a bit of joy came into their lives through the gift of the wheelchair.



Chikwa Simambo receiving wheelchair and medical care.