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Subject: Picture 

2 August, 2010

Dear Friends,

This letter is a quick update on the work here in Lusaka and Zambia. I will keep my remarks brief. Last Monday we began our week's work by going to a village some 5 hours from Lusaka named Tesh Tesh (American phonetic spelling). We were planning to leave early Monday morning but the supply store where we were scheduled to get camping supplies was closed due to computer failure. By the time we tracked down our supplies it was noon. We left town and traveled over extremely rough roads and discovered upon arrival that our diesel supply can in the back of the truck had overturned pouring diesel on all but one of our sleeping bags making them unusable. When we arrived at Tesh Tesh it was near dark. We rigged up the generator and strung some makeshift lights for that evening's service. We made a quick meal of PBJ and lunchmeat (one of our bread loaves had the distinct smell and taste of fuel) and then set up our tent. We then had our evening service where Duane and I both preached for about 45 minutes each. By the time services were over it was late. We wanted to go to bed but we had only one sleeping bag – obviously not big enough for me, Brooks and Duane to all fit into. Duane is a big guy!!!! Fortunately one of the sisters in the church had a couple of old blankets and we spread them out on the hard tent floor and used our coats as cover. We slept fairly well. The next day we had another early service and left by early afternoon to head home. We arrived home about 9 PM tired and very dirty. There are no facilities in the bush for washing, cleaning, etc. I love it!!!! Keeping clean is out of the question anyway. My navy dress pants were brown. Khaki is actually the best for bush travel.

The next day, Wednesday, we were scheduled to go out again to the village. However, we were informed that while we were gone on Tuesday the immigration officials had come to see Duane. We are not sure what standard protocol is here for government visits but two armed men with shackles showed up. Since we were not here word was given that Duane must appear at the immigration office at 8 AM sharp. Apparently Duane had been reported by the leaders of one of the "rogue" congregations as being a trouble maker and who knows what else. This particular congregation was

one of the first established and has tried for years to become the headquarters for the church here in Zambia. Naturally we believe that each congregation is autonomous and Duane has been teaching this frequently. When the leaders of this particular group finally realized that Duane was not going to make them the headquarters for the church they have since done everything possible to sabotage the work. To make a long story short for two days we were all on pins and needles as to what would happen. We thought he was being deported which was a very real possibility. The kids Duane keeps were terrified and a dark cloud hung over everyone. African preachers began to arrive to support Duane and many prayers were said. After more than one interrogation and several meetings Duane was all but cleared of the charges (whatever they were we are still unsure). After the officials realized that Duane was innocent they became very friendly and told him to "*go preach and baptize as many people as he could.*" Yes the immigration official told him this! Here religious leaders and preachers are still respected. I believe this helped our situation. However, the problem is still not completely over . . . As more paper work has to be filled out and filed by government officials up the chain of command. However, Duane does have his passport back and has been assured he is not going to be deported. Deportation is always a risk when someone complains. This is not America. Here you are guilty until proven innocent.

Later last week we did make it to the bush for some day trips but the truck threw a wheel bearing and we are still waiting a part. We will hopefully be able to leave tomorrow and travel south for more camping and preaching.

Richard Bunner is in route as we speak. He was supposed to have arrived tonight but his flight was delayed in Atlanta due to weather and he missed his overseas flight. We are not sure where he is but we anticipate that he will spend the night in South Africa and then come in when he can get a flight to Lusaka.

As with Russia and other countries nothing works well. Electric power generally goes out on a daily basis and we have sporadic email service. This past weekend the electric went out for 24 hours and we resorted to cold showers and cooking on an open campfire in the yard. Beans and Sheema (African porridge) are pretty good camp food.

Well I will close. Next week we begin the actual preacher's study here at Duane's compound. Richard and I will be discussing the Civil Government and the Church as well as the work of an Evangelist and Congregational Autonomy. We anticipate many preachers to attend. The preachers I have met so far have been impressive. They are all very fluent in English and are quite proficient in the scriptures. Duane has done a good job training them. We Americans sometimes have a skewed perspective of third world

countries. These people are every bit as smart as Americans – they just have many more obstacles to overcome to make something of their lives.

One final note. Singing here is very important. Everyone sings!!! Church songs never go without singing every single verse. Folks here are not in a hurry to get out of church. In fact even when services are over there is a continued time of singing etc.

Again I thank you for your support of my travels. I trust we are making a difference for the kingdom of God. Please pray for the work.

Because of Calvary,

Mike

Ps: Brooks is having a ball playing soccer and doing other activities with the African young people. He hasn't missed a beat.