



Special Issue

“Committed to sharing God’s gifts among all peoples of the world”

Africa 2022

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“Come, let us sing
for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to
the Rock
of our salvation.”
~ Psalms 95:1

From the President

Dear Friends,

Joy! If I had to describe this mission trip in just one word, it would be “Joy!”. My heart was filled with joy when I knew I would be returning to my beloved Africa. I loved the look on the faces of the people in the many villages we visited, as they welcomed us with pure joy. They didn’t know us, but they knew we represented the love of Christ.

I don’t know who was more joyful - the villagers who received their eyeglasses or the team members who found just the right pair of prescription glasses or readers. Day after day, despite all their weariness, you could hear the sound of laughter as two cultures came together.

And the children! Their smiles were so delightful, their enthusiasm to sing and dance was so contagious, and their curiosity about the mzungu (white foreigners) made them hard to resist. They loved to touch us and we loved to see their joy.

The team members worked hard every day, traveling for miles on very bumpy, dusty roads to the villages in the bush we visited. They stood for hours and learned a lot about what it is like to live without running water, bathrooms or electricity. But at the end of each day they joyfully shared what they experienced and joined together in praise and worship songs.

We watched the joy on the faces of the women in the Women’s Empowerment Center as we shopped for handcrafted items to take back home. Their joy in being able to support their families was matched by our joy in finding just the right item to bring back memories of our trip.

Finally, we all experienced the joy of worshipping our Almighty God together with other believers from across the globe. The building was full of the Spirit as we prayed and sang and listened to the Word. We truly are joyful brothers and sisters in Christ!

In His Peace,

Carol Fanelli

Carol Fanelli



2022 Zambia Team

WHAT DID WE DO THERE?

YOUNG WOMEN'S HEALTH & HYGIENE

On this trip to Zambia we visited 5 different villages on the outskirts of Lusaka. In each village, we invited a group of 25 young women to learn about cleanliness and care for their body as it matures.

We discussed the transfer of germs and how to prevent the spread of germs. Each woman was given a LuoPack which included supplies needed for their monthly cycle. They were given instructions on how to care for their bodies and the reusable supplies they were given.

The young women were encouraged to ask questions and then go home and start meaningful conversations on this subject with the older women in their lives. Many times we were joined by some of the more mature women who contributed greatly to the conversation.

The ladies were reminded how special they are in the eyes of the Lord and encouraged in their walk with the Lord. An expression of gratitude, whether in clapping, dancing or singing was always a beautiful response from these beautiful women.

LUOPAD SEWING PROJECT

In each of the villages we visited there was at least one person in possession of a treadle sewing machine. Some communities had a few machines and a group worked together to use their skills to make items for the community, such as children's school uniforms.

Our partners explained to these groups we would be teaching women's hygiene and would hold a workshop on how to make the reusable feminine products that were so desperately needed by the young women if there was any interest. The response was awesome!

In this workshop, the tailors, both men and women, learned to sew washable feminine pads called LuoPads. Anywhere from 1 to 25 tailors would gather around a treadle sewing machine as LuoPad instructions were given. Supplies such as flannel, thread, scissors, and towel inserts were provided. Each tailor had excellent sewing skills.

They were very excited to make this useful and much needed product and provide them for the women of their village.

GERMS AND DENTAL HYGIENE

Who knew that talking about germs could be so much fun? But fun we had as we explained to the children in the villages we visited how nasty germs were, and how to prevent catching and sharing them. We used glitter to represent germs and the "germs" were happily spread to all parts of the classrooms!

Next we discussed what happens to your teeth if you don't take care of them. We discussed the types of teeth we have, the parts of each tooth and how cavities can destroy our teeth. Using actual photos we showed what will happen if we choose not to care for our teeth.

We then explained the proper way to keep our teeth clean. Using posters, we showed how important it is to brush our teeth several times a day - and the correct way to brush.

Finally each child was given a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste to take home due to the generosity of our supporters. ***In all we handed out more than 625 brushes and paste!***

Can you just imagine the many smiles at the end of each workshop!

CHILDREN'S SINGING WORKSHOPS

We were privileged to have a retired elementary music teacher on our team - Ruth VanSciver. It didn't take us long to figure out how she could use her talents. This is Ruth's report.

Teaching and singing is my gift of the Holy Spirit. So naturally, when I am in a situation that puts me with children, teaching and singing happen.

My experience with the children in the villages we visited was amazing. For one thing, children in Zambia seem to be just like children in America. Some sang, some talked, some were quiet. The children knew some of the Christian songs that we sang but were eager to listen to stories from the bible and learn songs about those stories.

They had plenty of smiles, energy, and curiosity. My southern accent seemed to amuse the children, but when we were singing and moving our differences disappeared. We shared our love of God through singing, moving and talking about what we knew. An amazing experience with the children!

AND OF COURSE WE HELD VISION CLINICS!

A REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

August 9 - 14, 2022 - Eight Vision Clinics Held - 819 People Screened

926 Eyeglasses Distributed including: 380 for Distance + 546 for Reading



Learning About
Dental Hygiene
and
Excitement Over
Toothbrushes



Left: Singing Praises
for Their Gifts
and
Teaching the Women
to Make LuoPads



Eye Exams
Resulted in
Happy Recipients



Above: Bible Stories
and Singing Songs

FEELING BLESSED - Mary White

I feel blessed and chosen that God allows me to serve on mission teams. Zambia was a beautiful country and the beauty just radiated from the people's faces. The beauty from within shone through in their smiles.

In the villages we visited, the people have next to nothing but you would never know it - not emotionally and not spiritually. We are the ones that come back blessed.

When I do these mission trips it amazes me how much I learn about Christianity. Our faith here in the United States cannot compare to theirs. They exude their faith - they talk about it, it's on their billboards, and it's in how they react to situations.

These villagers were happy to receive eyeglasses so they could read their Bibles, not books or magazines. I am one of God's spoiled brats and I am absolutely blessed because of this mission trip and the Zambian people.



TRUE CHRISTIANITY - Les Rhoads

I could start out by saying the 20-hour flight was really, really long and the bus ride into the villages every day was on some of the bumpiest roads I have ever been on. But all of that quickly goes to the back of my mind when I think of the people I met on this mission trip. The other team members, our host, hostess and chef, our guides and the translators in every village - these people showed me what true Christianity is all about. They treated people they did not even know with the greatest of respect and kindness.



I loved learning about the Zambian culture. The people were so appreciative of everything we did. Their smiles were truly genuine. The children and youth group we met were so awesome! I also was truly moved at the Zambian Worship Service we attended. The room was full of the Spirit as we joined others in praise and worship of the mighty God we serve. I will never forget that experience. We really are all God's children!

A LIFE CHANGED - Susie DaSilva

This trip to Zambia was my very first mission trip. From the moment we arrived, I was so touched by how friendly and welcoming the people were. During our stay in Zambia, we went to several villages and our main purpose was to provide eyeglasses for the villagers.

I worked in the fitting room with a few others, under the direction of Tom Fanelli and it wasn't an easy job, for sure. At the end of each day, we were so worn out, yet felt so fulfilled. The smiles on the people's faces when they could finally see clearly was so touching and it really tugged at my heart. I was always so excited for them and became well known by my other team members for my "Happy Dance" as we hugged and celebrated. There was usually a pastor in the village and most of the people went to his room after receiving their glasses so they could give thanks to the Lord.

We were also blessed to be able to attend a Zambian church service and what a Spirit filled morning that was.

The service brought me to tears because the people were so full of worship and praise for the Lord and it showed on their faces and how they welcomed us.

The people in these villages are so poor and have nothing as far as material things, but yet are rich in other ways. They love and praise God and are content with what they do have. They find pleasure in the simple things and work very hard to support their families.

In the Bible, God speaks to us many times about caring for the poor. I hope in my short time there I was able to make a difference. I know my life is forever changed for having been on this mission trip. When I left Africa, I left a piece of my heart there.



PASSION - Jackie Woodle

To begin, I was not sure what I felt my expectations of this trip were. I felt “the call” and I went but I did not realize what a large part Christianity plays in this country.

My responsibility in the Vision Clinic was to give out reading glasses. I heard over and over again how much the people wanted to be able to read their Bibles once more. The joy on their faces when they could read was like turning a light on!

I am very impressed with the Zambian people as a whole, but especially the teachers. Some were young but showed great command of what they were accomplishing. I loved working with all of them, but I also loved learning more about their individual stories. I was in awe of their passion.

All of the interpreters were special. They taught me so much about the Zambian culture and language. One of them, Eunice, not only taught me the words, she would also write them on the chalkboard underlining the syllables to show me how to pronounce them properly.

I will never forget this experience!



AN AMAZING MISSION TRIP - Kathy Brohawn

Some of the stand outs on this trip were the Zambian people and their gentle and respectful ways, plus the kindness and compassion from all the Zambian folks connected to the schools and villages we visited.

In particular, there was Eunice, a teacher through and through. We asked her how to say some common words in Nyanja, and she actually wrote on the chalkboard some words and how to pronounce them. When we tried these words out the other teachers and the villagers smiled, but I think they appreciated our efforts! I was truly humbled by the dedication of the teachers who all had large class sizes in small rooms and their only salary is from donations. The children in the schools we visited are very fortunate to have them.

I will always remember the grateful smiles that lit up the faces of the folks that could now read again. I discovered on this trip, while the people have different lives than I do, we are the same in many ways. I met new friends including our group from the US and the lovely people that made us feel at home at the mission house.



GOOD TO BE BACK IN AFRICA - Tom Fanelli

On this mission trip most of our team were first timers. Many of their families worried they would get eaten by lions! We arrived on Sunday and held our first Vision Clinic on Tuesday.

I am always amazed how nervous our new team members are about working at the different stations. My team - Susie, Mary, Ruth and Michael - was assigned to the prescription eyeglass room.

On Tuesday morning everyone was excited but nervous. We fitted the first pair of glasses, followed by the second. And on and on it went until by late Tuesday afternoon it was like working with a group of professionals!

I could see the positive changes in my team as each recipient exclaimed, “I can see! What a difference this will make in my life!” You could see the team member’s confidence increase as they realized they really were making a difference in someone’s

life. This was repeated over and over for the next seven days.

Thank you Lord for allowing me to see this happen and to understand if we made a difference to one person it was worth all the effort. It certainly made a huge difference to me and my team!

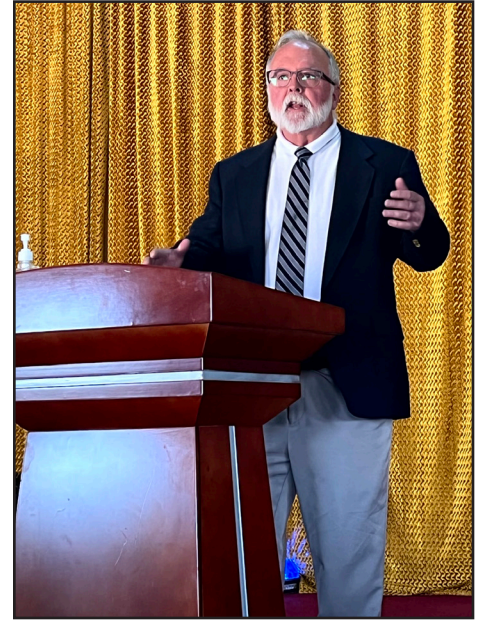


CALLED TO PREACH - *Jim Huntley*

Since this was my first mission trip, I guess it would be hard to say what my expectations were. But, I have several takeaways from the past 2 weeks. I found the people of Zambia to be kind, soft spoken and very appreciative that we came over to help them. I liked talking to the folks who came in to get glasses. It was nice to see the smiles on their faces when we were able to find a pair that helped them. I really liked seeing the children's faces. They seemed fascinated with us, and would jump right in when Ruth got them to start singing. That was probably my favorite part of the trip.

What I didn't anticipate was me preaching a sermon. But as soon as Carol asked me, I knew that I was supposed to preach. Words started pinging around in my head instantly. I've had that happen before when God calls me to speak. I'm looking forward to getting back in touch with the Pastor and his Deacon as I am trying to find some materials to send to them. I'm starting to realize that this was why I was supposed to be there and not just to adjust glasses.

It was a very rewarding experience. It makes me appreciate what we have here. While Zambia, by our standards is poor, the people of Zambia didn't act like they were poor. The folks we met who were there to help us were dedicated to their work and their mission. I came away with a lot of respect for them and I am glad that I got to meet them.



TOUCHED BY SIMILARITIES - *Ruth Van Sciver*

What I liked best about the trip was interacting with the people in the different villages. There were many similarities among the Zambian people and ourselves. Although there were economic differences, the people were doing their best to make their lives better.

I enjoyed watching as some were able to see better with the glasses we provided. Whether it was a little correction, or a lot, the people were very appreciative. I loved seeing the smiles and excitement as each person was helped.

Working with the village children, singing songs and telling bible stories, was another kind of interaction. The Zambian children are very similar to our children because they are so trusting and full of smiles no matter what. We had fun singing and dancing.



GROWING IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY - *Michael Van Sciver*

This trip made me realize just how fortunate and blessed I am. The people I met in the villages were so grateful for our work and the gift of better vision, and for the workshops, that it made me realize that worldly possessions mean very little.

The trip also helped me grow spiritually. Being surrounded by others who were truly loving and giving, helped me reexamine myself and my own spiritual maturity. I am truly blessed, and I feel I have grown spiritually on this trip. I look forward to participating in more mission trips.



ALFMARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL - *Trisha Brighton*

Upon driving up to Alfmary, I felt such a sense of excitement. When we last saw this village, it was a dry field with a church that also served as a school. The only other building had grass walls and a grass thatched roof as well.

With monetary donations from WAGC, they now had access to a borehole (well) very close to the cinder block buildings they had built. Clean water and a school that children are proud to attend has brought miraculous benefits to the community.

Two of the dedicated community members are Pastor Alfred and Catherine, a teacher at the school. These two people are Godly examples of the heart and soul of the village. We first met them in 2019 as we brought a vision clinic to the bush area. They spoke of their many challenges yet had such faith in the Lord that the vision of a borehole and school brought them hope, energy, and determination.

Their gratitude to WAGC was so heartfelt. We were encouraged as we saw the improvements in this village. It was a reminder that God keeps His promises and takes care of those who trust Him!



CHANGED PRIORITIES - *Pam Wiley*



I really had no idea what to expect - this was my first mission trip. I loved watching the kids playing. Now I realize just how much we have compared to the people of Zambia. I pray that whenever I think of myself and want, want, want, I will think of people that have nothing and are happier than I am.



PRODUCING FRUIT THAT LASTS - *Andrew Brighton*

I feel very blessed to have had this opportunity to travel to Zambia. My most amazing experience was seeing the positive changes from my last visit, especially at Alfmary School. Three years ago, I saw two straw “buildings” with nothing else except for a dream and faith in God by Pastor Alfred Banda and his wife, Mary.

Today there is a thriving community school for over 300 children. They now have cinder block buildings, desks, and their own water supply. The community also enables the adults to learn new skills such as sewing and carpentry so that they can support their families. Seeing the joy in the faces of the children and the adults was an unforgettable experience.

I’m amazed how much the leaders, such as Pastor Alfred, have sacrificed to help create hope for people that struggle just to eat one meal per day. The children had no hope of an education or clean water. These leaders and teachers have given up good jobs and living conditions to do this.

I am reminded of Jesus’ parable of the sower and the seed in Luke 8:14-15. This talks about the seed that fell among the thorns. Jesus said these were people who heard His word but life’s worries, entertainment, and material “stuff” choked God’s word. These people do not grow spiritually and do not produce fruit that lasts. This trip showed me how I need to be attentive to my heart and allow the things of this world to grow dim so that my love for Jesus and others can grow and produce the fruit that God desires.

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Hempfield United Methodist Church
Lancaster, PA

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The New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
West Trenton, NJ

WOMEN'S HYGIENE PRODUCTS AND CLIP ON SUNGLASSES

UNTO, a humanitarian aid ministry of CRU, Mount Joy, PA

READING GLASSES AND EXTRA LUGGAGE COSTS

Hempfield United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA

INSTALLATION OF A NEW WELL

Mrs. Ruth Brighton, Chester, PA

ONGOING PROJECTS

THE JOSEPH PROJECT - ALFMARY VILLAGE

Teaching Men Carpentry Skills And Biblical Principles



SEWING & TAILORING - EASTVIEW COMMUNITY

Teaching and Encouraging Small Business Skills



DR. WATSON KAPUTULA - OUR ZAMBIAN TEAMMATE

We are pleased to report that our Vision Clinics do not end once we leave Zambia. Our teammate, Dr. Watson Kaputula, a Zambian Ophthalmologist, is making good use of the prescription and reading glasses we left behind. Along with a team of volunteers from the local Lions Club, he hosts free Vision Clinics in various communities. Dr. Kaputula states, "Watson is feeling satisfied.... working with Lions in providing free eye services to communities. Making friends, changing lives and creating smiles. We are All Gods' Children and let's enjoy life together."

