



Special Issue

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

Africa 2012

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“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

~ Mark 10:45

From the President

Dear Friends,

Once again I return from Africa humbled and amazed. I am not surprised at what God can accomplish – I know He is all powerful. I am, however, still constantly surprised at how He brings the seemingly insignificant things together to accomplish His will. It is amazing to me how He takes cracked and broken people who individually may not be able to accomplish much, and weaves their talents and skills together to bring about His purpose. Our God is an awesome God!

On our recent trip to Zambia we were blessed to be able to accomplish several projects during our two week visit. It is hard to put into words how grateful I am for your constant support and encouragement. Hopefully you understand how important your prayers and financial contributions were to the success of our mission.



Our Vision Team visited six rural villages in the “bush, bush” traveling many miles along hot, dusty roads to places most “mzungu” (white foreigners) don’t often visit. Hundreds of people waited in long lines in the bright sun for a chance to have their eyes examined and possibly receive glasses. Most came because they knew they had a problem. Of the 1,125 villagers examined more than 950 of them received eyeglasses! Some days, however, we returned home heartbroken because we could not get to the end of the line before we had to leave.

We also accomplished more than just the gift of clear sight. We brought hope and the knowledge of a loving Father who answers prayers with servants from across the world. I heard team members say over and over, “Don’t thank me, thank God – He sent us!” And so amidst the laughter and tears God was praised. Almost every person who went through the line took advantage of the Prayer Room that was offered through our visiting chaplain. Oh my, the prayers that were offered!



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Then there were our teachers – three dedicated women who spent their days in school giving the village teachers new tips on how to engage the children in the classroom with their limited meager supplies. A place where 5 students crammed onto benches made for 2 in dark, dirt-floored classrooms. They watched students who could not practice a math problem until their “partner” was finished with their shared pencil. Once again God’s love was made evident as they encouraged the teachers to hold on to their dreams of teaching the children not only head knowledge but that they could grow up to change their world. They brought suitcases full of school supplies and prayed with the teachers daily reminding them of God’s faithfulness.

Every day after school over 250 children crammed into one of those hot, dusty classrooms to hear the story of a Father who loves them with a never-ending, unstoppable love. One who never gets drunk, or beats them, or walks



away from their family. A Father who forgives and loves them so much He sent His Son to die for them. And they soaked it up with their big brown eyes that never wavered from the teachers’ faces. They sang and danced and clapped with joy that they too could have such a Father.

We also brought with us a licensed midwife who met with the women under a mango tree and discussed health issues relevant to the women’s lives. In this culture if you fail 9th grade you are forever banned from school. Daughters, some as young as 12, are then married off to bring a dowry to their families. They talked about the devastating effect of AIDs and ways to prevent it. They talked about the heartbreakingly high infant mortality rate and what the women could do to help keep themselves healthy during



pregnancy. And, yes, you guessed it; they talked about the One who brings life to all.

While all of this was happening, two members of our team oversaw the drilling of a new well, bringing clean, potable water to hundreds of poor villagers. A recent review by a pediatrician on the board of Grassroots Heroes, our counterpart in VA, showed a noticeable improvement in the children’s health after the installation of the well we financed in 2010. This new well situated in a different part of the village will greatly improve not only the health of



the villagers but their lifestyle in general as they will no longer need to walk miles each day carrying heavy jugs of water. Our team also participated in the construction of another first for the village – real brick latrines containing sinks, showers, and toilets! We take these things for granted here in the U.S. but in a rural village such as Grippes this is great news.

While all of this may sound like we accomplished a lot it was only through the grace and strength of our Lord, Jesus, that we were able to touch so many lives. I prayed for volunteers that would work together in harmony with a humble spirit and was blessed with sixteen wonderful team members. From the time we left Lancaster until our return we traveled in safety and made all of our connections. Changes in our itinerary opened new doors for us and we were graciously welcomed wherever we went. God has shown me once again if we follow where He leads we will be blessed beyond compare. It was an honor and a privilege to serve Him and bring His message of hope and salvation to those in need in Zambia.

In His Peace,

Carol Fanelli

Carol Fanelli



WE SHALL NEVER FORGET YOU - Karen Moore

As I sit down to try to put my thoughts on the trip to Zambia on paper the strains of the song that the children sang on our arrival in Grippis begin to softly replay in my ears: “We shall never, never, no we shall never, never forget you...” How true those words are. How can we ever forget the moments that the Lord allowed us to experience that will forever change our lives?

My position on the team was to serve in the capacity of chaplain. Each person was offered the opportunity for prayer after they were fitted with glasses; and much to my surprise, there were very few who did not enter into the prayer room. As I look back, my memories seem to return like a gentle breeze, refreshing me and reminding me of why I went. There were the beautiful, hopeful smiles of the people waiting in line for glasses, then the sheer joy that followed when just the right prescription was found. The gratitude that each person expressed as they left each of the stations while being examined, refracted, fitted and prayed for was intense.

The immediate intimacy that I felt with each person who came for prayer was unusual. It was as if the Lord’s presence broke down all the barriers and we were dear friends sharing our hearts with one another. The requests were not unlike what I hear in America, broken homes, broken marriages, wayward children, unemployment, sickness, aged ones concerned about their future care, heartache, depression, and oppression. After many of the times of prayer there was a moment where we continued



to hold hands, or the person would lean their head on my shoulder as if they were unwilling to leave. I felt that God Himself was ministering His great love and mercy to each one. Truly, it was holy ground.

The fellowship and unity of the team was such a blessing. The servant heart of Vincent and David was amazing as they helped us navigate the differences in culture. The absolute beauty of the country and the people is something that will remain with me forever. The opportunity to end the trip with the safari and observe the majesty of God’s creation up close was breathtaking! I have heard it said many times by others who have gone to Zambia, and how true it is: “You will leave a part of your heart there”...and I did.

MY TRIP TO ZAMBIA - Marilyn Derrico Patterson

I always wanted to go to Africa so when I read about We’re All God’s Children in our Merchandiser paper I thought, “We’re All God’s Children is helping one village. They can’t save the world but they are doing something.” So I talked to Carol, watched the videos on Africa, and signed up for the Zambia trip!

Living in rural Zambia is like going back to the 1900’s: women and children pump water from a well, meals are cooked on an open fire, and there is no indoor plumbing or electricity. They have so little. What can we do?



One of our team members, Dave, contacted his friends and business acquaintances and raised enough money to cover the cost of digging a new well in the village. The first real community bathroom was almost completed before we left. We met the school children and their teachers, shared new teaching methods with them, and also brought them the love of the Savior. The Vision Team was up early nearly every day and traveled on long, dusty roads to reach the people out in the “bush, bush”. Altogether we gave out more than 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses.

What could we do? Well, we couldn’t save the world but we brought hope to many, many individuals. Praise God!

WITH MANY THANKS - *Beth Raudenbush*

I am so blessed to have been able to return to Zambia with We're All God's Children on the 2012 trip. I was able to not only reconnect with many of the great team members that I met on the last trip but also get to know many new friends. My mom, Carolyn, also came along this time which really meant a lot to me. It is amazing to see how all of the team



members, coming from a wide variety of locations across America as well as many different places in their perspective lives, come together for a two week period of time. We bond together and are able to accomplish so much for both the communities in Zambia and ourselves. It is a chance to grow spiritually and culturally through lending a helping hand.

The three teachers in our group were able to help greatly at the local school in Grippis and two of the men in the group helped to build a set of latrines there as well. Also, women's education was offered to those in Grippes and prayers were given up to the Lord all across Zambia at all of the different eye clinics. The eyeglasses team, of which I was a part, was able to help 1125 people in total. The gift of clear vision is easily overlooked in America but now so many children, adults, and elderly can see clearly for the first time.

So many times people said to me that they are so thankful of what we are doing because now they will be able to see to read the Bible. After we returned home the team even received a letter stating that one 60 year old man was so happy that he can now see the rocks in the road because it means that he will no longer trip over them on his bicycle. He was praising God and returned three times to the clinic to inform others in line that he can see. The letter continued on to say that countless children are now able to see their school books without squinting. Lastly, the head headman of the area even said to the woman who wrote the letter "'for years you have told me of the beautiful mountains in the distance' but today I have seen them for the very first time."

It is amazing what is taken for granted every day in America. By being able to go on this trip I was given the chance to once again see God's beauty outside of the westernized world and gain friendships that will last a lifetime. I would just like to say thank you to all those who made this trip possible and to those who made it the great experience that it was.

ZAMBIA: TAKE TWO! - *Tom Fanelli*

"Well, here I go again," I thought as I boarded the bus for Dulles Airport. I did not think I would make it to Zambia the first time but here I was, on my way for "Take Two".

We arrived in Lusaka on a Monday afternoon. What a rush! We had to quickly unpack everything from the bus and get over to the school to meet the children who welcomed us with songs and poems. We then sang to them through our puppet show - a first ever experience for them. Then it was back to our new home away from home to eat, unpack and fall tiredly into bed.

Tuesday we set up for our first eye clinic and before we knew it Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday flew by in a blur of travel, unpack, setup and

examine more and more people in ever longer lines. It was hard to believe it went by so fast. We could not help everyone but we were able to help most of them.



I tried to focus on individuals but it was hard because we saw so many people. Then one afternoon I felt a tug on my elbow and heard, "Sir, sir - thank you very much - I can see and I can read again! God bless you! Thank you!" There stood a woman with a huge smile on her face.

I could write so much more about the people and what happened in Zambia but I think this says it all. I thank you Lord, for the reminder of why I was there. Thank you for slowing me down so I could take it all in.

GOD'S BLESSINGS - Carolyn Raudenbush

When Bethany first suggested that I accompany her on the next African mission trip with We're All God's Children I was interested but not sure how everything would work. This trip, in addition to the eyeglass clinic, three of us would be helping at the Grippis School. Being able to help at the school is the reason Bethany immediately thought of me for this mission trip and it was quickly becoming a reality. I have always loved helping people and especially children. I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to be part of this mission trip. I was able to help the teachers, spread God's word and assist at the eyeglass clinic. During the school hours I taught some lessons and observed the teachers. The observation allowed me to help the teachers by giving them teaching tools to use in their classrooms.

When I first returned I was so overwhelmed that it seemed I had not really achieved anything. The schools are so different from what we have in America. However, a little bit of time gave me the perspective to realize that I was only there a limited time and God was guiding me to give the teachers tools they could use right away in their classrooms. I actually saw these tools being put into action in their lessons and that was very gratifying. In addition to the school time with the children, the teachers were given time after school to teach Bible stories. The children are very excited to hear God's word. It is actually included in their school curriculum! We were able to teach lessons, sing songs, play games, and do crafts. The children were ALWAYS so excited to sing the songs and I know from experience that children remember songs very well. Combining songs into the lessons means they will remember God's words.



I was so blessed to have the two male teachers as my interpreters. They not only interpreted, but modeled the stories and participated in the games. God showed me that Grippis may not have the amenities we are accustomed to, but they have very dedicated teachers that are interested in educating the children so they have a better life in the future. Those same teachers very much appreciated the tools we were sharing with them.

I was extremely fortunate to be able to help a few times with the eye clinics as well. It was so much more complicated than I had imagined, but the joy it brought to the people we were helping far triumphed the amount of work! There was one young man that stands out in my mind. He came as we were finishing up for the day. He was ecstatic he made it in time to be seen and we were able to fit him with glasses. He said the glasses would have cost him several months' wages and he called us all his angels and prayed out loud asking God to guide us on our mission.

God is amazing and if we stop our busy life and take a deep breath we can share His love with others and see all He makes available to us.

I GOT THEM! - Carol Fanelli

"Mum! Mum! I got them – I got the glasses!" I heard with excitement as I trudged tiredly toward the area where the others were packing up our supplies. I turned and watched the gentleman nearly dancing with joy. He had come late in the afternoon – after working and then walking for miles. When he arrived I told him he could join the end of the line but, sadly, with no guarantee we could see him.

The inky black darkness of the African night falls swiftly in the bush where there is no electricity. It was heartbreaking to start to pack up when there were still people in line but with no lights it was imperative that

we had everything packed and on the bus before dusk. That is why I could give him no guarantee that he could be seen, but praise God we were able to examine everyone who came that day.



I smiled to see his joy and to know that he could now see and read again. "Don't thank me," I said. "Thank our heavenly Father who sent us here!" My steps were lighter now as I continued on my way back to the busy team. Some days we could not see everyone and left with heavy hearts but

tonight we would rejoice. We had finished the task – we had come to the end of the line. Praise God!

GOD MADE ME SOMEBODY SPECIAL - Janet Hankee

Mango Grove School, Grippis Farm, Zambia, Africa. For the past 4+ years I have heard many moving stories and have seen riveting photos of the devastating poverty in a small community far away. God stirred the hearts of many people in my church to take action and be a conduit of God's love. I was fascinated and blessed by their stories but it wasn't until I heard that there was a need to teach children as well as work with and encourage the teachers that God moved in my heart to say "yes" to Africa. In preparation for the trip we were encouraged to pray that the Spirit of God would open our hearts to the needs of the people and we would allow God to love them through us, so that God's love would be evident to those around us by our "actions." I also prayed that I would trust Him enough "let go" of my plans and agenda, hear His voice, and follow His will leading. I prayed that I would "get out of the way" - His Way, and be a vessel in His Hands in which to pour out His love and grace to those around me.

I was blessed to be part of the Teacher Team of three, Trisha, Carolyn and myself. We spent each school day at the Mango Grove School helping the teachers in their classes and teaching a FOCUS Bible time at the conclusion of each day. Two hundred sixty five students in grades K - 7 are taught by 8 dedicated teachers. What a thrill that all the students chose to remain after the school day for Bible FOCUS time. Imagine the combined energy of 265 children packed into one large, dirt floored classroom after sitting for school lessons all day!!! Picture the joy and exuberance as they all sang out our theme song, "God Made Me Somebody Special". The song repeats the phrases, "He sees me, He knows me, He hears me, He loves me."

Yes, God was getting His message into the hearts of these precious children, "I love you, you are special to Me.



"You are mine." There were many times throughout the two week period when, amidst all the commotion, energy, heat, and translations from English into their native tongue, that God spoke. His presence moved in like a mighty wave and fell on us. He was saying, "I AM here, let go, I AM moving among my people here. Let it happen, let Me lead and you follow, I AM doing a great thing through these earthen vessels of Mine. Just listen and obey."



One such time was during the lesson of the Prodigal Son. The first story picture card was being shown to the children; the story is about to begin, but God's presence leads to introduce the lesson in a different way- by talking about Fathers. What kind of Father would you want? What would he be like? What are things he would not do? God is your REAL Father, your Heavenly Father. HE

will never beat you, leave you and go away, He will never kick you out or think only about himself, and get drunk. In fact, God, Your Real Heavenly Father loves you so much HE-----"and the story of the prodigal son, rather the story of the loving and forgiving Father begins and weaves in the love of God through His son Jesus. At the conclusion of the lesson, all big brown eyes were riveted, still, waiting-"Who here would like to belong to that Father? To your REAL Heavenly Father who loves you and cares for you?" There were tears in lots of those eyes, those big brown eyes and some blue eyes had a few tears too.

I praise God for all the many prayers that covered we three teachers while at Mango Grove School. GOD showed up, His presence was very evident in the multitude of hands that were raised-saying "YES" to God. God used your prayers to work His miracles. We said "God, you can have the control, use us we pray." And He did and still does to open and available earthen vessels. To God be the glory!!!!



A New Well



Bible Stories



Women's Health



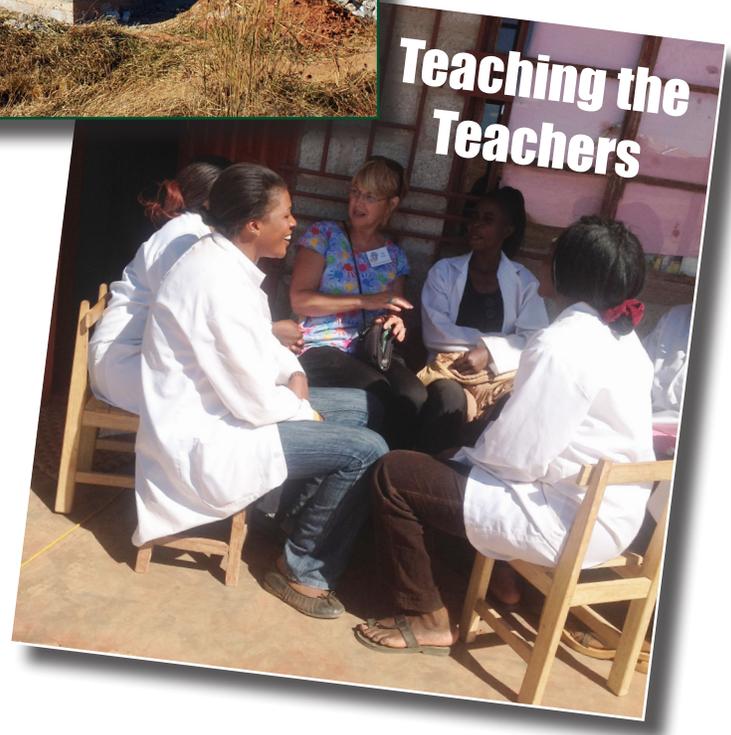
Vision Clinics



Latrines



Prayers



Teaching the Teachers

LOVE NEVER FAILS - Abigail Brighton



Love. It is truly incredible! Throughout the trip I was constantly reminded how much God loves me. Walking into Grippis is a memory I will never forget. All the kids swarming around you giving you hugs and kisses and wanting to talk and sing with you. It is a memory that reminds me of God's unconditional love for us and brings huge amounts of joy to my heart. God was always with us. When our bus got stuck in the ditch on the way to Siavonga, during every check point, whenever I felt so exhausted I could barely hold the refractor steady, He was there, loving me and guiding us all to do His work. He is always there loving us. His love never fails.

MEMORIES, STORIES, CULTURE & PERSPECTIVE

Miriam Brighton

I'm so thankful for all my experiences in Zambia because they have given me memories to cherish, stories to tell, a culture to love, and a perspective to live by. On this trip, I was most grateful that we were able to get to know the people of Grippis personally. I will always remember the hand clapping, the singing, the Farmer and the Dell, attempting to carry water jugs on our heads, laughing, shaking hands, hugging, and loving. How amazing it is that two groups of people from two very different cultures can form the most beautiful friendships simply through the sharing of one faith in the one same God.



RELATIONSHIPS - Lydia Brighton

Being in Zambia for 6 weeks this summer taught me about relationships. The people in Grippis have so little materially that it leaves so much room for relationships without distraction. Much of my last 4 weeks in Grippis were spent simply sitting with people at their houses, sharing meals with them, playing with and singing songs with children. Of all the work that I did there, this is what stands out: the relationships that were formed by being WITH people. It was both encouraging and heartbreaking to enter into these precious people's lives. These experiences, though, have moved me to a place where I recognize that this is what God keeps us on this earth for: to walk with people as they live, ultimately serving as a vessel of His Love. What we do is not important; rather, the love that motivates our actions is what this world needs more of.

Editor's Note: Lydia stayed on in Zambia for four more weeks after the team left volunteering her time in Grippis.



UNCONDITIONAL LOVE - *Trisha Brighton*



As I reflect on my time in Zambia, Africa, I remember the precious children of Grippis Village that have captured my heart. They are filled with joy, laughter and the gift of welcoming anyone in their midst. They take your hand and extend unconditional love to all who are open to receive it. They wait eagerly for your arrival and greet you with a special respectful greeting and contagious smile. Where have I known this kind of love? This is the love my Savior, Jesus Christ offers to me every day of my breathing life. He is in the midst of His children in Grippis as He is in the center of my life.

LORD OF LORDS - *Andy Brighton*

This trip to Zambia really showed me how deep the love of God is, and how it transcends all cultural and human boundaries. What a blessing it was to serve alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ. I was blessed to be able to participate in the building



projects, three vision clinics, and even teach one lesson to the 7th graders in Grippis. I was inspired by those who have so little yet give so much. The words of Jesus, as spoken in the Sermon on the Mount, took on new meaning in my life. I praise God for all the wonderful things that I was able to see Him doing in Zambia – He is truly Lord of Lords and King of Kings!

WOMEN, BABIES AND GOD'S LOVE - *Marla Robbins*

The mission trip to Zambia with We're All God's Children began back in February 2012 for me when God put it on my heart to attend a seminar on midwifery volunteerism in developing countries. It was given by a very experienced midwife who has started a number of birth centers in developing nations. She has helped to decrease the maternal infant mortality rate by providing the sorely needed professional care that so many women do not have access to. Every minute and a half a woman dies in pregnancy/childbirth and most of these women are from third world countries. How sad. This does not have to be. This should not be.



When I attended the meeting with Carol and Tom Fanelli about this upcoming trip at my church, I knew that God was calling me to go. Carol had voiced her desire to have teaching for the women on prenatal care. I hadn't mentioned it. I was well prepared to share some valuable, even life saving information to the women at Grippis and other villages. I would go.

I shared on prenatal care, birth preparedness, breast feeding, postpartum and newborn care.

God gave me precious opportunities as I shared with the women. It was heartbreaking to hear how some of the babies had died. Again, it didn't have to be. I prayed.

I connected with a ministry couple at another village. They want to start a birth center! I will be in touch with them and see what the Lord has in store.

I was curious about how the women actually labor and give birth to their babies. God opened a door in His perfect timing for me to labor sit with a woman in one of the villages. I do believe that the greatest fulfillment in life is when you know God is in the midst of what you are doing.

I prayed for a lot of the precious people in Zambia. After the people went through the process of getting their eyeglasses they had opportunity to have prayer. I prayed with Karen Moore who led the prayer ministry. I had two day's worth of opportunities to pray. Person after person would come through the line. It was such a privilege to pray. It was also very draining. I had to come to terms with believing God for some big prayers. But He is a big God. Many of the people we prayed for didn't want to leave.

There were so many precious adults and children to show God's love to. They also showed God's love to me in many ways. God loves His creation.

So much more to say, so much more.

God's people need to be on the offensive to stave off the forces of darkness. There is much darkness in Zambia. We need to be about our Father's business.

THE JOY OF THE LORD - *Jan Milles*

I thank the Lord that He allowed me to be able to go to Zambia. This was my first time going to Africa so I didn't really have any expectations of what I would see and encounter. I only remembered what I saw in pictures from missionaries that have been to Africa in the past. I received such a blessing from being there. It was a real joy to be able to help the people see. They had such big smiles on their faces and they appreciated what we were doing for them.

I loved the children and how they wanted to be around you and have their pictures taken. Seeing them carry their baby sister or brother around on their back was a little surprising to me. They need our help. I would love to be able to go back. I certainly learned to appreciate living here in the USA.





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and especially the many, many individuals who stepped up to support our team members.

AND NOW THE REST OF THE STORY...

THE JOSEPH PROJECT

It is with great joy that we announce the start of a new program in Grippis that is designed to break the cycle of poverty, despair, and hopelessness among the young men of the village. Through the generous support of our donors we are offering a basic carpentry class that will teach the men skills they can use which will allow them to earn an income and support their families.

The Joseph Project, named after Jesus’ earthly father, is a two month program that not only teaches the men a valuable trade, but also introduces them to the unfailing love of our heavenly Father. The course which teaches basic carpentry skills includes class and individual projects where students will build desks, tables and chairs, and bookcases for the new school building. This addresses another need in the village and will help the residents to become independent and develop pride in their community. Visit our website at www.wereallgodschildren.org for more information on the project or to make a financial donation that will directly affect the lives of the villagers.

