



## Journeys of Faith

**"If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there,  
Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me." Psalm 139:9-10**

Dear Friends and Family,

I've always heard that time flies by even faster after you have kids... isn't that the truth! The last several months have been busy ones for us, as we've experienced missionary-type craziness, everyday life, ministry, and all the fun of being a family. God's hand has been ever-present, and we're grateful for His sovereignty even through bizarre illnesses and repeated vehicle problems. We've had quite a cross section lately of both the joys and frustrations of missions. Each day that passes shows us that we couldn't do our work here without His grace and your prayers.



**Frederick was convinced that Abby came to Zambia for his exclusive benefit.**

### Helping Hands- AK

We're always happy to find people crazy enough to join us for awhile. Abby Kutz, a friend from Emmanuel Covenant Church in Phoenix, gave us 8 weeks of her summer break this year. We knew that it would be great to have an extra pair of hands for outreaches and projects (not to mention around the house to help chase babies and hang laundry), but what we never expected was how Abby would immediately become one of our family and impact the local community for Christ. Besides helping me at home (and learning how to make pretty much everything from scratch- she can even pasteurize milk now), Abby helped Timothy with his outreach projects, volunteered at a local mission, made friends from around the world, and won the heart of Frederick (he'll never be the same again.)

We're so grateful for the time and energy she invested into our family and our work here. We hope that she will be an inspiration to many others. Come give us a hand for a few months! We'd love to show you what we do!

We have spent much of the last year without a vehicle due to engine problems. We carried on by combining projects with other missionaries (who have vehicles), riding the bicycle, and working out of our home. However, there were several groups further afield that had been on my heart for some time. I decided to schedule projects with them, trusting God to provide the transportation to get to these beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

As May and the projects I had organized drew near, I still didn't have the engine turbo back from South Africa. I began to wonder if I should postpone my trip.

In the mission field we have many opportunities to see God provide- sometimes in remarkable ways. Just a few days before I had to leave for the Eastern Province, the turbo arrived in Lusaka. It was installed in the vehicle the day before I had to leave. It is incredible to see Him supply exactly what is needed... just WHEN it is needed. We were able to use the vehicle for the next 6 weeks until...

(vehicle story continued further on)

### Transportationally Challenged- TK



**A functional engine under your hood is worth two in the bush.**

### Helping Teachers be Disciplers- TK

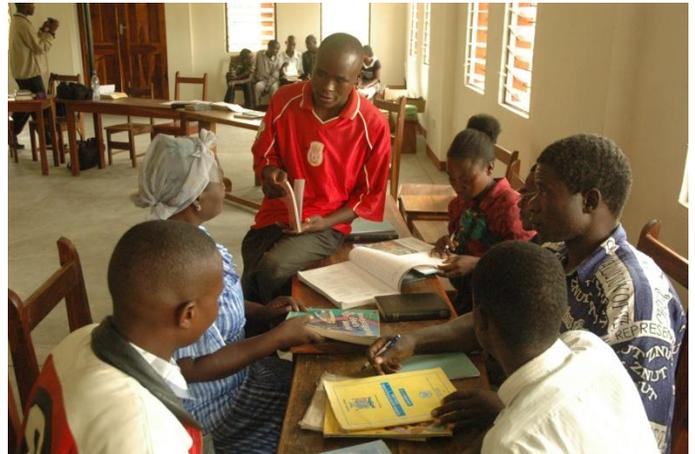
One of the great aspects of living in Zambia has been the ability to regularly minister alongside African Christians. They are able to reach out in ways that would be difficult for us. Because they know the language and culture, they are able to deeply connect with the local people. There are many well-discipled Zambians who are enthusiastic about teaching and ministering to others. Unfortunately, many of them lack the experience to organize an outreach and the resources to fund it. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working with many godly African men and women, equipping them to reach their continent for Christ. Many of these have been people I disciplined as young Christians.

Recently I took several teachers and leaders from Excellence Christian Academy, a school we partner with here in Kabwe, on a field trip to the Eastern Province of Zambia. We held a Teacher Training Seminar in Petauke, where we were able to work with over 30 teachers from 13 different schools. The training sessions were particularly effective due both to the tremendous team I had with me and to the interest and enthusiasm of the teachers who attended. The sessions included lessons and workshops on "Understanding the Christian Worldview in Education", "School Administration", "How to make Effective Lesson Plans", and "Improving Literacy". We also gave the teachers practical homework that would help them be more effective in a poor, rural setting. The foundation of all our classes is how to bring God's glory and presence directly into the children's lives through the medium of education.

Near the end of the conference I was hit with a bad stomach bug. It progressed to the point that I didn't think I would be able to teach my last lesson. Each session was supposed to be an hour... but I was visiting the outhouse a lot more often than that! I decided that if 20 minutes was all I had to give, then that's how long the lesson would be. Well, I reached the 20 minute mark and thanked God for each minute I was able to keep going thereafter. He got me through the whole hour!

One of the topics I frequently address in workshops is "Parental Responsibility in Education". Many pastors, teachers, and parents know little about the Biblical mandate to raise our children "in the fear and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). African teachers face many challenges while working in Community Schools (poor, rural schools). Community schools don't receive any support from the government, which means there are few materials or textbooks. These schools generally consist of a group of children brought together by a teacher who has a heart for the work. These teachers face many challenges, one of the biggest is eliciting parental support and involvement, even in the most basic tasks (like making sure the children eat at least one meal each day or teaching them that reading is important). Because the teachers don't receive salaries from the government, they rely on contributions of vegetables, grain, or money from the parents as a means of support. Often the parents neglect to contribute, which means the teachers face the choice of either going without food or cutting back on school time in order to grow food for themselves.

At the Petauke seminar, we brainstormed with the teachers for ideas on how to better involve the parents in the upbringing and education of their children. It didn't take long for us to conclude that regardless of the different methods we use to try to engage



**Teachers working on practicals for lesson preparation.**

people, at the end of the day God needs to work on their hearts. I encouraged the teachers to pray together toward this end. At this point I encountered an issue I often face when teaching African Christians: their belief that God favors the prayers and petitions of the *mzungu* (white man) above their own. Many Africans think that we in the West are blessed because God listens to our prayers more readily than to those of other cultures. They think that the *mzungu's* prayers are more effective than theirs are. When this happens, I share with them from Scripture that the power of prayer rests in Christ, Who answers prayer, not with the one doing the praying. It's a difficult problem to work through as our prosperity, to them, is proof that God favors us. Additionally, I can't *refuse* to pray for their needs when they ask me to do so. Please pray that the Lord would open their eyes to His love and grace and that they will come to understand His sovereignty in answering prayer.

I learned a lot in Petauke. Speaking with these teachers about their challenges helped me better understand how to reach them through discipleship and help them through further training.



**"Turning the hearts of the fathers to the children" (Lk 1:17) is imperative to affect lasting change in Africa.**

I was also reminded how critical it is to work with pastors and church leaders. They need to understand how important children are to Christ, and they need help learning how to pass this on to parents through the pulpit and pastoral leadership. (Luke 1:16-17) It's an incredible blessing to watch these men and women become excited as they learn how to spread God's Word to their students. Outreaches like this one make me grateful that the Lord has called me to minister to His people in Africa. Please pray that He will give me the wisdom to lead them in His ways.

### **Road trip- AK**

In June we went on our first field trip with the whole family (including Abby). While all African trips hold promise of the unexpected, this outreach held *particular* assurance of adventure as we were taking along both our bold, two year old Monica and 5 month old Frederick. Our journey started out in the way that missions-trips generally do; in other words, all the paperwork wasn't in

order for the vehicle to leave the country (the laws change constantly in Africa) and many of our field contacts hadn't confirmed their plans for our visit. Thankfully, when Timothy went to get the paperwork straightened out, he was able to speak directly to the officer in charge of the Interpol department in Lusaka. We actually got the vehicle cleared much more quickly than usual! The meetings and appointments... well, we often run on faith and hope that plans are going well and our contacts just haven't called us yet (which is VERY often the case; talk time (cell phone minutes) is very expensive out here).

On the way through the Eastern Province we stopped at Covenant College in Petauke. This is where Timothy got his start in Zambia with Frontline Fellowship back in 2000. Monica got to see where Daddy used to live. We even found that the cattle he raised ten years ago as a self-sustainment project founded the herd that now helps feed the students at the college!

In Chipata, while Timothy ran a discipleship/teacher training program, Abby and I got to work with some of the local young people. This was Abby's first time to teach in an African setting- she did a great job! The language barrier was a big hurdle, as the pastor had not organized an interpreter for the youth (this is not at all unusual; children are hardly ever a priority in African culture). However, we were able to find a young man who had fairly decent English, and by God's grace we were able to work gradually through workshop activities and lessons.

Timothy has been working with this group in Chipata for about five years. It has been incredible to watch God work in their hearts as they grow and spread the Word through their community. In the beginning, he would teach groups of just a few people. At this seminar, over 50 people came, some of whom had to walk for six hours from surrounding villages. God has truly been building his Kingdom in Chipata.

Throughout our two week journey, we stopped many times for ministry, outreaches, and meetings. We were also able to distribute many crates of books, supplies, and Bibles. We spent nearly every night on the ground in tents. One night we unknowingly pitched our tents in a wind tunnel; that was one of the longest nights of my life. (We found out it was a wind tunnel the



**Frederick basking in the warm glow of many adoring arms.**

next morning when, stumbling around in a stupor, we found it was *not* windy 10 yards off of our site!!) I was surprised at how well the children adjusted to the outdoor life. I am very thankful for their flexibility! Abby and I cooked many of our meals over a campfire, some days even chasing off baboons and monkeys in order to protect our meal!



Monica had a great time on the trip. We expected her to be bold, friendly, and adventurous; she didn't disappoint! On our second day she disappeared when I blinked- we found her outside the compound and down the road making new friends. She did really well in tents, in villages, with all cultures, and in all scenarios (and she was a really good big sister too). I'm SO glad Abby came along with us, though. I can't imagine trying to keep up with Monica AND Frederick all on my own, in a village, while trying to do ministry!!!



**Above: Monica with new friends in Chipata  
Right: Sugarcane is one of her favorite foods**

The last leg of our journey in the Eastern Province was the most discouraging and disappointing, but also the opportunity to see God's hand in protecting and providing for us. While in Chipata Timothy noticed the vehicle's turbo was starting to fail again. Because there was no way of fixing it so far afield, we prayed it would hang on until we got home. For the rest of our ministry time, the turbo seemed to hold its own. On the way to Chongwe, our last stop before returning home, half way through the middle-of-nowhere, the engine coughed and began chugging out massive clouds of putrid, oily smoke; we slowed to a crawl. There was no

cell phone signal, no villages, no signs of life anywhere- and sunset was an hour away. Timothy gave me a frantic look and said, "This is no place to camp; we have to try to get to Chongwe." I thought it looked like a great place to camp- there was no one around. Timothy gave me a dark look and said, "Why wouldn't anyone want to live here?" Oh. Lions. Yes, let's keep on going.

Timothy stopped every 20 minutes to check the quickly disappearing oil. After about an hour, and still no sign of Chongwe, he decided that we had five more minutes before the oil level would become dangerously low. We crested a hill... and there was the happiest sight- Chongwe, and not a minute too late. The oil light came on literally as we drove into a fueling station. Timothy was able to refill the oil, a challenge as the power went off just after we got there! Unfortunately, the engine was beyond hope. While we'd made it to the small town of Chongwe, we weren't going any further. Timothy called our friend, Pastor Ruben, from the nearby village of Kanakantapa (where we were expected). We pushed the vehicle into a police station compound for the time being, and Ps. Ruben was able to arrange a vehicle to pick us and our luggage up and get us out to his home.

God truly had His hand on our engine, allowing us to make it all the way to our last village for ministry (and have a safe place to stay while we figured everything out!). We spent several nights in Kanakantapa, praying for God to show us how to get back home

and salvage our vehicle (where's AAA when you need them?) Frederick also seemed to be coming down with something, which was concerning since we had no means of getting him to a doctor if that became necessary.

In the end, Ps Ruben was able to locate a towing company willing to come get the vehicle. We rode in our truck for the last time as it was towed back to Lusaka! Werner, a friend from Kabwe, came to Lusaka to pick us up. God's protection and provision were obvious as the smallest details came together.

As of today, the engine is in South Africa pending repairs. We're praying that the problem is covered under the warranty. Timothy is back to his bicycle. Please pray that this ends with us having a vehicle again!!

### **Bugging me- AK**

This has been a good year for bugs in our family. And by bugs, I mean everything from bacteria to viruses to worms, amoebas, and mosquitoes....

On our way home from eastern Zambia, Frederick seemed to be coming down with the flu- it turned out to be German measles. He handled it like a champ, but he was one sick little baby for awhile. He also shared; Mommy got it too.

Monica has been battling a lot of nasty water bugs (amoeba and such) for months. You can only take so many medical treatments for them per year, as the anti-parasite meds blast all the good bacteria from your system (making for some interesting diapers). Desperately searching for any means of getting rid of the parasites in her system, we decided to start boiling our water, even though it had been declared "clean". Within a few days, her tummy aches disappeared, she had more energy, and was even more pleasant company. Her immune system was able, over the following weeks, to fight off most of the parasites. She's still having a few bad days, but the *truly* clean water has helped a lot! We are grateful for the Lord's provision, but we do feel stupid for not thinking of such an obvious solution from the beginning!



Somewhere along the way, Timothy and Abby picked up some kind of over-friendly, microscopic creatures, probably from bad water or meat in the villages. They both developed painful gastro-intestinal infections. After about 10 days of writhing in pain, downing anti-parasitics, and sleeping off the accompanying lethargy, they were able to crawl back to work. Abby has bounced back to full health. Timothy, probably because he's already had multiple parasitic infections this year (including malaria twice), is having chronic problems, which we hope to address in our coming trip to the States. Please pray for the Lord to continue giving him the strength to do the work he loves and to heal his body from the parasites.

### **We still have openings available!**

Do you want to hear what the Lord has been doing in and through our ministry in Africa? We'd love to tell you! Contact us about organizing meetings with your church, youth group, home Bible study, or school. Timothy is also available for preaching and teaching. We will be "State-side" in November and December. Scheduling meetings and speaking opportunities ahead of time would be very helpful for us, as we build our itinerary for the time we have in the States.

Organization from your side is simple, talk to your church about having us speak at a Sunday Service and/or youth group meeting, or organize a meeting of your own. Promote the event at church and amongst your friends (we can send you pictures or a flyer if that is helpful), and let us share with them about our life and work in Africa. If this is something you are interested in doing, please get in touch with us via email: Ashley@KellersC23.com, or you can call ITMI: 888 918 4100.

We look forward to meeting you in person and sharing pictures and stories of the work the Lord has for us here in Zambia. It's a great pleasure to share how your prayers and support are being used in Africa.

Pro Rege,

Timothy, Ashley, Monica, & Frederick Keller

Don't forget to follow us on our website and blog:  
[www.KellersC23.com](http://www.KellersC23.com) and [www.KellersC23.com/blog](http://www.KellersC23.com/blog).

Please pray...

- For the Lord to guide our hands as we distribute the materials from the Container
- For fruitful ministry with Zambian pastors, church leaders, and teachers
- That God would turn the hearts of the Zambia fathers toward their children
- For healing and recovery from our many bugs
- For that our transportation problems would resolve without losing ministry opportunities

Gifts may be sent to: The Keller Household, c/o ITMI, PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281  
To receive a tax receipt, cheques should be made out to "ITMI" and designated to "The Kellers"