

Mulishani? (How are you?) Bwino sana! (We are very fine!) We've only been here three weeks, but lots has happened. Zambia has a slower pace of life and we're adapting once again to their ways. The week before the team arrived we were vehicle-less and without our boxes (we're still waiting!) so our focus was on getting the building ready for the



team's arrival. Apart from needing to be sprayed to deter bugs and more importantly mosquitoes (!! we also had to do a variety of maintenance and repair jobs, which does seem to be an endless list! Though when the team arrived we were ready and waiting!

Travel Troubles

The Toyota Landcruiser arrived on the same day as the rest of the team in the end but can't be driven around really yet as it has to get registered (ie: it has no number plates so we want to avoid as many road blocks / police checks as possible.) We also heard today that the other vehicle (Toyota Hilux Double Cab) has arrived in Lusaka and can be collected in the next few days.

Having both vehicles here and fully registered will be great relief! On the way to town the other day there was a surprise police check in a different place to normal – after praying very quickly, the officer waved us on without even looking in our direction!!! Fantastic, good to be back relying on Him so much. However, we did hit a slight glitch on Monday morning when we were on our way to help with Lifeline (HIV/AIDs Home Based Care project) for the first time. As we approached the first road block (not expecting a problem as the team have begun to meet with the police/soldiers there, building relationships with them), immigration were there doing spot checks! They noticed we didn't have number plates and some of us were wearing Soapbox polo shirts. They pulled us over and asked

for our passports. Tim had his passport and our work permit as he was driving. This wasn't good enough so we had to go back to base and get everyone's passports and receipts to show they had ordered their study permits. On our return to the roadblock the immigration officer decided that this still wasn't good enough saying the visas they had entered the country on weren't valid. They also claimed that we shouldn't be doing any kind of missionary work until their study permits are fully processed. Scarily an officer then drove off with the students passports and we had to follow in hot pursuit right up to the border with Congo! Tim went inside an office there and was told by 3 officers that each member of the team would have to pay 1.5 million kwacha (approx £180) as an 'admission of guilt' charge. Tim somehow managed to keep his cool completely and whatever he said must have worked as we were let off without charge and told to report to immigration in town. Determined that any of the devil's schemes to disrupt our plans would not work, we dropped the team off at Lifeline (1 ½ hrs late) while we sorted things out. At immigration in town we were in and out in 5 minutes – the officers had no problem with any visas and didn't see any fuss, we'd been completely in the right all along!



Misaka

After introducing the team to Kaniki life, this week we started our regular program. We spent Tuesday morning in Misaka bush village. It has changed beyond recognition since Gemma was last there! The team split in two – Gemma, Katie, Michael and Hannah went to help in different classes in the



Tim surprised himself at his ability to make scaffolding!

village school, while Tim, Anne and the two Daves helped paint beams for a clinic roof (to stop it being eaten by termites) and built scaffolding from scratch so that the roof can actually be put on next week.



Some of the children Gemma was teaching.

Gemma spent the morning with Grades 1 and 2. Grade 1 finished school and 10am so that the classroom was free for the Grade 2s. It was at this point, after only having been in the class 30 minutes or so, that the teacher informed Gemma that she needed to go and take her baby to the clinic and *would she teach the class for her?* Gemma rose to the challenge – how hard could it be to recap the alphabet letter names, teach them the difference between capitals and lower case letters and how to pronounce *all* their different sounds? It would be simple if you spoke the same language and didn't have someone pass-out on the floor in the middle of the lesson! Having said this the children did actually learn something, despite the challenge in communication. Gemma hopes that her teaching resources (in our boxes) will make it out here soon.

This is Africa! The fun never ends! On the way back from Misaka, in our brand spankin' new Landcruiser, we got stuck in mud – the road is particularly bad as it's the rainy season and despite Tim's careful driving, huge puddles/washed away roads can't be avoided altogether. Thankfully Soapbox chose a good vehicle with four wheel drive, so having temporarily lost some passengers, we were soon free.



Kamfinsa

On Wednesday, after a horrendous night's sleep because of huge storms, leaks and lightning, we awoke to find no electricity, meaning no showers or drinking water. We still went ahead with our plans and walked to Kamfinsa with Pastor Albert and his wife, Febbie. It was a bit of an adventure walking through thick bush, dodging streams where paths once were as well as visiting a child-led family on route. Of the three children we met, Pastor Albert is personally sponsoring two of them to go to school. Our journey was made worthwhile when we heard his vision for the area and had a truly Zambian meal, accompanied by yet more tumultuous rain, thunder and lightning. Amazingly we managed to stay dry until we arrived back at base 7 hours later!



KOP – Kaniki Orphans Project

We decided that this year it would be good to support KBC by joining one of their projects. We have known of its existence before having donated bits of money for school uniforms etc. They have wanted to run afternoon programs for the orphans they support in their own community, but have not had the man power to do so. Our team was an answer to prayer!



Playing Chicken, Chicken, Goat. Aka Duck, Duck, Goose!

So on Thursday afternoon we led 24 children in playing games, sharing a bible story and learning a memory verse. It was a great success and enjoyed by all. Some of the team will be doing this every Thursday afternoon.



One of the games the children particularly enjoyed was the bean bag and bottle game (we're yet to come up with a creative name!). They told us that the reason they enjoyed it so much and were so good at it was because they often throw stones at mangos to knock them down from the trees!



Some of the 'community mothers' enjoying watching the children (and us) play.

St Anthony's Children's Village

This Friday we turned up unannounced at St Anthony's to find a whole host of people there and importantly that they were pleased to see us. People who fund St Anthony's from Australia were there as well as Sister Philomena (head nun) and most pleasing for us a lady called Jenny Curry. Jenny is an amazing answer to prayer as she is a physio who arrived in June 2007 – 2 months after Tim left Zambia the last time. Tim had always wanted the children with cerebral palsy to get this much needed physio and so is delighted that they now get it. They children's movements and flexibility is already much

improved, however there is still a long way to go! Jenny has asked whether we can help learn and implement basic physio and was really pleased to have Gemma help by beginning to teach the children who only have physical disabilities. This is a challenge mainly due to language and lack of resources. The plan is to do one-to-one with about 6 of the children each time we go. Gemma aims to teach them through play rather than mere learning by rote – as many Zambians do.

As a couple we feel that St Anthony's may be somewhere we want to invest in longer term. Please pray into this for us.

Prayer Points

- *Thank God for the excellent start to our teaching program and afternoon lecturers .*
- *Thank God for a good first week of our regular program.*
- *Pray for the registration of both our vehicles and for all our boxes to arrive ASAP.*
- *Pray for continued gelling and spiritual growth of the team.*
- *Pray for continued protection as we travel and for the health of the team.*
- *Pray that God would start to speak to us and guide us as to what He wants us to do in our time here when there is no team.*

Your prayers make an amazing difference, thanks for all your support!

With Love

Tim and Gemma

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