MATACCHIFRA



DIGGING IN FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST!

Hey, everyone! We hope you're all having a happy New Year! We're now officially

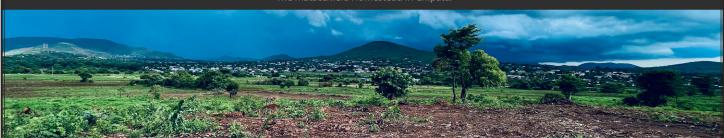
in the rainy season here in Zambia, and in the village - things tend to slow down a bit. Our church leaders are out in their fields, working hard to provide for their families. However, many are having a hard time of it because there just isn't enough rain this year. Unfortunately, some are even on the brink of losing their crops. Please join us in prayer for those in need of water! Conversely, it's an entirely different scene in the city. Over here, we're all hands on deck at HBBC - Chipata!

It's an exciting time for us! Lisa and I are getting to know some amazing couples and several individuals on a deeper level through discipleship meetings throughout the week. These sessions are some of the highlights of our work here – sharing our lives and investing in others. It's incredible to hear their stories, their questions, and see their steps of faith. We often hear them say things like, "We've never heard these truths before, but now our minds are opened!" Moments like these remind us of the impact the Gospel is making. These people are the future leaders of the church! We're laying a foundation of faith in this city church and desire for the people to grow in grace and truth. Please keep these new believers in your prayers!

We have big news on the homestead front! The property is really starting to shape up, and we're excited to share the progress. Our land is nestled at the foot of a huge hill, which means we're practically swimming in stones. This week, we kicked off a new initiative to gather this invaluable resource as we start building our road and putting up structures! Talk about recycling! Oh, and here's a surprising twist – right after ringing in the New Year, we got a visit from the brother of the person we bought our land from. He was impressed with what we're doing with the recently purchased plot and our ministry vision, so he proposed an offer. He wants us to consider buying his plot right next door! Getting it would double our space to ten acres! We're now in the midst of negotiations, trying to figure out how to come up with the remaining \$8 of the \$12k needed. We would really appreciate your prayers as we look to put down roots and expand our reach on the dark continent!

A LITTLE LETTER FROM LISA:

The rainy season in Zambia begins gradually, and we are seeing a steady increase in spectacular African thunderstorms. I've always loved a good rain, and find the relief of lowered temperatures and overcast skies welcome. Aria noticed a drizzle beginning one morning and commented, "It's raining! God sent the rain for Noah because people were sinning. That means... people are sinning right now!" While the smile twitched at my mouth, I explained to her that only the initial rain was a punishment; nowadays God ends the rain to nourish the ground and it's a sign of His goodness to us. I have to admit, though, I laughed for a long time at the idea of storms indicating the holiness in an area, especially in our climate where it's rains, and then doesn't, for 6 months at a time!







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