

D A M O N & L I S A

MATACCHIERA

H O P E Z A M B I A I N T E R N A T I O N A L

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REACHING THE REGIONS BEYOND:

There's a lot of culture and tradition to overcome if people in the village are to respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many in rural Zambia live on the false premise that only "the group" can be in the right, that individual thinking is selfish, and that the ways of their forefathers (IE: witchcraft) trump all other philosophies. As you can imagine, this makes introducing new ideas very difficult. It's even more complicated when starting a church because so many in the village often try to merge their traditional beliefs with their newly acquired Christian ones. The end product is usually a disaster; the only solution is time. It takes time to build a foundation of faith in the lives of these new believers.

With all this in mind, we launched our **1st Village Expedition 2022!** The idea is to locate villages outside our immediate ministry area in communities with limited Gospel access. The key component is to be far enough away from our main base at Chiyembekezo (CMB) to establish separate works but close enough that our disciples can make weekly trips there. Consistent follow-up is crucial. We chose a location that we've had our eye on for some time, and the village gave us a warm welcome! Each day we had the opportunity to preach the Gospel several times. The people, in their excitement, even requested to start meeting on Sunday as a church. While we're glad to see their zeal, until we establish a core group of believers, any momentum would rely solely on us and not be locally driven. Until then, CMB leaders are bicycling miles each week to help continue guiding this group with the Gospel message. **Please pray for their efforts and that we can secure a better method of transport for our men as they reach out into these regions beyond.**

After taking down our campsite on expedition, we drove straight to Chiyembekezo for their Bible conference. **Two hundred men and women came out solely from our one village for three days.** That number represents half the Mbenjere Village in which CMB resides. While all these people don't typically attend church each week, we pray they will one day receive Christ and join our faith family. Looking back at all we've accomplished in this church is exciting! But it's even more thrilling to envision the future with how God will continue to work through these believers.

A LITTLE LETTER FROM LISA:

Along with much of the world, we had watched some of the Queen of England's funeral procession. One of my kids exclaimed about the sharp colors, "Look at those uniforms!! RED coats. Wait... redcoats? Are those the same...?" Smiling at their connecting of dots, I replied positively. My child instantly went "revolutionary" and exclaimed with great huffery, "WHY are we even watching this then?!" I told him, "It's history in the making." Plus, we're allies now; 250yrs changes a thing or two!

The Hope Zambia team out on a village expedition!



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