



Special points of interest:

**We are building an orphanage now!!**

**Moving date to new property:**

**July 31-August 1**

**Also in this issue:**

**A round up of some of our activities so far this year.**

# The Morrows in Zambia

July, 2006

## Building of an Orphanage!

The vision and dream of one day building an orphanage and helping the children of Zambia has been in our hearts for some time now and as Amy traveled in the U.S last year and shared this vision with audiences, people she met were eager to help make this a reality.

As we brought in the New Year of 2006 we saw that the way forward would have obstacles. First of all the local currency had strengthened in the international market meaning that our dollars didn't go as far anymore. Also, the area we in which we live has seen growth and development because of the copper mines reopening. While this is excellent news for the local businesses we found that locating a property and getting set up to build a place for children was going to be more difficult.

After a chance meeting with a British couple we formed a friendship with them and began to share our visions. They immediately expressed an interest and were ready to help. They gave a substantial donation which, with what donors in the U.S have given, meant that we could make real progress toward completing the orphanage.

The next obstacle was to find a place to begin building. Because construction costs had risen we began looking for a place we could buy with an already existing building or partially constructed structure. We looked all over Ndola but found that prices had risen too high on all land and housing.

As we were praying one evening, Tom was reminded of a few places he had seen while on trips to the bush. He decided to take an exploratory trip with Karl (seen in picture with Tom below).

behind were closed up shops and a dusty, quiet village with thatched-roofed huts and goats freely roaming the streets.

After seeing one rundown hotel and dismissing it as a possibility because of its location and size a



They traveled by bus, 14 hours north, to Kazembe, the largest village in Zambia, in the Luapula province which is the location of the Mutomboko ceremony and the seat of Chief Mwata Kazembe.

**Tom tells the story:** "As Karl and I entered the village of Kazembe, I was surprised to see a very different place than what I remembered from my trips to the Mutomboko Ceremony the past two years. Gone were the crowds and drum beats. Left

pastor told us of one other property just outside the village center. As we walked up the hill for about half a mile, leaving the village behind, we began to see part of a large building looming up in front of us surrounded by tall grass and trees. It seemed very lifeless with its grey cement block walls. Holding back judgment I walked around the building to find that it was a C-shaped structure with 30 rooms looking onto a courtyard. It was difficult to approach as the grass and vegetation had grown up

## The making of history



quite high. Stepping over the mounds of dirt and hoping my footsteps frightened away any snakes and other varmints there might be I began to explore.

I was reminded of an Aztec ruin or lost civilization as I tried to picture the potential that this property could hold.



Looking up I was taken aback by the vista that lay in front of me. Stretching for miles and miles was the wonderful African savannah stretching down to the Luapula River winding its way through the grasses. Across the river I could see the more rich and lush greenery of the Congo with its jungles and palm trees. At once I felt a peace in my heart and knew that this was the place the Lord had prepared for us.

Looking closer I could see that it would take a lot of work to get this property ready to take in children. On this one acre piece of land sits 3 buildings. One with thirty small rooms (like a motel) and two other buildings with two and three rooms.

All three buildings are built up to roof level. There used to be roofs, doors and windows but after the owner died his relatives stripped the buildings to sell off the materials as is fairly common here.

One of the best features of this property is that all the land, stretching for nearly three miles behind it, is customary land meaning it still belongs to the Chief. We spoke with Chief Mwata Kazembe and he said he will give us parcels of this land as we develop it. We are looking forward to expanding and including agricultural land, playing fields, more buildings to house the children and even a school and chapel.”

Tom and Karl returned from this first trip very excited about the possibilities.

We prayed some more about it and decided that Kate (Karl’s wife), Amy and Tom should travel up next to make the final decision as well as find a place to live while completing the construction of the orphanage.

A few weeks later we made the trip up north. Getting to Kazembe from Ndola is not easy. It involves taking two different buses or a bus and a taxi for a total of 14 hours. It may also involve a stay over in Mansa—a larger town in the Luapula province.

**Amy records her impressions:** “Arriving in Kazembe after a two hour taxi ride was quite an experience. I am not quite sure what I was expecting but seeing the dusty roads, boarded up shops and general rundown look of the village I began to ache inside. Knowing that God has called us to Africa to do His work makes it easier to deal



with things most times but it doesn’t erase the fact that we are still human. We are attracted to green, growing things; we love colorful flowers and attractive settings. This doesn’t change when becoming missionaries.

My biggest desire at that moment was to see the property. I wanted to catch the vision that Tom had when he first saw the property. I was not disappointed. True, the property had things that needed to be worked on but as I stood at the top of the area looking



down at the large building and its courtyard (now with only short, dry grass since Tom had hired someone to cut it) I could see what the place could become. I could see children playing happily in a play yard in the center of the courtyard with green grass growing all around.

I could see our family happily growing here, teaching children, and helping the community.”

The next morning we got up early and sat in the back of a pick-up truck heading to Kawambwa—a small town 45 minutes away. Our mission: to find a rental house to live in while we finish construction on the orphanage. Kawambwa is a larger town with many charity organizations which are based there to assist the Congolese refugee camp nearby. We found plenty of shops (although prices were high) and even a couple small cafes.

Following up on a contact made while still in Ndola we met with an Indian man who was very helpful and told us about a house that would most likely be up for rent by the end of July. We later spoke with the charity that is renting that house and they agreed to sublet it to us since they will not have staff in Kawambwa for a few months.

## Starting the construction

That evening we returned to our basic lodge to find that there was no electricity. Thankfully, the lodge was fitted with solar panels so each room had a single light bulb lit.

We were very careful in doing the paperwork for the purchase of the property because it is not uncommon here in Zambia, or many third-world countries for that matter, to buy a property and find later that it wasn't for sale after all or that several people have been sold the same piece. To further complicate matters, Kazembe is still a village, not a town so there are no title deeds available. What you do get is a paper that has been witnessed by the Chief which states that he knew all the people involved and the property in question does in fact now belong to you.

The stars that night in Kazembe were incredible. Because there were no electric lights to interfere we could see amazing star constellations.

A month after returning from this trip to Kazembe, Tom and Karl returned to begin working on the construction. Timothy (age 13) accompanied Tom on this trip. Unfortunately, the day they arrived in Kazembe, Timmy came down with malaria which gave him a high fever, headache and delirium. Thankfully, Tom always travels with a well stocked medical kit and he was able to give Timmy the malaria treatment immediately. Timothy was better by the



following day with only a slight fever that night. He took it easy for the next couple days.

After the first night which was spent in a lodge, the rest of the days the team camped out in two tents.

The main focus this time was on clearing the grounds and cutting out the plants and small trees that had grown up inside some of the rooms. Once this was finished we would have a better picture of what would need to be done. We were able to put the roof on one of the small rooms so that we could observe the contractor and have a model of what would be needed for each room.

In Kazembe there is a carpentry and construction school. We hired one of the instructors to be the contractor for this project.



As funding becomes available we will be able to complete the different phases of the work so that, God willing, by the first quarter of next year we will be able to take in children.

In the picture below you can see Timothy standing in one of the small rooms. Twenty of the rooms are large enough for a single bed and a small desk. There are also 10 rooms that are a little larger and will hold a couple single beds or bunk beds.

As the work was being done we found that our presence attracted children from the village who found us very fascinating. Timmy entertained them and played with them throughout the day.



Since this is a completely different project that we are taking on, having never constructed anything before we are depending on the Lord like never before.

We will be working on getting the buildings ready for us to move into first of all and then preparing the rooms for taking in children. Because we will be taking in only toddlers and babies we will have time to expand and prepare school rooms, etc. as they get older.

Here are the phases we will be working on to begin with:



**Phase 1:** Getting some of the rooms ready for our family to live in. Installing the electric lines.

**Phase 2:** Setting up the ablution block, and digging septic tanks. Bringing water to the property with a borehole or other means.

**Phase 3:** Building a kitchen and dining area. Setting up rooms to take in the first orphans. Planting crops to feed everyone and also to sell for support.

## Other Happenings

Tom and Amy were invited to attend a wedding of friends in Lusaka and Tom was asked to do the ceremony. A very interesting look at the Zambian culture and how they do weddings here. Look for a full write up on our website soon.

We worked as volunteer administrators for an orphanage down the road for several weeks. This was helpful in seeing ways we can improve the care of babies in this country.

### Prayer Requests

- \* Please pray for our move at the end of July and beginning of August.
- \* Pray for an easy adjustment to a new environment.
- \* Pray that the kids will make new friends.
- \* Pray for our protection and health during these changes.

We're on the Web!  
[www.missionaryfamily.com](http://www.missionaryfamily.com)



## Other activities!



To start off the year with a bang, we decided to concentrate on the Chief Training side of our ministry. We invited Senior Chief Musele of the Lunda tribe to come for our one week Chief Leadership training school. He was so excited that he even brought along his Kapaso (Bodyguard) and Induna (Messenger) for the training as well.

For morning devotion classes we taught on the life and character of the apostle Peter who is an example of a good leader. This was a good supplement to the practical classes we had 2 times a

At the beginning of April we held a four-day leadership seminar for staff from a nearby mission. Five people in management roles came to stay in our guest house and had 3 classes per day. The material we used was compiled from various books and teaching manuals and was adapted for use in Zambia. It is essentially the same course that we use for teaching the chiefs in Zambia with some minor changes. The mission personnel were so pleased that they recommended us to an orphanage and school.



When Tom took the trip to Kazembe in May to scout out land for our new orphanage he decided to add on a trip to the Island of Embabala to revisit Chief Mulongwe. You may remember that Tom very briefly met with this chief last July and at that time the chief asked him to return someday and also to bring him a bicycle as he is old and it is hard for him to visit his villages on foot. As you can see in the photo, Tom brought him a bicycle (an adventure in itself) and was consequently 'adopted' into the chief's family. Tom also showed the Jesus Film 2 nights while there.

In June we held another leadership course for personnel from an orphanage outside town. This orphanage works mainly with older children who have lived on the streets. These children present real challenges for the staff that labor to care for them.

As usual we held daily devotions studying the Apostle Peter. For some of the attendees this was the first time they had done a character study and they were amazed at what you can get from the Bible.



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