



Our orphanage expands!



Here are our toddlers and big babies having play time

We have really grown! Since our last newsletter we have taken in two more children but as you can see from the picture it is not just our numbers that are growing, but the children themselves. We have six children 2 and 3 years of age; 3 year-old babies, a seven-month-old and a brand new baby. This makes for some interesting days as we keep up with the challenges of so many small children. As any of you with children know, this age group is not easy keeping up with their energy and channeling their endless energy into activities that will help them learn and grow.

Our nannies (three are shown in the picture to the left) have been great in learning new ways of working with the kids and dealing with potty training, time outs and all the other things that come up each day.

One of our hopes when opening this orphanage is that we would be able to help children in their most desperate times and that God would enable us to save the ones that would otherwise perish.

Last Sunday, a man burst into our living room begging us to help him as his 17-year-old daughter had just died that morning following complications in delivering a healthy baby girl. This poor man was beside himself with grief and we assured him we would do all we could. Four hours later he, and the baby's grandmother were sitting at our table asking us to take over the care of their little grandchild. "We ask God to bless you as you take this child. You will have no interference from us," said the grandfather. Their grief was so raw and it broke our hearts to see them sitting there like that but now little Moriah Memory is going to have a start in life that she wouldn't otherwise have had and she is going to have a future and a chance to grow up. Who knows how God will use her!



Jennifer with a day old baby that was dropped off Sunday



Jessica has been working hard in the kitchen making 3 meals a day for our team

As you can imagine, one of our big challenges in running this orphanage is the kitchen. Jessica has been doing a fantastic job planning the three meals and 2 snacks a day for the kids. She works with our housekeeper to get the meals done and then cooks three meals a day for our family.

We use over 100 eggs, 15 gallons milk, 15 pounds meat, 5 pounds rice, 8 pounds pasta, 15 pounds potatoes, 2 pounds peanut butter, 20 loaves bread, etc. etc., the list goes on and on, and this is just one week. This means that our shopping list is extensive and because we don't have real stores here, it all must be brought by bus from a town three hours away.

Add on to this times when we lose power or recently when we ran out of gas for the stove and had to use charcoal stoves and cook outside, Jessica deserves a medal and a round of cheers!

Our Chicken project!



A chicken run being built with off-cuts

Above and below you can see pictures of one of Tom's innovative projects. In order to cut down on some of the things we rely on from other towns and to also become self-sufficient, we have built this chicken coop to hold up to 300 hens for egg production. We will start with around 100 and see how the market is. As it improves and as we grow we will have enough space to produce all the eggs we need. Next up will be a building for broiler chickens for meat.



Peter, one of our staff members, putting plastic on the roof and chicken wire

The on-going playground project

A big need for our growing bunch of youngsters is a large playground to help them work off their extra energy and develop muscles. We know how important muscle development is in allowing the brain to work well and so we have come up with a plan to build a playground with plenty of different types of activities to work their whole bodies. So far we have started laying the sand and have put the trampoline down at a safe level. Still to come: a large tire swing, houses for climbing in and around, rope ladders and bridges, monkey bars for brachiating, a swing set, balance bars and more! Pray for this important project.

Weekly staff meeting

Every week we hold a staff training meeting to go over things that have come up during the week, talk about discipline methods, plan schedules and activities and a myriad of other topics.

Now that a lot of the training has taken place and things are running more smoothly, we have even been able to cover other topics such as cultural differences and answer questions more in depth about why we do different things. For instance, at this past meeting we talked about how to dress newborns and small babies. Here, babies are over bundled until the poor things sweat in this intense heat and as a consequence they become easily dehydrated. We talked about how things can be passed down over generations and no one knows why they are done but they carry on. Opening up lines of communication is key in developing the team we need for this big job.

I also have assigned books for the ladies to read while the children are napping or for those that work night duty. They then write down the words they don't understand and I write the definitions and then later cover them again in the meeting and we talk about other countries and ways of living. This is helping to expand their world.



Amy conducting a staff meeting



Troy is enjoying the sunken-in trampoline

The Rabbit farm



Jasmine and Troy work hard looking after the rabbits by cleaning their cages on a daily basis.

The vegetable farm

In order to supplement the orphanage's income and make it more self-sufficient we have planted a fairly large vegetable garden. A lot of our plants are experimental as we learn what actually grows in this soil. So far we have cabbages, tomatoes, bananas, maize, cucumbers, and onions. As soon as the rain comes we will be planting more greens.

Above you can see the rabbit hutches. Rabbits will provide another source of meat and also an income as we sell some in the village. On one side of the cages we have an enclosed area where the kids can come and play with the animals.



Cabbages attract birds which brought about our first scarecrow



Tim watering the tomato and banana plants

Here is Timothy with our scarecrow who he named Argus. The toddlers had to get used to a life-size 'person' standing in the garden.



Getting supplies



Tom inspecting the wood for the new construction projects starting this month

Our biggest project this coming month will be renovating the final wing of the original building on the property. It currently has nine decrepit rooms which we will be completing and changing into a preschool bedroom which will hold 10 children and a live-in nanny, a reading room and library, a sick bay and medical closet, and a locker room and lounge for our staff.

All of our construction supplies have to be brought in from surrounding cities so as I write this, Tom is in the capital city buying up as much as he can to be brought back in a rented truck. This will save us on transport costs and also allow us to access better quality materials.

We are very excited about this next stage of construction. We have eleven kids right now which means that all our beds in the nursery are full and some of the kids are ready for big kid beds. It is always thrilling to move on to the next stage of our vision as we see God's work moving and growing.



Here Amy is carrying Ernest in a style down to the clinic for a check up. The local clinic is able to help with basic medical problems, but for more serious things we travel to the larger city three hours away.



TJ with our last faithful dog, Spock. Pray for another dog for us.

U.S Address:
P.O Box 126
La Porte, Texas 77572

Zambian Address:
P.O Box 750007
Kazembe,
Luapula, Zambia (no zipcode)

Phone: 26-0979-318-463
E-mail: missionaryfamily@gmail.com
www.missionaryfamily.com

If you'd like to help our work continue please make out checks to: **Global Contributions** and mail to our U.S address.

You can also donate online using **paypal** at our website www.missionaryfamily.com

A special thank you note to all those who are helping us make a difference in Zambia. Especially to those who helped us to repair our equipment that got damaged during a lightning storm. We were able to get back on the horse after a difficult time.
Thank you!