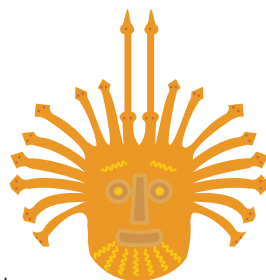


Zambians Need Jesus

Most Zambians say they are Christians and go to church on Sunday. But many still mix their beliefs in African spirits with belief in the true God and do not really live for Jesus. Some people are Muslims and worship Allah, the god of Islam. Most Indians working in Zambia are Hindus.



Women in Zambia work hard to take care of their families. They usually have many children. Many are widows because of AIDS. At women's groups in churches and retreats, women can pray and worship together and help each other.



Since 1996, the U.S. Assemblies of God has worked in Zambia with three national Pentecostal church groups. There's a lot to do! Some missionaries help preach and start new churches. Most pastors do not have Bible school training, so missionaries help teach in the two Bible schools and in the 14 centers of the Christian Leadership Training Institute. BGMC helps with the Bible schools by providing textbooks, library books, and scholarships for pastors to attend Bible school.

Missionary nurses train people in Community Health Evangelism (CHE) programs. These people then go to villages to help them learn to stay healthy. They give Bible lessons with their health lessons. People are saved and begin churches. Medical teams from the U.S. come to treat sick people and tell them about God, who cares for them.

BGMC has been a big help to the CHE program. BGMC has provided them with funds to buy food and the health lessons. BGMC helped to buy the land and put in the water well, install the piping, supply the sprinkler system, and put up a security fence out at "The Farm." "The Farm" is a place that teaches the people of Zambia how to grow crops so they learn the best way to feed their families. The food from "The Farm" is given to those who are poor and need food to eat. Many kids are getting healthy food to eat thanks to BGMC!

More than half of Zambia's people are under age 15—and they need Jesus. Because of AIDS and poverty, their lives are hard. Some missionaries help train children's workers to teach the kids in their churches and neighborhoods. Two missionaries have helped one church group start a national children's ministry program.



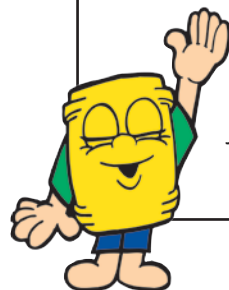
BGMC has helped reach the kids in Zambia by providing all kinds of children's ministries supplies and equipment, such as puppets, puppet tapes, costume animals, books, music, and lots more! Thanks you, kids, for giving to BGMC!

Some churches help hundreds of street children. These kids have no homes. Some churches run orphanages. They care for kids whose parents have died of AIDS. Some missionaries visit schools to talk about AIDS and how to keep from getting it. They teach about Jesus too, and many kids have accepted Him. Schoolkids have also received *The Book of Hope*, which tells them the gospel story. Some schools have Bible clubs.

LET'S PRAY...

- for our missionaries as they work with these different churches.
- for the kids of Zambia, especially those who have lost parents because of AIDS.
- that more Zambians will answer God's call to serve the churches, and for those now in Bible school.

- for the women of Zambia and for those with AIDS, that they will find eternal life in Jesus.



Winnie's Newsletter

A take-home paper for kids!

ZAMBIA

Quick Facts

Location: Look at the bottom of the continent of Africa. You will find South Africa. Above it is Botswana. You will find Zambia above that. Zambia is a bit larger than our state of Texas.

The Land: Zambia is on high, flat land covered with grasslands and forests. On the Zambezi River in the south, you can hear the roar of Victoria Falls, a great waterfall, from 10 miles away.

Weather: Because Zambia is high above sea level, it is cooler than most African nations. July is the coolest month (about 61 degrees) and January is the hottest (around 70).

Capital City: Lusaka (3.1 million)

Population: 11.8 million

People Groups: More than 70 African tribes, European, Indian

Languages: English, Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga, Lozi, Lunda, Kaonde, Luvale (all official)

Religions: Christianity (50–75%, many mix Christian beliefs with African religions or with Islam), Muslim and Hindu (24–49%), indigenous beliefs

Assemblies of God Facts: Currently 9 missionaries work in Zambia. There are 756 churches with over 200,000 members, but only 464 pastors. The two Bible schools and a training institute are training about 100 students.



Naailah

Naailah sets out a bowl of thick, doughy *nshima*, a favorite food made of cornmeal, and another of meat stew and vegetables. Soon the room is full as her three brothers, two sisters, her aunt, three cousins, and her father gather around the table. Mother passes a basin of water to Father and Aunt Lusungu, then to the boys and the girls before washing her own hands. Father says a prayer, then everyone digs in.



Time for School...

Naailah's two older brothers go to the school in their village near the town of Kabwe. The family can afford to send only two children this year, and they believe it is more important for boys to go to school. Naailah only speaks Chitonga, which is one of the many dialects of Tonga, but the boys are teaching her some English and let her try to read their school notes.

...and Play

After school, the boys play soccer. The girls like to play dodgeball or shoot "marbles" with small stones. The family also enjoys church activities, especially singing in the choir.

...Work...

Naailah ties a little sister onto her back with a large cloth called a *citenge*, and she and her cousin Namwene go to cut pumpkin leaves to cook later.



The men and boys work in the fields, where they raise corn, potatoes, peanuts, and other crops. Naailah and her mother often grab a hoe and help the men with the farming. Everyone works together to provide food for the family. It's hard work under a hot sun, but they sing and talk while they work, and the time passes quickly.

Most Zambians make their living by farming. They may find better jobs in the cities, but many who go there cannot find work. Naailah is glad her family has enough to eat and to share with their many relatives. They also supplement their income by selling some of their produce at a roadside market.

Cozy

Like the other families in her village, Naailah's family lives in a hut. Many huts are clustered together to form a village. It gets pretty cozy when all the relatives are there, but that's the way they like it.

The big cities have tall buildings made from steel and cement. Naailah has never been to the nearby capital city, but she has seen pictures.



Hard Times

Naailah spends a lot of time with her cousin Namwene. Namwene and her family are very sad, because her father just died of AIDS. About 1 million people in Zambia have this disease. Many people are not faithful to their husbands or wives and spread the disease. More than 750,000 children have lost their parents, and many have AIDS themselves. Naailah prays her aunt doesn't have AIDS and that her parents will be safe.

Some days, Naailah is happy just to be alive. It's hard to find proper health care, not only for those with AIDS, but for those who suffer from many diseases. In Zambia, malaria is the biggest killer of children under the age of five. Health care isn't the only problem. Some years there is very little rain, and some years there is too much rain. In both cases, entire crops are lost and famine threatens to take many lives. In some regions where famine has struck, children are unable to go to school because without food, they don't have the energy to walk there. In some areas, school is a three-mile walk.

BGMC Blesses Zambia!

BGMC is reaching the children of Zambia by supplying all of the children's ministries equipment and supplies needed by the missionaries. The missionaries have been concerned about the health of the children. Many don't get much food to eat. BGMC is helping with the Community Health Evangelism program by providing food and lesson materials. BGMC also helped purchase land to build a big farm that teaches the people how to grow crops. The crops grown then feed those who are poor.

BGMC helps with kids camps, children's homes, water wells, putting roofs on churches, and buying bicycles for pastors. Most pastors have to walk miles and miles to get to their churches. Many pastors lead more than one church. The BGMC bicycles have been a BIG blessing so they don't have to walk as much.

Thank you, kids, for giving to BGMC to help reach the people of Zambia!

Moving Up the River

The most famous festival in Zambia takes place at the end of March or in early April, depending on when the Zambezi River floods the grazing land. This festival is called Kuomboka, which means "to move away from the water."

When the river begins to flood, the king of the Lozi people declares that the time has come to move to higher ground. He moves from his dry-season home to his wet-season palace. The king gets into a dugout canoe accompanied by an entire flotilla of barges. Musical instruments are played, royal war drums are sounded, and a big feast is held when they reach the end. The entire journey can take a whole day.

Naailah has never seen this festival, since the Zambezi River is far from her village, but her brothers have learned about it at school and have showed her pictures.

