



## Watering Seeds

"So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor." 1 Corinthians 3:7-8

If you want to get to the village of Libeko, all you have to do is drive down Vibration Road until your brain is about to hemorrhage. About that time you'll get to a town we like to call "Nowhere" (officially named Lukulu). From the middle of Nowhere, you cross a river and keep going until there are fewer trees. Then you need to plough your way through a lot of sand and navigate the changing tracks in the bush. You will get to a remote area that is far, far past Nowhere. There you will find Libeko. Some of the greatest treasures I've ever seen are in this village. No, I'm not talking about gemstones, oil, or precious metals. I'm talking about smiles- smiles that continue to shine because of the ongoing work of God's Holy Spirit.

This year, we really weren't planning on returning to Libeko (we did an outreach there last year). We traveled out to that area in order to carry out some outreach programs in another remote village north of Nowhere. However, God in His peculiar, yet beautiful providence brought us back.

Village life in such a remote area is very simple. People live to survive, and their level of survival is not what most of us would call "living". Their lives are extremely difficult. During the rainy season the water levels turn the villages into islands. People plant where they can in the high ground, but the soil is sandy and yields very little for all the effort. The flood waters force the large rat, snake, and insect populations into their homes and fields. The water creates pathways for crocodiles to move in closer. When the people of Libeko fetch water for drinking, cooking, or bathing, they do so at great risk. The crocodiles are notorious in this area for taking both life and limb of the villagers and their children.

Libeko-  
life beyond  
"Nowhere"

What would you  
risk in order to  
survive?



Two years ago, when we first came to Libeko, we drilled a well so that the people no longer had to risk their lives to get water. For the first time they, and four other villages, had access to clean drinking water. Along with the wells we gave them the Gospel, so that they may also partake of the Living water given by Christ. The response was amazing, and for the first time, these people had real hope for the future.

After our trip last year we thought we were done in Libeko. There are quite a few other villages in that area, and we planned to do something similar for them. As we found ourselves again in Libeko, I pondered why God would keep bringing us back to this one place. What is it about Libeko that God sees as being so special?





“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”  
Romans 10:14

Our time in the village was blessed. Gerard, an ITMI missionary from South Africa, came with Steve Evers, ITMI Director, to distribute seeds and help people learn how to grow sustainable vegetable gardens. Many people in the area survive on a diet of fish and cassava (a root used for flour). With the new assortment of heirloom seeds and training, the people in the area can now eat healthier than they ever have before. This will mean stronger bodies and fewer diseases.

Since the physical body is more or less firmly attached to the soul, we ensured that all of this was done in conjunction with the preaching of the Word. While we were ministering to these people, I began to realize something. When we leave, the seeds will carry on feeding the people's bodies, but how will their souls continue to be fed once we're gone? We gave them some Proclaimer audio Bible kits, which certainly helps, but they still don't have someone to regularly teach them. As I looked at the

people with their beautiful smiles and their hungering interest in the things of God, I was deeply saddened. I remembered the words from Matthew 9, when Jesus "saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.'"

Perhaps the reason why God keeps bringing us back here is because He is moved with compassion for them and wants them to be shepherded. Though our time with them has been rather limited, I know that I will never stop praying for them, asking that God will raise up laborers for His harvest there. Please pray with me for these desperate and wonderful people.



### Safety on the Home-front

The last few months have been a time of unusual tension and vigilance for many families here. Kabwe is kind of a truck-stop town. Since we moved here in 2009 we have seen a bit of crime here and there, but most of it has been petty, "circumstantial" stuff (stealing from an open window, that kind of thing). But that is starting to change. Kabwe is growing fast and in the last 2 years the economic boom has created a larger middle class, plus a boom in foreign workers, missionaries, and expats. That has not gone unnoticed by the big crime cartels in Zambia (and there are several).

Between May and August, many of the homes here in Kabwe were more or less under siege. Some kind of crime syndicate has moved in and they were (are?) targeting the homes of foreigners and businessmen (or anyone who might have a cash stash, laptops, etc). Many homes were broken into and two of my friends (and a baby!) were held hostage until they could draw enough cash from ATMs. In several cases, employees were beaten or terrorized to achieve entry into the homes. After the hostage situation, many of us bunkered down, watched carefully, talked to a lot of people, raised our defenses, and prayed.



We are so thankful for Tank and Sasha. They really do watch over our family.

We were able to raise our brick wall by about two feet and added 6 strings of electric wire above that. We also increased a few security measures in the house and generally keep things locked up tighter these days. It has been an interesting exercise in faith. The Alcatraz look is not something we ever dreamed of having... but we're thankful for the protection this affords our family, since we are certainly in the target demographic. We are also thankful for God's grace in the people He chose to work with our family. Many of the robberies look like "inside jobs". We are thankful for Stanley and Rachel- they do a lot to help our family and we've grown to love and trust them.

In June and July we posted a lot of updates on Facebook and the support and prayers you poured over our family were just amazing. There were several nights where Ashley and I felt God urging us to be extra vigilant, up with lights on, etc. We never felt alone. God's amazing grace and the feeling that others were committing us to His care was a feeling to treasure.

The nature of my work means that I often need to travel to places that aren't really safe for small children. We also have a home and animals to watch over so Ashley often stays behind to "keep the home fires burning". This has been nerve-wracking for both of us under the current circumstances. Please continue to commit us into God's safe keeping. Please also pray against the corruption and negligence that is allowing these criminals to terrorize thousands of people across Zambia.

*"In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8*

### **Climbing....**

Three mountains in three days. When I signed up to participate in "Freedom Climb" I thought it was one! I'm joining Operation Mobilisation in South Africa for a conference on human trafficking. A major component of the program is a hiking challenge. The reason for that is to create an opportunity to raise awareness about the women and children whose lives are destroyed by this industry. And it's working. A lot of people are asking me, "WHY?!?!?! Are you hiking the highest peak in the Western Cape?? And then two others?????" My first answer is: "I am crazy and aside from ministry, home schooling, keeping house, and a DIY lifestyle, I had nothing on my plate. Plenty of time to train for trekking and preparing for this conference." Actually, though, I'm thankful for the door this has opened to share about slavery and sex trafficking in Africa. I feel challenged to learn how I can impact these women and make a real difference in their lives.

Another component of the conference was a fundraising challenge for prevention and protection projects. A few of us put our heads together and ran a "coffee shop" for OM's international conference. It was *hard work*, but we raised over \$2500!!! I can tell you, we were excited to hand-in that check!

Human trafficking is a growing problem around the world. Africa is riddled with trafficking cartels and the sale of women and children is common, particularly in rural areas. It ruins lives as young girls (and boys) are torn from their families and forced into unspeakable circumstances. It goes on every day, all around us. Truth be told... it probably happens not far from you too.

The goal of Freedom Climb is to increase awareness about trafficking, train and equip people in viable trades to make them less vulnerable, and raise funds for prevention and protection projects.

If you haven't seen the movie *Nefarious*, please go watch it. Surrounded as I am by poverty and desperation, I was shocked and humbled by the plight faced by so many women and children. Please pray for them. Please pray for their freedom, but more than that, pray for God's light and grace to shine into their lives that they may see their true Salvation.

...And pray for me too? Three mountains is a lot! (Did I mention Tim is staying in Zambia? On his own? With all three kids? Maybe you can pray for them too???)

- Ashley



"Hear the desire of the afflicted, strengthen their heart, and incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed."  
Psalm 10:17

## Come hear about our adventures in Africa:

Oct 27 – 31, DC area

November 1 – 5, upstate New York; Grace Chapel in Clifton Park

November 6 – 12, Pagosa Springs, CO; Grace in Pagosa

November 13 – 15, Payson, AZ

November 15 – 25, Phoenix, AZ

- Nov 16, 6pm North Village Baptist Church
- Nov 19, 7pm Litchfield Park Baptist Church
- Nov 23, all services, Advent Episcopal

Dec 1 – 5, LA area, CA; Calvary Chapel in Beaumont

Nov 30 – January 12, Tucson, AZ

- Nov 30, Valley Christian Church in Green Valley
- Dec 6, 5pm, Ascension Lutheran Church
- Dec 7, all services, Ascension Lutheran Church
- Dec 10, 7pm, Valley Christian Church
- Additional dates, TBA

Please join us for one of these events. It's an opportunity for you to see first-hand how God is moving in Africa. We are uplifted by your prayers and support. Give *us* the opportunity to share with you. Bring your kids! It's important for them to hear about the world from a missions perspective. I can promise some pretty crazy stories, and some photos that you don't want to miss!

## Heading to the USA

Plans for my trip back to the States are well underway. These trips are important for us because it's an opportunity for us to meet with people & churches, share our photos & stories, and tell the testimony of God's grace in Africa. This year the budget didn't really stretch to cover 5 plane tickets, so I planned to go on my own and make the trip shorter. We got a very great surprise a few weeks ago-several churches and individuals came together to buy the other plane tickets. Now, we are all coming back, and we will be with our family for Christmas! The kids are so excited they can hardly sit still (and the grandparents aren't far behind them!)

This means Ashley is also available if any of you would like to have her speak at your ladies' group, Bible study, etc. We both still have some openings- if you are thinking of having us come talk to your church or small group (or if you just want to catch us for

coffee sometime), please get in touch with us ASAP. Our schedule is filling up fast, and we don't want to miss anyone!!

God has done some exciting things in Africa this year, and we really enjoy sharing the adventure with you!

Thank you so much for your commitment to praying for our family and encouraging us in the work we are doing here in Africa. If you've been watching on Facebook or the blog you know that we have had quite a few crazy adventures over the last few months. The challenges that we face as missionaries would be very difficult if it wasn't for God's grace and good friends holding us up in prayer and support.

We look forward to seeing you very soon- please send us an email or call the ITMI office in Phoenix so we can put you on our itinerary!

Pro Rege,



Timothy, Ashley, Monica,  
Frederick & Olivia Keller



Please pray for...

- The people of Libeko- may God continue to show grace to them, and send the right person to be their teacher
- The women and children around the world who are daily trafficked, exploited, and abused.
- The Lord's grace in using us to make a difference for Him in Zambia
- Safety in our travels ahead

Tax-deductible Support Gifts may be sent to: The Keller Household, c/o ITMI, PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281  
To receive a tax receipt, cheques should be made out to "ITMI" and designated to "The Kellers"