



T. I. M. E. TRAINING ZAMBIA REPORT

JANUARY 13–20, 2016

Thank You For Supporting Our Trip!

A few months ago we reached out to you, our friends and family, asking you to consider supporting us both prayerfully and financially as we prepared to travel to Zambia to provide ministerial training to Seventh Day Baptist pastors in that country. You proved to be very generous in both areas.

As a token of our gratitude, we are providing this newsletter so that you will know all that was accomplished with your assistance.



Pastor Matthew Olson, Jon Gerstel

Travel Notes:

- We traveled more than 15,000 miles round trip.
- It took just as many hours (seven) to travel from Dakar (Senegal) to South Africa as it did from Dulles (D. C.) to Dakar.
- The car ride from Ndola Airport to Kitwe was just under two hours.
- We did not experience any delays while traveling to Ndola, Zambia. We did, however, have a small delay (just one hour) on our return trip, as the plane's air conditioning was repaired in South Africa.

Trip Highlights:

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Our Host

While in Zambia we were supported by Executive Secretary Quistin Chalwe, who arranged for us to stay at the Faith Orphanage and supplied daily transportation between the church and the orphanage. Quistin also provided us with food and water throughout our stay, allowed us to use his personal phone to call our families Sunday evening, and even served as our translator from time to time. We were very blessed to be in such capable hands!



Quistin Chalwe, Executive Secretary of the Conference of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in Zambia, and his son Alpha

Our Accommodations

We were blessed to stay at the Faith Orphanage Guest House. As part of their vocational training, students there prepared all of our meals, which included rice, chicken, various fruits and vegetables, eggs, and more. For our final meal we were invited to try *nshima*, a Zambian staple made from maize flour (white cornmeal) and water; it reminded Pastor Matt of grits, and was delicious with the “relishes” of chicken and vegetables.



Faith Orphanage Guest House, Kitwe, Zambia



“It was very exciting to see just how involved everyone is in presenting the worship service Zambia.”

Sabbath Day, January 16

On Saturday morning we attended church in Kitwe. Pastor Matt taught Sabbath School (taken from that day’s *Helping Hand* lesson) and Jon presented the Sabbath morning message. Various groups from within the congregation provided singing, and the children presented what they had learned in Sabbath School. It was a lot of fun and very exciting to see just how involved everyone is in presenting the worship service.

In the afternoon we led a seminar on tithing. We had a very good discussion, focusing on the “why” of giving and encouraging leaders to set an example in their giving. We left our teaching materials for attendees to share what they learned with their congregations.



Above: Youth present several songs during worship
Bellow: Jon presents Sabbath message; Buchi SDB Church



The Students

Between 10 and 15 people attended each session. The largest group was on Sabbath day, but many students could not stay due to work and church responsibilities. This picture (right) includes the 11 people who attended all three sessions (the woman at the far left was only able to join us for devotionals). The men and women were excellent students and it was a joy to teach them over the course of three days.



Students (L to R, B to F): Fray, George, George, Matthew; Volunteer, Ruth, Godfrey, Lloyd, Quistin, Alan, Pascal, Edwin

Sunday, January 17

Pastor Matt presented the “Biblical Leadership” materials, emphasizing those parts he found most practical. Although he was only able to completely cover three of the six weeks’ worth of work, much of what he didn’t

cover was addressed by the students’ astute questions. Most of the students were pastors and were unable to complete the materials ahead of time because their ministry pay is very small and they must support

their families with full-time jobs (mostly farming). Nevertheless, we were able to cover what was most important and ended the day with a devotional and personal testimony from Jon.

Monday, January 18

“Spiritual Growth” materials were presented by Jon. Because the pastors were already familiar with many of the points (daily Bible reading, prayer, weekly worship, etc.), Jon was able to cover all six weeks’ worth of materials in one session. We followed-up with a Question and Answer Session,

discussing topics such as speaking in tongues, requirements for pastors and deacons, women in office, what titles are appropriate for use in the church, and more. We were deeply impressed by the students, who asked excellent questions and engaged in good dialogue with us as

well as one another; their response to our teaching bodes well for their ability to teach future groups in Zambia. As Jon had done on Sunday, Pastor Matt ended the day with a devotional which included his personal testimony.



“Between 10 and 15 people attended each session. The largest group was in attendance on Sabbath day.”

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Who We Are

Seventh Day Baptists observe the Biblical seventh day Sabbath (Saturday), the day established and blessed by God at earth's creation. God commanded that the seventh day be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience, not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ. The Sabbath provides believers with a specific time to honor and worship the Creator. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different.

Next Steps

Our time in Zambia was a great blessing. We were warmly received by our brothers and sisters in Christ, and were both encouraged and inspired by their willingness to work hard in improving their leadership skills and deepening their relationship with Christ.

We are currently exploring two avenues of ongoing support for our friends at the Buchi Seventh Day Baptist Church:

Woodworking Hand Tools

Kitwe is plagued by high levels of unemployment. Vocational training allows young men to start their own small businesses, and certain people in Kitwe would be able to teach the youth to work with wood, but they lack tools to do so. To help equip these young people with the skills needed to support themselves, we are gathering new and gently-used hand tools (saws,

planes, combination squares, chisels, mallets, etc.), to be shipped to the Buchi church.

Clothing

At a later date, we will collect new and gently-used clothing to send to the Buchi church. This clothing will be used by church members for both themselves and others.

If you would like to help us with either of these efforts, please let us know. Your help will be a blessing to us as well as our Zambian brothers and sisters in Christ!

