

Dear brothers and sisters,

God is faithful. I've been in Chavuma, Zambia now for three weeks. I live with missionaries John and Lesley Leach (Waymakers ministries) who are full of knowledge and have been teaching me lots. I've been working with two Luvale natives, Davy and Colin, to translate the "Look, Listen and Live" series of bible stories into the Luvale language. They translate while I type what they have translated, and also challenge them on the meaning of some words. But these guys are sent from God. They worked on the Jesus Film translation, and they are gifted evangelists. God has provided a connection to many local churches through them, and many more men are seeking to be equipped by John Leach and Waymakers to evangelize across the Zambezi river.



Colin, Davy and I working on translating scripts

This side of the river there are a few solid Bible-teaching churches. The other side, however, many people have never even heard about the Christian God. They live in mud-and-thatch huts. They farm and fish as they have done for millenia. Nothing has changed, there is no hope. Waymakers seeks to uplift these people even as we bring them the Gospel. (Pray God sends more business-minded missionaries.) Satan wants us all to live like animals, but we are made in the image of God, with creativity and the ability to improve our surroundings and benefit others!



The Zambezi river



A venomous snake which invited itself into our workspace

So the end of this week we will cross the river with half a dozen guys. We will put in boreholes for fresh water and bring these people new seeds to plant. We will employ "creation evangelism", in which we explain the origin of man, the order and goodness of God's creation, and the fall. It is important to start at the beginning, otherwise people will not understand their sin and their need for a savior, and they will blend their ancestral religion with Jesus. Every false religion or sect can be traced back to a skewed view of creation.



John Leach in a village



Families gather around the fire to chat with us

God has been teaching me humility and character. Every minute is a gift from God, and should be given back to Him. It's only reasonable that I put to death my flesh and submit completely to God. This is how God brings his kingdom down. Jesus prayed, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth just as it is in heaven" two thousand years ago. If we are willing and submissive to God's way, we can preach the very words of God, we can heal the sick and drive out demons. It's not us, but God's power through us. Little has changed since the first century. The enemy is still trying to reduce our effectiveness with accusations, depressions and excuses. And we can still do "greater works" than Jesus (John 14:12) if we cling to Him!

Prayer requests:

- that the next ten days across the river may be fruitful, setting captives free and releasing prisoners from darkness (Is 61:1)
- for the character of God's Spirit to shape and mould each of the laborers going
- for the quick and accurate recording of "Look, Listen and Live" afterward (as we expected, the process is taking longer than we expected)
- thanks to Jesus that he is the Lord of the Harvest, that He knows who are His, and that He's looking out for each of His sheep with more power and love than we ever could

In Christ,

Joel