



Héctor, Paola & Asher
GARCIA
MISSIONARIES TO ZAMBIA



Hector Nov 03 | Paola Jul 02 | Asher Jul 06

*A Great Commitment
to the Great Commission
for the Glory of God*

... Entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

1 Timothy 2:2

Dear brethren

The last few weeks have been full of trials and difficulties in our life and ministry in Zambia, but we thank God for his sustaining grace, as well as the prayers of all the saints on our behalf.

Central Africa Baptist University

In spite of the current difficulties and uncertainty in Zambia due to the Covid-19 situation, by the grace of God, last month we finished another semester of pastoral training. Last semester was probably my busiest so far because of the amount of students I had (a total of 80 students), but by the enabling grace of God, I managed to not only finish the semester, but also to spend many hours in edifying conversations and discipleship time with a good amount of students throughout the semester. Paola also spent many hours with a group of young women that are part of our new, 1-year certificate program. Overall, we praise God that we had many opportunities for discipleship and training.

The school is currently on a short break which was supposed to have ended the first week of July. However, because of the recently imposed restrictions on schools and any other gatherings, we are not able to open yet. Sadly, this means that we were forced to cancel our July block classes for the second year in a row. These classes are so important because we normally have around 150-200 pastors and leaders in attendance that cannot be enrolled in full time theological training. The government will give an update on July 31st, and we will know then if we are able to open. If the government does not allow it, we will have to start our semester on the 3rd of August with online classes until we are allowed to meet regularly. However, doing online classes is very challenging here in Africa because most students do not have access to a computer or even internet. So, our prayer is that we will be able to start our normal semester, otherwise, we will definitely lose some students. Either way, our new semester will begin on August 3.

Kitwe Church

As I mentioned earlier, this past semester was a very busy one, and that includes the encouraging work at Kitwe Church. The church has been growing steadily in the last few months, not only with people that have come to know the Lord recently, but we also have several people that have joined us from other churches in search for sound preaching and teaching. By God's grace, I had the privilege of baptizing eight people last month, most of which are new believers. Thus, our church had experienced a great spirit of life and encouragement in the last few months. However, right after our baptism service, the government emphasized the fact that Covid-19 has gotten out of control in Zambia and they announced new restrictions for all schools, businesses and gatherings, which also included limiting church services to 1 hour. This has created a general sense of fear in the population that has also affected the church of Christ. Sadly, a few of our regular comers and also some newer believers are struggling with fear and are even afraid to come to church (though the majority are still trying to stay faithful to the Lord and his church). Nonetheless, we are trying to keep everything functioning as normal as possible while we continue to encourage the believers to remain faithful and courageous.

By God's grace, we will be holding our second annual missions conference in our church on July 10–11; our plan is to focus on teaching our church what it means to be senders and not just receivers. Furthermore, one of the purposes of the conference is to share with the congregation a detailed plan of the work we are trying to start in the country of South Sudan, as well as to challenge and encourage the congregation to commit to giving and supporting this endeavor.

In relation to the work in South Sudan, we want to thank you all for praying for me while I visited South Sudan a few weeks ago. I traveled to South Sudan to explore the city of Juba (the capital city) and the potential areas where we can begin a church plant under Kitwe Church. I was accompanied by Emmanuel Juma, a South Sudanese brother who