

HOPE ZAMBIA

SERVING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA SINCE 2000

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ADVANCING FOR THE GOSPEL'S SAKE!

Two really big initiatives have been started at Hope Zambia this year! The first we introduced to you back in January and deals with training men to work in the ministry. We've begun to meet twice a week to learn not only the fundamentals of discipleship but also with how to teach the same material. It's been amazing having these more mature students in a classroom setting. In turn, after we go through each lesson, they go by bicycle to their own small group Bible studies in various villages around Chiyembekezo. Five hubs have been setup in strategic locations covering ten village areas. In time, we want to make these permanent places with special pavilions to house these groups. We're already seeing more people coming to church as a result of this new approach. The *second initiative* that we've begun is with reaching the leaders of every village in our area. This covers a lot of ground and includes dozens of villages. *The Meeting of the Elders* brings us all together at Chiyembekezo once a month to encourage this special demographic in the Word of God, discuss issues happening in the community, and review potential development goals. Our main desire at Chiyembekezo is to love people and point them to Jesus Christ. I've found that the fastest way to reach this target is to work with those who are *already* leaders in their community. This month's meeting was a success with 30 leaders from around the area.

The building project at Chiyembekezo is ongoing and looks *amazing*! We've completely finished the walls and are currently fabricating the trusses for the roof. If all goes well, this portion of the project will be completed by the first or second week of April. We currently have enough funds to finish everything but the windows and doors on the building. Currently, we're fund-raising to build 40 hardwood benches for the church at Chiyembekezo. Each two meter bench will cost \$40 and, as of today, we've met 26% of that goal. If you can help, this is a great cause as we reach the area with the Gospel!

A LITTLE LETTER FROM LISA

We had our 3rd Baby Basket Distribution this month! March was our first time to host at Chiyembekezo and without a visiting team's manpower, but God was gracious and it went off without a hitch. Some Baby Basket moms came to church the following Sunday! One new mother handed me her newborn, and went back to her seat for the preaching. Seeing us admire the tiny girl snoozing in my arms, another mom plopped her happy 6 month old at my feet, wanting appreciation for her own child's charm. It was thrilling to get to meet some of these "Basket Babies"! But our daughter leaned in and stage whispered, "Did she just give you her baby? To keep?" I had to chuckle at my Third Culture Kid not knowing how to interpret this gesture of friendship. No matter the culture, every mom needs to know her child is valued! ...even if it's during Sunday service!

The completed walls for Chiyembekezo,
each brick made by hand!



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