

"And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God." Luke 9:48

Being in the bush for just over a 24-hour day, God amazed US with His mighty power. We left Thursday at the crack of dawn for Kaponde, arriving just as the community school was taking the morning recess. Lucy and I stepped into our respective classrooms while the others continued on to Mabbolas to set up camp. Both of us had lesson plans for two days, with expectations and hopes for much less than we'd planned. But God had been at work. There has been a change,. Even the agnostic head teacher took Lucy aside and said, "I've noticed a change in the students. Whatever you guys are doing, you have to teach us, because it's working."

Lucy's response was, "Well, we are praying."

"REALLY?" Mr. Manyepa's amazement revealed his lack of experience and his unbelief.

Really! The change at school is amazing! The students in my class for the first time saw a computer, drew their first map, learned that God sent His Son to a small village like Kaponde, and learned to tell time on the clock, (Before, if I asked "What time it is," their hands shot up in what looked like a Hitler salute, raising or lowering according to the sun's position in the sky! No one could use the clock, and some of my 5th grade students are 18 years old!) The Lord -by His own power- has given them keen interest. That is powerful!

Following school Friday, we all visited the home of a monogamist who had requested a visit from our church. Mr. Shakalimbwe welcomed us so warmly, saying, "I have been waiting a very long time for this. Tell us whatever it is that you believe, and show us from the Bible!" Jim and Arthur took their time, being deliberate to explain to plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Both he and his wife received the Word with eagerness and enjoyment, asking Christ to be their personal Savior. Then Mr. S. said, "We think we should be joining you at church on Sunday."

Amazing!

One of our purposes for the short visit was to check up on the block making (for the training center). Since we were only spending one night, we stayed at Mabbola's. As I was coming out of our pup tent, the groom (now "the husband") approached me -and then Jim- to apologize for his attitude and behavior in our counseling session. He asked if we would still be willing to help them begin their married life together. What a change of attitude! God's power works when we aren't looking. Please pray for this young couple. The wife is sweet sixteen and the

husband, twenty-one. At the time of our last counseling session, they'd met to get acquainted a total of three times, ten minutes each time. Now they are married and know so little about the Lord or each other. They need our prayers.

Something else amazing... Arthur was busy at the new village, preparing the way for the evangelization and teaching that will soon begin there. He wanted to establish a place where new believers could begin studying the Scriptures after they've turned to Christ. Mr. Moono (pronounced Moh-oh-no), an elderly believer from the Kaponde fellowship lives in that village and will lead the group. Another man who is not yet a believer, but is searching, has opened his home to host the Bible study. Despite our shortage of laborers, the work and seed-planting are growing! God grows His own church. AMAZING!

We were wide-eyed and almost euphoric that the power of God had done so much in little over one day! We believe it is the power of prayer to a mighty God. Thank you for making a difference out here by praying from wherever you are over there. Your involvement has amazed us. Thank you!

The first part of this letter was written almost as soon as we returned. Our lifestyle has been so non-stop, that I was not able to finish the letter and send it. We have now been to Lusaka; picked up our teammates, Mac, Leesa, Seth, and Elliot McCauley; and are now heading back to the bush with them tomorrow. Actually, Jim will remain behind to lead Salvation Baptist, and Arthur will lead the team to Kaponde...and beyond. There is MUCH to pray for, as a full agenda has been planned:

- McCauleys will be surveying the new village with Arthur. They will be investigating ways to bridge into the community with medical and water/sanitation help.
- Rachel will be speaking at the women's conference Saturday and Sunday.
- Arthur will be preaching Sunday, leading the team, and evangelizing.
- Lucy and Rachel will be teaching at the community school four days.
- Theresa and Beatrice will be helping through their translation and practical assistance. They are just great at it!

Today we go to town to buy food and medical supplies and hopefully send this. Please pray for God to again show his mighty power in protecting, providing, and enabling us to do such a great work. It's just amazing that He uses us. So SWEET!

We love you,  
Jim and Rachel