

God will make a way, when there seems to be no way.
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me.

We tried the new way home from the bush. We left our tents early morning, October 23rd, twisting through bush, deeper woods, and past the elephant's watering hole, until all of a sudden, like a surreal illusion, there was a road –a REAL road, a STRAIGHT road, a TWO-LANE road, GRADED with laterite! We were all bug-eyed! The roadsides for the next thirty-five kilometers looked like a tornado had blown through: downed Goliath bao bobs and heaps of scrub-trees and brush from the dozers. Occasionally we would pass huts sparsely scattered alongside the road. They looked awkward, out-of-place next to the progressive way. I felt just as awkward, loving the authentic bush life, but longing for an easier way to it. I feel the tug-o-war between the simple, primitive ways and the changes that are coming with this road.

After forty-three kilometers, the road was so freshly cut that we all had our morning, African massage, bumping our way past heaps of laterite soil and lumpy, ungraded sections. We endured, still hoping this meant it would soon be spread and up to the high standards we'd already enjoyed.

We'd been told that the road TO Dundumwezi was mostly finished, but from Dundumwezi to Kolomo (a bigger town on the main, paved road to home), it was not (That would be an understatement. Just sayin'.) Arriving at a large, security gate in the middle of nowhere, we met wildlife rangers. We were now entering Kafue National Park. We had a friendly chat, inquired about the road conditions ahead, and were told, "There's thirty-five kilometers of good road, and forty-five kilometers of bad road." Now if a Zambian says it's bad, don't ever doubt his word! And note that his idea of "good" is relative to his definition of "bad."

"Good" did not appear for forty five kilometers: hazardous, single-lane, no-guardrail bridges; narrow passage ways between eroding sides made us conclude that we could not attempt this way in rain until they complete these sections. Sad! We know what it's like in the heavy rains: we cannot see the road for all the water, swollen streams and insecure bridges would make it a scary threat for coming and going. The terrain was indeed "good" however: beautiful hills, rock boulders, spacious views of the landscape.

The last stretch of road was promising. It was so freshly cut that at one point we were nose-to-nose with the grader. In fact, we could not pass until he spread the piles to allow passage through. Beyond that, we again found a straight, "smooth" way to Kalomo. From there, it was about an hour on paved surface to home. Total time: four hours, thirty minutes.

Now that you've joined us on the new way, I'd like to ask that you beseech God for a way to get to the bush this rainy season. Jim and I have sensed our need to be out there, (the schools, churches, relationships need it), but not having a consistent food, petrol, communication or energy source has deterred us.

Some freshly graded ways are surfacing. Jim just downloaded plans to make a self-generating generator (so we would NOT need petrol for the generator, IF it works). One of the cell phone providers just put up a tower closer to us, so we've got new options to communicate, simple though they be. We've been slowly working towards better storage options for food, and IF we can have a self-generating generator for the fridge/freezer, we could keep some healthy options of meat, milk, fruits and vegs. We'd like to look into some solar panels as well. Haven't yet figured how to keep diesel for Rover. That dog can't wag through the villages until he laps up the liquid.

To be honest, this past year I feel like my passion has been under a damp blanket. I want to be with the kids and teachers at the schools, guiding and nurturing the new generation towards true Christianity. Jim wants to assist Ken and the team in growing the churches to a healthier, more mature Body of Christ. This frequent coming and going is just hard on everyone, hard on spiritual progress, hard on our physical bodies, hard on Rover (I say that

because we pay his 'vet' bills), hard on relationships. So please pray about the way God will make for us to stay faithful to the task.

Again, we are about to leave for the bush this morning. Jim is to roof Ken's house in the next couple days; I will prepare the schools for closing programs. This will be a fantastic opportunity with parents hearing their children share the gospel and quote the Word of God. They can now read and write, do math without their fingers, and understand some English! Please pray for these programs in the three church-schools! And please do praise the Lord that our trip to Cape Town was restful and resourceful. Two dear friends' kept us in a blissful state midst the beauty of the Cape. We thank the Badenhorsts and Dr. Hofmeyr's family for such Christian hospitality. Through them, God provided ALL our needs and wants! Jim's heart results were excellent! He is also seeing another specialist who is guiding us into treatment options for another health issue. How carefully God has watched our way!

For now, the way out the door is being stressed! I. Must. Go!
We thank you for ALL your prayers, support, and love. You mean more to us and the work of God than we can measure. We're so grateful!

With love,
Jim and Rachel

Who is the man who fears the Lord?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

Ps. 25:12

Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and **he will act.**

Ps. 37:5

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1 Cor. 9:22b - "...I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."