



May 23, 2011

After being completely focused on language studies for the last 2 months, we have taken a bit of a break while our teacher is on vacation. The break has been a nice breather as we catch up on memorizing more vocabulary and put to action the phrases we have learned. So far we have tackled roughly 700 ChiChewa words! According to our teacher, we will need to be around 2,500 to 3,000 words to be proficient in our use of the language. Although we are making progress, we certainly have a long road ahead of us but still see this as an absolute must as we desire to communicate God's word in the heart language of these people.

During our break a group of pastors from town assembled and asked me to come and teach. So for almost a week I taught each day for a couple hours the very basics of God's word and the essential principles of prayer in the life of the believer. Although the men I was teaching are "pastors" many still don't have a firm grip on the fundamentals. Again this has reinforced the need for us to be both working to plant new churches in the bush and at the same time working to develop the spiritual maturity of the men already pastoring in the town areas.

At a recent church service we decided to join with another small congregation. In all there were roughly 60 in attendance. At the end of the message, 15 people responded – 12 wanting to be born again while 3 were there to repent and start afresh. It is always a great pleasure to see God work in the lives of His people!

The opportunity for ministry continues to abound. Recently we visited a local k-9 school operated by an Italian man. We gave a small donation of shoes to help the 221 students that are mostly orphaned. While we were there the headmaster asked if we could come back regularly to preach and give devotions from God's word to his students. Almost every week I have men coming to me telling me of villages that don't have a church of any kind and urgently wanting me to go take the message of Christ to them. We are planning to start surveying some of the areas in June, seeing the need, and getting permission from the chief and village head men before we start the actual work. This last week, I began to disciple an older Zambian man. He has such a desire to serve the Lord and to reach his own people with the gospel! We believe the Lord will eventually use this humble man to reach many in the Eastern Province. As you have heard us say – we are here as missionaries to train the Zambian people to reach their own people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Savannah and I were recently approached by a group of expatriates living in Chipata to see if we would be interested in starting a Bible study with them. Praise the Lord – God is giving us opportunity with Zambian children, adults, pastors, and even foreigners staying in Chipata. We continue to pray asking the Lord for clear direction as we move forward.

Please continue to pray with us:

1. God would use our family for the gospel's sake
2. God would clearly direct our paths
3. God would open our ears and loose our lips that we may better communicate in the local language
4. God would bring a harvest of souls
5. God would bring others to help in the work here ministering to the Chewa & Nsenga people

May the Lord continue to bless you for your faithful support and love towards our family and the work God is doing here in Zambia Africa. For more up to date ministry information, please visit our blog at <http://kevinpestke.blogspot.com>

In Christ

The Pestke Family (Kevin, Savannah, & Analiese)