

## Our Next Term

We hope to return to Zambia in the spring of 2009. The focus of our efforts there will be to further develop the **Christian Leaders Training Institute** program. All three national churches see this program as crucial to the growth of the church in Zambia. We will be involved in training pastors and church leaders, who will in turn teach others. We believe this will result in making disciples who can carry the Gospel to every village in Zambia, so that all may hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our vision is to have at least **40 centers** training a student body of at least **1000 pastors and lay leaders** on a regular basis by 2012. To reach this goal we will need to...

1. Substantially increase the number of Local Training Centers.
2. Train and certify at least 50 new teachers on the Christian Service level.
3. Greatly increase the quantities of printed training materials.
4. Strengthen the national office and put it on a financially self-supporting basis.
5. Expand the number of centers that are offering degree-level courses.



Leaders attending advanced class in Lusaka

## How You Can Help

1. **Prayer.** We need people to join us in prayer concerning our ministry and the development of the Christian Leaders Training Institute program in Zambia. You can receive our monthly e-mail Prayer Update by dropping us a note.
2. **Monthly Pledges.** We are seeking an additional \$1000 in monthly pledges to help us cover the expenses of expanding this training program and to make up for the declining value of the dollar.
3. **Cash.** We need funds to cover the expenses of itineration and for air fare and moving costs back to Zambia.

## Will you partner with us?



### John & Dawn Elliott

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**John & Dawn Elliott**

# MISSIONARIES TO ZAMBIA



**Training workers  
for the  
harvest**



ASSEMBLIES of GOD WORLD MISSIONS

# Zambia

## Geography

Area: 290,585 sq. mi., slightly larger than the state of Texas.

Capital: Lusaka

Terrain: Varies, mostly plateau savanna.

Climate: six months wet, six months dry. Most rain falls in December-February. July is the coolest month; October the hottest.



Lusaka

## People

Population: approximately 12 million

Religions: Christian, African traditional beliefs, Muslim, Hindu.

Languages: English (official); about 40 local languages, including Bemba, Lozi, Kaonde, Lunda, Luvale, Tonga, and Nyanja.

Health: Infant mortality rate—102/1,000. Life expectancy—37 years. HIV prevalence (age 15-49)—17%.

Work force: 75% agriculture, 6% mining and manufacturing, and 19% services.



Village in Southern Province

## Christianity in Zambia

Christianity has been in Zambia for over 100 years, having been introduced by David Livingstone in the mid-1800's. Response to the Gospel was initially very slow. Less than 2% of Zambians had declared themselves to be Christians and had been baptized by 1930. This number increased to about one-third by the 1960's and has exploded during the last few decades. Today the majority of Zambians call

themselves "Christian," and the country was officially declared a Christian nation by its former president, Fredrick Chiluba. However, many of these Christians are members of the Jehovah's Witnesses and other Christian cults who do not have a Biblical understanding of the Gospel. In addition, Islam is rising rapidly, especially in the eastern parts of the country. The doors for evangelism and church planting are wide open now, but this may not continue for long. It is imperative that evangelists, church planters, and pastors be equipped as soon as possible to gather in the millions of Zambians who currently do not know Jesus personally as their Lord and Savior.

The American Assemblies of God entered Zambia officially in 1997. The Elliotts were the second missionary couple to reside there. Currently there are also two other couples, one single missionary, and two missionary associates doing ministry in the country. We work with three different national churches in Zambia, all affiliated with the World Assemblies of God Alliance. The largest of these, with over 1200 congregations, is the Pentecostal Assemblies of God. The other two groups—the Assemblies of God in Zambia and Grace Ministries Mission—each have close to one hundred congregations. Together these three groups have increased seven-fold in size since 1990!



Leaders attending class in Mongu

## Our Ministry in Zambia

We went to Zambia in 1998 with the goal of developing a non-residential leadership training program to equip those God was calling and raising up as leaders among the three national churches we partner with in Zambia. This is necessary because of the tremendous

growth of the church. Residential schools alone cannot meet the increasing demand.

There is great need for a method that allows men and women to remain at home and in their places of ministry while receiving training. In consultation with national leaders we have established such a program called Christian Leaders Training Institute. It serves as an umbrella organization under which each national church organizes Local Training Centers, attached to districts or stronger local churches. These centers seek to equip those God is raising up as leaders. Currently some 700 church leaders are being equipped in over 20 centers across the nation. This program has played a crucial role in the recent expansion of churches affiliated with the Assemblies of God across Zambia.

During this past term our ministry has focused on the following areas:

- teaching at several Local Training Centers and the three residential Bible schools
- further developing the Christian Leaders Training Institute program and seeking to increase its effectiveness
- preparation and printing of the materials used in Local Training Centers
- John has served as National Director for Global University in Zambia



Pastor Leonard Lubula, one of our students, and his congregation