

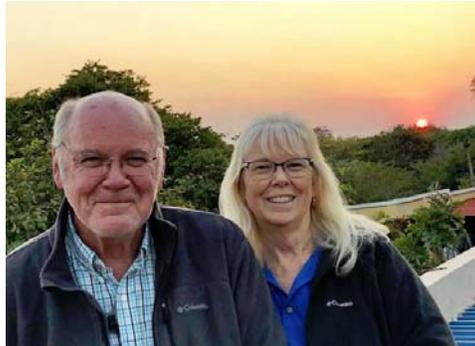


New Life Center

A ministry of the United Methodist Church

Zambia

Update October 2020 Ministry



Dear Friends

Here we are, the first of October and finally closing in on the end of this crazy Covid-19 year. Our hearts and prayers go out to President Trump, the First Lady and all families that are touched by this terrible virus. We know that there's still going to be many challenges ahead with regard to waiting on vaccines and some kind of new normals in life. Trust us when we say that Africa has been hit too. Not with just virus infections, recoveries and death, but also with the Government regulations, lost economy, businesses closing, schools closed, churches closed, ministries stopped, and family life affected. Basically, the same as all of you have been facing! This is a global concern with deep rooted effects. Unfortunately, in Zambia there is no bail out help or unemployment from the government. Many people are going hungry, daily.

However, the clock keeps ticking and life goes on. It's only through God's grace and provision that we all keep going. Your ministries at the New Life Center have been able to keep a few positive things happening and stories to talk about! We take all the good news we can get!!



We'll start with the PET Zambia ministry. We have been able to restart after a two month shutdown. We have built and distributed 200 PETs since our restart. We also changed the look of the PETs as well. We have been, for years, wanting to be a little more patriotic and paint the PETs in the colors of our Zambian Flag. As I (Delbert) went to the company that makes the paint I found out the company was sold. I talked with the new owner and told him that we were wanting the flag colors in our special, one coat paint that they make. He said he was happy to do that and said he wanted to be a part of the blessing of helping the disabled and would donate the paint, not just give a discount...WOW! What a blessing



Another story about PET Zambia. Over 20 years ago, while in Michigan during a January itineration, I was driving down Highway 10 (I think) and out of nowhere a snow storm hit. I do not know how to drive in that stuff and I couldn't see ten feet in front of me! I was so concerned about another car running into the back of me because I was driving so slow. I saw, by chance, an off ramp. I made my first right, drove about one block and saw a light-blue United Methodist Church sign with an arrow pointing "One Block" to the right. I found the church and the office door and prayed it was unlocked. As I checked to see if it was unlocked, the pastor met me at the door. A real nice guy. He said, "I thought I heard a car and couldn't understand who would be out in this mess. So I was just going to look." His name was, Pastor Greg Wolfe. He invited me into his warm office and we began a 20 plus year relationship. The church he was pastoring at that time was Clare UMC. From then on he always wanted me to visit and speak at his church while we were in the USA. He and his dear wife, Sue, would always have us stay at their home so we could get caught up. As a missionary, I love and cherish having these kind of relationships! They mean more than words can really say. It's not always easy finding pastors with a kindred heart and spirit. Missionaries and their "calling" are not always understood and received by pastoral leadership. Missions isn't always about support, needs, ministries and positions. It's really about building relationships and sharing about the Kingdom of God. After all, hopefully we all are going to spend eternity together. Please say AMEN! Anyway, Pastor Greg Wolfe started cancer treatments some time ago, and in April 2019 Sue contacted us that Jesus took him to his forever home. Over the last year Sue and I have been encouraging each other and wanting to keep Pastor Greg's memory alive. Pastor Greg loved the PET outreach ministry. Upon his death there was a wonderful outpouring of love by his family and other dear friends to build some PETs in his memory. Sue said his favorite color was RED, so we painted ten PETs in red in his memory. There are going to be some very special disabled people blessed real soon! Pastor Greg Wolfe will be remembered and talked about until we see him again!





Our other ministries of the feeding program and the Extra Lessons/Tutoring are still going on each week. The government has just reopened the schools to all grade levels including preschools. They have a limited time of only 3 hours each day at school. Because of the social distancing mandates we have had to have our NLC preschool class of 25 to 30 children split into 2 groups. One group meets M/W/F and the other group meets on T/Th. This will go for 5 weeks and then the groups will change their schedule so that each group gets the same amount of teaching for the 10 weeks remaining of the school year. It is also the same for our Extra Lessons/Tutoring classes that meet Monday through Thursday at NLC. Unfortunately, we are only able to continue with the grade 12 student lessons until these mandates are lifted and we can get back to our normal class size of 20 to 30 students in each classroom.





We have also been able to do some construction and remodeling/cosmetic work on our 2 other preschools at our Sister Churches. We have repainted and spruced up Possibilities Preschool at Grace UMC in Kawama. We are waiting to reopen it in January 2021. We are also in the process of building a toilet block and partitions inside the Chibuluma UMC to make the preschool area more kid friendly and preserve the church for Sunday worship! We are hoping this will help the preschool and the church to coexist in a better way. The construction and renovations are all possible from the support of Possibilities Abound. Thank you Thea Greer!



We are still finishing up with our 2 latest Sister Churches; St Peter UMC in Luanshya and Chambishi UMC in Chambishi. St. Peter UMC is completely finished and secured with doors so we have now made the 21 church benches and a pulpit and will deliver those soon. Chambishi UMC is still working to finish building up their walls and then we will make the canopy over the door and the final step will be making and delivering the church benches and pulpit. Thank you to Lake Harbor UMC and LeValley/Ionia UMCs in Michigan for your support!

Lastly, we want you to know that we are now back in the USA for a few months. We arrived on September 28th. We are doing our two week quarantine at our home in St Petersburg, Florida. Once that's over we'll start our medical checkups, plus we're looking forward to seeing family and friends. Hopefully we will be able to visit a few churches, if Covid-19 will let us! In the meantime we have participated in 2 Zoom #StillinMission virtual itineration meetings. They are available at:

Delbert - <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7323146/video/456623317>

Sandy - <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7323146/video/459452248>

To watch just the videos to see what we have been doing together in Zambia, they are available in DropBox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/t/0rp86Rq8S1zjyKW>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4vf3ulcyt3g1buw/Sister%20Church%20Sept%202020.mp4?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ny74afudw5t5b60/Community%20Health%20Education%3AEvangelism.mov%232.mov?dl=0>

We continue to appreciate all that each of you do for those in Zambia. You are truly a blessing to many lives and we thank you for your sacrifice for others around the world.

May God continue to be a help to each of you in these strange and difficult days!

Faithfully Serving,
Delbert & Sandy Groves

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