

Dear Prayer Partners,

We started our ministry in Machiya in 2011. We started with a simple Bible study to teach the basics of the Word of God and the Gospel. We met on Saturdays in a school class room. The Bible study started small but quickly grew as we invited people and it spread by word of mouth. People were eager for our meetings, and we found that they were going out of the Bible study telling others what they had learned. It was encouraging to see people's reception of the ministry. Then, all at once, we lost about two thirds of the people. As we began to talk with those who were no longer attending, some of the most eager learners at the start, we found that one man, a local pastor named Albert, had been spreading rumors about us. He instructed all of his church members and as many others who would listen that they should not attend our Bible study. Few were convinced to return. All we could do was pray. I prayed for the pastor. He was eventually replaced in his church.

Now, about 13 years later, I was surprised to see Albert show up at our Saturday men's Bible study. He told me how that he had abandoned his faith after being dismissed as pastor. One of our church leaders had been visiting him and sharing the Word of God and encouraged him to come to Bible study. As I shared the scripture with him, he was astonished to learn that he had never been a child of God. He had always trusted in his own goodness and effort to keep God's law to save him. I was so happy when he was able to see his sin and need for Jesus Christ alone as his Savior. He prayed and received God's gift of salvation that day. He is now a faithful member and active in the church. He is a great encouragement to the other members. We praise God for answering our prayer for Albert, and are reminded that God's time is always perfect even with it is difficult to wait.

We were very happy to once again host a group from our sending church this year. We were so refreshed and encouraged by them. I have struggled to complete some things on the unfinished half of our house so that we can use our master bedroom, living room and bathroom. This included tile in the shower and window frames in the living room. Our pastor brought men with him who had the skills to do these projects. The tile work was complete as well as the most difficult parts of the window frames. I was able to quickly finish these after the group left. We are very blessed to have an indoor bathroom after all these years. And will shortly be able to use our whole house.

Every soul is precious to us and we would ask you to pray for all the unsaved in our sphere of influence, but I want to ask for prayer for one man in particular. He is a dear friend to our family and the grandfather of Fanny, the young Zambian girl we are raising with our own children. During our family devotion time she was tearful when asking for help to lead some of her family and friends to the Lord. We have been praying for her grandfather for years now. He is a Jehovah's Witness and is confident in his own goodness. Please pray that he will see his need for the Savior and the Fanny might have the opportunity to share the Gospel with him.

We are coming up on some big changes in our main church ministry that will position it to be more independent so that we can focus on other aspects of the ministry. Please pray for wisdom and God to raise up the right people to take over more responsibilities. We are look forward to giving a good report on these developments by the end of the year.

We have extended our term in Zambia by a few months out of necessity, to walk with the believers through a difficult time of drought and food shortage in the country. Sadly this means we will miss the Holiday season with friends and family. It is a time when we think of them often. But our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support. It continues to make a difference in eternity. We pray that God will bless you in a great way.

Love in Christ,

Wade and Donna Rasmussen