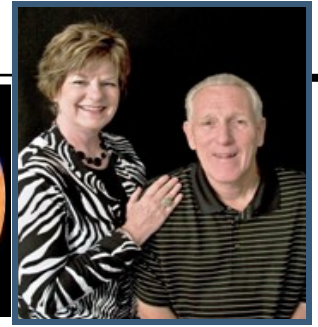


# Evangelism Partners INTERNATIONAL



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John and Sharon Booker

## Thrust into the Hands of God!

May 2, 2013 finally arrived. The year of planning and praying came together and with grateful hearts and joy we thrust ourselves into the hands of God and boarded the plane. God had divine appointments planned every leg of the trip. Our conversations were exciting and stimulating...a young woman on a filming assignment with BBC, a man from Peoria returning to his work in Mexico after a visit home, a flight attendant who was very interested in our mission, stopping by our seats several times for a chat. Before de-boarding he brought us a S. African newspaper with reports of the Oklahoma tornado and its destruction. Each of those encounters afforded us the opportunity to extend to them an invitation to come visit us in Texas in addition to placing in their hands a copy of the written gospel message we were traveling to share.



24 hours after our taxi down the runway in DFW we landed with a skid at the Lusaka International Airport. Making our way through customs we were met by our friend and colleague Marlon Zulu. Marlon escorted us to what was to be our resting place for the next couple of nights before heading out to the project area. Our rest time was peppered with visits from various pastors and partners in Lusaka. It was a sweet time of re-connecting. Sunday we attended church with Marlon where John spoke to the Shepherd Shammah Congregation. Marlon is the pastor, and it is located in one of the largest compounds (800,000 people +). The need for an evangelical church is paramount. The majority of their church building was washed away last year during the heavy rains, yet the congregation continues to meet and enjoy worship together in a makeshift structure. The walls were almost completely built in the fall of last year but before the roof was in place the rains came washing away much of the existing building. They are in the process of rebuilding. Would you or your S.S. class pray about providing wood for beams and metal roofing sheets before the rains come? (Cost \$1800).



Monday morning we boarded the bus for a four hour bus ride to Nyimba, one of the project areas. We stayed overnight in Nyimba to meet with Pastor Tembo and the members of Bethel Baptist Church, planted in 2012. From the bus stop we made our way to the guest house. It was at the guest house that Sharon fell and injured her arm. The project had not officially started and we had encountered an attack from our adversary. We knew for sure God was up to something BIG! The next morning we made a trip to the bush hospital. Our host pastor (Gideon Tembo) was instrumental in getting Sharon treatment complete with pain medication. Her arm was x-rayed (machine donated by World Vision) and the Dr. concluded she had no broken bones. They put her arm in a cloth sling and sent us on our way. We praise God for His faithful protection and provision! Even though she had no broken bones she was still in considerable pain and unable to use her right arm. However, we felt the project must be completed and we were trusting God for all the details, even comfort and restoration for Sharon's shoulder.



We finally reached what we believed to be our final destination only to learn we had yet one more hour of bumping, swerving, jarring and jostling before arriving at the Nyika Motel where we were to lodge for the next two weeks. Happy to be still we quickly took in our new surroundings excited to have a place to rest our weary bodies. We had a quick carry out dinner (yes even in the bush you can find a restaurant of sorts). We ate and passed out from exhaustion. School meetings were to begin early the next morning. Now in Sinda... the project had officially begun!



Our home for two weeks...Nyika Motel Room 117

## OVER 5,000 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS RECEIVE CHRIST

Our May project involved two teams of evangelist. One of our teams worked in the area around Nyimba under the direction of Pastor Marlon Zulu. From May 7-9 Marlon and his team conducted three Jesus Film shows in the village of Lodzani. A church was planted there on May 12 with Pastor Patrick Phiri leading. A total of 58 were present with all 58 awaiting Baptism. From May 10-11 the team moved to Kabvuma and conducted two Jesus Film shows. A second church was planted with 20 present and awaiting Baptism under the direction of Pastor Steven Tembo. (many who attended the JFS will be followed up on by these two Pastors.) A total of **9,500** were present for the five Jesus Film showings. **6,700** indicated a desire to receive Christ! [*Many present for the film shows walked some distances from surrounding villages to hear the Gospel!*]

Our second team, which included John and I, operated in the area around Sinda under the leadership of Pastor Iwell Phiri. This project was in the far eastern region of Zambia. We slowly navigated each rut and cow path into the villages. Flashbacks of our growing up days in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico invaded our memories. The wind and sand blew continuously covering everything with red sand. After a few days we began to notice as we past through the villages the children had taken on a ghostlike appearance from the dirt and grime clinging to clothes, skin and hair. Arriving at the schools we were warmly greeted by the head teacher.

Both teachers and students were delighted when we would greet them in their own native tongue (Muli bwanji). The drives were long distances from the guest house (45 min. to 2 hrs.). At one point we were only 20 miles away from the Mozambique border. The clear and compelling Gospel message was shared in 22 schools during the project. John and I spoke to over **6,700** students and teachers. Over **5,000** indicated a desire to receive Christ as their Savior! (*a number of teachers also prayed to receive Christ!*). At the end of each school assembly, four Good News Bibles and one soccer ball was presented to the school. The gifts of Bibles and Soccer Balls were received with joyful exuberance by both students and teachers.





# FIVE CHURCHES PLANTED IN EASTERN ZAMBIA

In addition to speaking in 22 schools in and around Sinda, our team also conducted seven Jesus Film meetings in three different vil- lages. On May 8-9 we had two film shows in the Nsato village with a church being planted on Sunday May 12. Glory Baptist church be- gan with 58 members in attendance on the first Sunday and 28 members were baptized! (see the creek in the pictures!). Two



more film shows were conducted from May 10-11 in Chataika with a church being planted on Sunday May 12. Emmanuel Baptist Church began with 84 members present on the first Sunday and 32 members were baptized! It was a wonderful and moving experience to watch 60 new be- lievers confess their faith in Christ through Baptism!

Meeting with us on May 12 to plant these two new churches were over 300 people from Ninive and Jubero villages where EPI has planted churches in the past 12 months. Many of these church members had walked 10-15 kilometers to encourage these new believers! Our second week in Eastern Zambia found us showing the Jesus Film three more times in the villages of Chimphundu and Kaloma. Bethel Baptist Church was planted in the village of Ka- lomo on Sunday May 19 with 82 members present and 10 being baptized. In this vil- lage the witch doctor and his family responded to the Gospel. He along with his wife and older three children (he had 8 in all) made a decision to follow Christ. It was a costly decision for them as he gave up his means of income. We learned that not only did he burn his potions and all his charms he also burned his house. He completely left the former way of life to follow Christ. We had the privilege of see- ing he and his wife and 3 children baptized. It was a tremendous testimony to the scripture “the old is gone and the new has come.” He took on a new identity in Christ Jesus. The total audience for the 12 Jesus Film meetings was over 30,000 as many people walked from other villages in the area! There are hundreds of villages in Eastern Zambia that have not seen the Jesus Film and have not heard the wonderful lifesaving Gospel!



**2013 Projects**

**January - Zambia\***

**March - Zambia\*\***

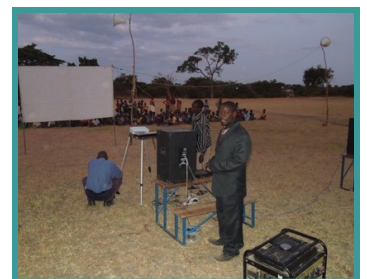
**April - Zambia \***

**May - Zambia\***

**June—Zambia**

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***Will you partner with us to reach these un-  
reached villages?***

This young woman gave her testimony of being delivered from satanic worship to life in Christ Jesus.



## TWENTY FOUR COMMITTED COUNSELORS

Accompanying us to each crusade were a group of 24 trained counselors who camped out each evening in the local school buildings on mats arranged on hard cement floors. During the day this group of committed evangelist's would go door to door inviting villagers to the Jesus Film showing that evening and also ministering and praying for people as they went. (sometimes casting out demons and healing the sick). Each evening after the Gospel message was delivered an alter call was given. People would stream to the front to indicate their desire to be a Christ follower. The counselors would begin to organize the people in groups so as to pray with each person as well as register their name and decision. So many would come that many times they would pray long into the night, only to awaken to others coming in the early morning hours for prayer and further explanation of the Gospel.( one night counseling continued till 1:00 AM!). These counselors worked tirelessly with limited rest! We were moved and convicted by their abandonment to self as they helped introduce many to Christ and establish new churches to the Glory of God. They were not compensated financially but they understood the value of laying up treasures in Heaven.

