

October 9

Today is the day of our weekend lectureship. The churches in the villages will be coming to Siavonga beginning today through Sunday. I do not know how many will be coming but it could be quite a few. They will be coming from the villages of Mapoto, Mangaba, Nabbanda, Nakafue, Chirundu, Sitinkwe and Masaga. They will begin arriving in the afternoon.

However this morning is when we will finish the work on the wells. The seventh well is done this morning (see previous report). We have arrangements to be made relative to transportation and finalizing the plans to feed those who will come and stay.

We also planned to make a short visit to a relatively new village church in Sitinkwi. One a good Sunday they might have 20 or so mostly women. There are two high school boys who are very active. They go to high school in Lusitu which is about 27km away. Sitinkwi is 20km off of the tarmac. The land here appears very barren. The soil is sandy and there are few trees. This group has been meeting but is dependent on men from Chirundu and the area congregations for preaching etc.



We give them a word of encouragement and then head back to Siavonga. There is much to be done before this evenings beginning.

As people begin to arrive we are not certain how many will be here. They are coming from all of the village churches. We

learn that Malimusa the church leader of Masaga will not be able to come. It seems that some poachers have killed several elephants on his land and he must stay for the investigation. Initially we hear that five have been killed but later we learn that the number is nine.

We also learn that a Chirundu church member who was with us earlier in Sitinki had a son taken by a crocodile. He was 15 years old. At this time he has not been found. (We learned the next day that his body was found and that he will be buried on Sunday). The number from Chirundu will be reduced a bit for them to attend to the burial. Swimming

in the lake or river has risks to it. These risks can be fatal. Last year another was killed by a crocodile and another by a hippopotamus. Both are very dangerous to people.

The plan is that this evening we will welcome everyone and have a short lesson. The lectures will begin in earnest tomorrow.

There are lots of children who have also come. Charles had hoped to discourage bringing a lot since they take up room in the transport and will not benefit from the studies. Smaller ones will run about or become irritated. But we will do with what comes. The church here has organized really well to put this on. A



number of Siavonga/Kariba ladies will be doing the cooking. Mrs. Taulu is heading this group up. We quickly learn that the large pot that they had for nsima is not large enough for this group. They will have to cook two pots per meal. But they do not complain.



The evening program will be brief as far as I am involved. But I know that people will be singing into the night. Charles would like to put a time limit on it so that they do not remain at it all night and are too tired for the days activities on Saturday. These gatherings are really anticipated by the church here in the valley.

The evenings activities begin with a word of encouragement by way of introducing the weekend's activities. Our study this weekend will be concerning the word of God. We

will talk of how God communicates an inspired word through the writings of inspired men to be read and understood by those who are uninspired. I also want to spend some time talking about the concept of restoration. We need to be encouraging people who are interested in finding and belonging to the church the Jesus established to bypass all of the things added by men through the centuries and return to the church of the New Testament and its teaching. We will also talk about the power of the word and obeying and preaching the word. It should be fun and encouraging.

October 10

Today we begin activities in earnest. Last night the brethren spent a good bit of time singing. Zambians love to sing. If they stayed up too late we will see some who might be dozing during today's activities.



We begin with a lesson that is about 1 hour and 30 minutes. The members will sit patiently to hear the Bible explained. I could not speak for that long in America that is certain. Zambians have a different attitude toward time. In America we do everything by the clock. Here the clock sort of enters into the equation as a reference point.

When an invitation is offered there are a number of responses. 9 come to be baptized from different congregations. 3 come requesting prayer. What has to happen now is that we will take a break while many go to the lake to witness the baptisms.



It turns out that while at the lake 3 more request to be baptized. In the end 12 are baptized into Christ. It is a happy time.

Lunch turns out to be quite an effort. We do not have a final count but Charles says that there are more than 300 present so far. Another problem that crops up from

time to time is people who should not take charge do so and it confuses things. The program was to have begun at 2pm after lunch. But someone told everyone that it would not start until 3pm. This happens more than it should. But all in all the days activities go well. The afternoon study lasts nearly 2 hours. At the end 2 more come requesting baptism and one requesting prayer.



We end the day' activities in the evening by 8pm and look forward to Sunday's session which will only be in the morning. Likely it will not end until later in the day and we need to get the folks on their way back home.

October 11



At the end of the service 2 request baptism. This brings the number to 16 for the weekend. They have come from the various villages and Siavonga. Unfortunately when people are asked to help with the service from other congregations you do not know what they might do. One brother from Chirundu was asked to lead the Lord's Supper. He rambled for 45 minutes. Eventually a note was passed to him that time was being called. He drew things to a close.

Finally the service ends and a count is given. There were 430 in attendance. WOW over 400. The collection was 190,000k which is a bit over \$40. While we wait for lunch a large group goes to the lake for the baptisms.



The young man doing the baptizing is Joseph Chilimina. He is the first born of Chilimina who is working with the church in Chirundu. He is a strong Christian young man. He hopes on his graduation to attend George Benson Christian Teacher's College at Namwianga. He has been an asset to the church since he was leading singing at 9 years old. He is a good singer and active in the church.

As usual the ladies work hard in the kitchen to produce a good lunch of beef, cabbage and nsima. We cannot thank them enough.

But we do thank them sincerely. They worked hard and tirelessly all weekend. When one meal was prepared they had to begin working on the next because they were feeding so many people. At the end we had 30 cabbages left and it was decided to gift them to the ladies who cooked.



At the end we sit and people begin to come and make requests. We begin the list of things which may be funded if I can find the funds. Several request are very important. One is that the leaders/preachers for the village churches will need new bicycles as there are malfunctioning. One of the young men, Lackson Moonga, sometimes bicycles 50km from Mapoto to Sitinkwi to help with their services. That is 50km one way so he will bicycle 100km each time he makes the trip. The bicycles they need will cost about \$100 each and I will need to purchase 5 of them. Another need that is important is iron sheets for the roof of church buildings. They are very durable and give more permanence to the structures. Each building will require 32 sheets at 75,000k each. That is about \$15 per sheet. The list goes on. Some things will be done but others will be on the list but will be of such a low priority that they will likely not be done. This is partly because the funds will not be there and the other that they are not projects that should be included in what we are trying to do.

In the end it was a great weekend. The largest attendance for any of these meetings – 430. There were 16 baptisms. Always good news.

Tomorrow will be a day of rest (yeah right!) and Tuesday we will leave for our program in the north.

Mushali kabotu!
Charles
Zambia