

From: John and Mindy Holtz [mailto:holtz@zamnet.zm]
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2005 8:24 AM
To: Panitzke, Pastor
Subject: pictures

Dear Peter,

Greetings. I pray that you and your family are doing well. I'll put you and St. Paul's congregation onto my prayer list for your 40 Days of Community and Better Together "Programmes." I trust that God will bless such efforts!

About my typical day....

I don't have one! (So to speak.) These days, things will be changing now that we've just received two vicars in our area, but I'll write about that the next time if you think it would be a good idea).

Let me know what you think about the format, etc. I'm hoping that the pictures will be an asset to our communications. I'm thinking that shorter explanations that go along with pictures may capture more interest than a longer narrative without them.

Anyway....

For the past 7+ years, I've been serving about 25 - 30 congregations. "Typically," I was going to each of these congregations on a rotation basis. I averaged four (4) worship services/week (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday). I usually spend about 5 - 6 hours with each one. What do I do during those five - six hours? Though in a very different setting, the very same things our State-side pastors do: Read Scripture, preach, sing, baptize, commune, give offerings, speak announcements, etc. Then why does it take five or six hours?

Because on the visit, I preach/teach a sermon/lesson which normally lasts longer than the standard "20 minutes." I often use flannel graphs or chalk boards or visual aids. I "test" confirmation students as well as adults who want to be baptized. I write out certificates of those whom I baptize and confirm. I meet with the church councils as needed to discuss the work of the church. (teach and review record keeping, walk them through Scripture to deal with a sin/problem, etc.) Our choirs and our ladies groups sing lots of songs. We eat a meal after every worship service. I visit the sick, old (and dying!). If the congregation has a building project going on, I inspect the progress. At the time of harvest when the families bring their offerings (ie: corn, cotton, chickens, potatoes, peanuts, eggs, etc.) I weigh these offerings, bag them and then sell them in town or along the road. By the way, I usually leave the house at 07:00 am and return about 6:00 pm. (Times vary depending on situations).

Perhaps the following pictures help a bit....

On the 21st of July 2005, I visited St. John's congregation in the village called Chikapa. I tested four adults for baptism. I baptized three children and two of the four adults. (Two of them had already been baptized in other churches, but they are studying the same books with the others in the class). They are holding up their certificates of baptism.



This is a picture of the choir at St. John's, Chikapa. To buy uniforms, they work in the fields to raise money. (This choir made charcoal and sold it)



To make the Zambian staple food, nsima, we need water! A whole pot full! This is the "shallow well" near our church from which we get our water for cooking nsima and relish. It's a hole about 5 feet deep but the water is rather cloudy/dirty. Since the ladies boil it first, I haven't gotten sick yet! Just a note: the water level really drops as the sun shines and the rain no longer falls. On the 21st of July, they told me that most of the water will be dried up from here within two weeks or so. Then they'll have to walk much further to a river to get the water for their cooking and washing, etc.



These ladies are cooking the meal right outside the church. On this day (21st of July 2005) we ate nshima (the staple food served with every meal) with two kinds of relish: fish and rape (similar to lettuce).



Enroute to the church, I asked these boys if they would help me find some of these local fruits. We don't eat them because of the "poison" in them. But we use the poisonous juices to remove (or should I say TRY to remove warts! Stubborn things, aren't they?) They found lots of them for me! Yippee!

