

# Mission Partner Communiqué

## September 2005

### 31 August 2005

*Yesterday I was on the road.*

*Today I'm in the office.*

*Yesterday I hiked.*

*Today I'm typing.*

*Yesterday I sought straying sheep.*

*Today I'm writing to some of the Shepherd's flock.*

*Yesterday I presented Law and Gospel.*

*Today I'm reflecting on what I said and what I heard.*

What a wonderful ministry we have in Zambia! What a Good Shepherd we have in Jesus!

I can't tell you enough of how Jesus has blessed our Zambian Mission! But I'll try! In June 2005, our Lord gave our Lutheran Church of Central Africa five Vicars from our 2005 Seminary graduating class. Of the five vicars, two of them (Foster Soko and Anton Phiri) have been assigned to the Eastern Province of Zambia, where I live and do most of my work.

For approximately one year (until June 2006), I'll be supervising/overseeing both Vicar Soko and Vicar Phiri. Both of them were installed in their respective places on the 11th of August 2005.

They've exchanged the classroom for church; a campus house for a parsonage; a professor for a supervising pastor. What they considered as "assignments" at seminary now they regard as practical theology in a congregation! Vicar Soko and Vicar Phiri now are knee deep, or better said, *heart deep* in sermon writing, preaching, teaching, Bible Studies, visiting, Sunday School lessons, Elder's meetings, confirmation classes and lay-preachers meetings. They are putting their feet on the road and their joy on their lips as they carry the good news of Jesus to the members of the congregations and community.

And that's what I was doing yesterday. I walked with Vicar Phiri and an elder for 2 1/2 kilometers through the bush. I carried my Bible, a hymnal and a jug of water!



Vicar Soko and His wife Ann  
and son Ezra. (Not shown, son Aaron.)  
Installation Day gifts

We visited with five people. I wish I could say that every one of the five were faithful members. I wish I could say that each of the five were active in our congregation and spiritual leaders in their homes. But I can't. God willing, in the future, I can. As I presented God's Great Exchange, Vicar Phiri observed. Then I prayed. Then we left them to think about what I said and especially about what Jesus said through His Word. Our goal is to meet with every member of the congregation, making a Law - Gospel presentation. We walked back to the Vicar's home. Wouldn't you know it, the Lord surprised us again. Enroute, a man spotted us and came running. He doesn't attend a church. But after chatting with him he seemed to show interest in learning more about Jesus and our Lutheran congregation.

He promised to come to church on Sunday. Will he be there? I don't know. But seeds were planted and even though there will be no rain for months, Vicar Phiri will water the soil of this man's heart.

Pray for Vicar Phiri and Vicar Soko. They've set their heart on being an overseer in the church. (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1)

What a noble task they desire.

*Thanking God for His gifts to His Church,*

Missionary John Holtz  
Chipata, Zambia



Vicar Anton Phiri with his family at the parsonage at KaKhumbi Village. From Left to Right... Steven (a dependent), Vicar Anton Phiri, Dalitso, Monica, Jeremiah, Gertrude (a dependent)