

THE CONTINUING ZAMBIA STORY: AMAZING COOPERATION BRINGS AWESOME LOADS

The ending of year 2008 is quickly approaching and its end brings a conclusion to a remarkable year in our efforts to help transport containers of humanitarian aid to our brethren for distribution in locations overseas. One of the more amazing developments this year focuses attention on the Lord's work in Zambia. We began the year expecting to ship 3 containers. It is incredibly amazing to look back and realize that we have shipped double the expected amount.

Since the "Black Friday" following Thanksgiving we have loaded four containers in Abilene, TX, Stillwater, OK, and Colorado Springs, CO. The stories of these four containers follow this brief introduction.

The success of our efforts would not be possible without the eager professionalism of those in logistics. These containers were collected through an international partnership and loaded by the union of community and congregation.

Transportation is the critical factor and this was made possible by two transportation programs funded by Congress. The programs utilized were the FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (FTP) and the OCEAN FREIGHT REIMBURSEMENT (OFR) grants. We shipped two containers via OFR and all logistics were planned by COUNTERPART INTERANTIONAL where Rang Hee Kim, Meta Menning, and Kair Toktomushev coordinated the effort. This is the great team that also works implementing SMTP by which we ship into the former USSR countries. The other four containers were shipped via FTP where Phylliss Marshall and Diane Halverson coordinate logistics with the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC).

There are a number of urgent needs in Zambia that are critical to the vulnerable community. Items shipped on containers help fill these urgent needs. Filling two of the needs were made possible earlier this year when infant formula and outdoor wheelchairs were made available to the Colorado Springs congregation. We arranged to transport these at a time when transportation costs were at their highest point. Due to the transportation costs the government program could pay only part and the remainder was going to be over \$9,000.00. Realizing the impossibility of covering this cost I contacted Phylliss and SDDC was asked to add the Colorado Springs container to three other containers that we had already scheduled. SDDC responded and the entire cost was covered!

The urgency of providing the outdoor wheelchairs is illustrated by the story of *Supper Mudenda* that Ellie Hamby sent me earlier this year. This touching narrative frames the wonderful work that is serving our Lord in the Zambia mission.

The loading and shipping of these six containers is chronicled on reams and reams of cyber emails. It took months of time and much communication but the objectives were realized and the Lord has been glorified as the collection and loadings occurred and greater glory will occur when the six containers arrive in Zambia and are distributed.

Thank you for your help in these efforts!

John

The Leper *Supper Mudenda*, Kalomo, Zambia



From: Ellie Hamby
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008

John,

Let's give it a couple of days to see if a better price can be worked out (other than the \$9,000+ that we were told). I know we want all the wheelchairs sent and then get as much baby formula on as possible. The need for wheelchairs here is overwhelming.

I am attaching a picture of *Supper Mudenda*, who is a leper. He came crawling to our medical

mission in July (he crawled 3 km). Three of our teens working in the Children's Program saw him coming and ran and got one of the few wheelchairs we had to give to him. Even with him being a leper they lifted him up and put him in the wheelchair. They took him to the front of the medical line so he could get medical care. After that they took him for spiritual counseling. The man was baptized that very day.

The next day I, along with the 3 teens and others, drove to where he lives. We found him under a tree outside his hut. I went inside his hut and found he sleeps on straw on a dirt floor and had almost nothing else. *We gave him blankets, socks, (He has only a stump left on the only foot that is left), and other clothes. The wheelchair, blankets, and clothes were all sent on the earlier container that we sent through you.*

The wheelchair we gave him will not last long as it is not designed for the terrain that *Mr. Mudenda* has to go over so these wheelchairs that Sheryl has located are going to make a huge difference for those with physical handicaps in Zambia since they are designed for rough terrain.

For your information the three teens are sending \$45 a month so that food can be purchased for *Mr. Mudenda*. We also have arranged for a proper low bed, regular mattress, small table, concrete floor, and iron sheets for his hut to help him have a better life.



You cannot imagine the joy in his face when he was cared for in a loving way. I doubt if he has ever been treated with dignity since he became a leper. Because of your helping us we can send items over on the container that allow us to change people lives. Sorry I got so carried away with this story but it touched all of us. I am proud that my grandson (Sheryl's son) was one of the three teens. Ellie

ZAMBIA CONTAINERS LOADED

THE STORIES BEHIND FOUR CONTAINERS LOADED WITH HOPE AND LOVE!

From: Ellie Hamby

Sent: Sunday, December 14, 2008 2:52 PM

To: 'John L. Kachelman, Jr.'

Cc: 'Star Ferguson'; 'Neal Coates'; 'Richard and Angie Prather'; 'Bayles, Jack'; Benita Thomas; Sheryl Ramsey

Subject: Description of loads

John,

Here is a summary of the four container loads that you sent to Zambia through the **Funded Transportation Program**.

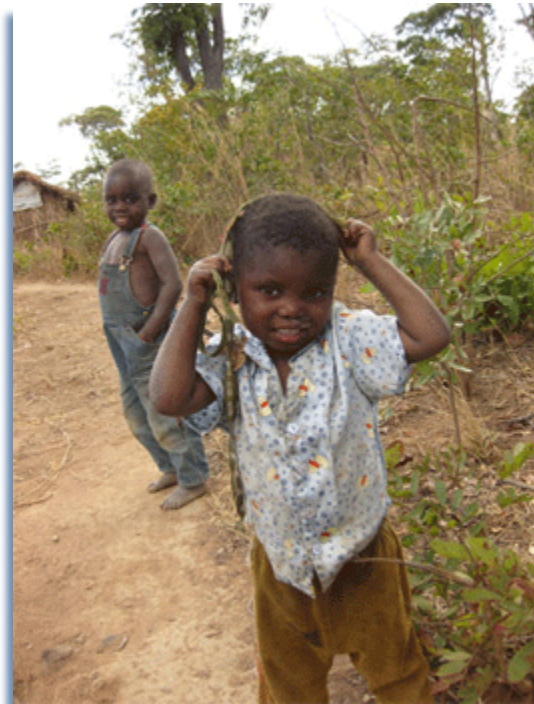
We loaded our first load on November 28 in Colorado Springs, CO. It had snowed that morning but by the time we started loading the sun was out and the snow was melting. This container was mainly loaded with baby formula for our orphan care programs and new wheelchairs that are designed especially for developing countries. Sheryl Ramsey and Benita Thomas were the main movers on this container. They solicited funds to purchase formula and were successful in raising around \$35,000. They had funds come in from New Zealand, South Africa, Zambia, Canada, and the USA. It was truly an international event. Formula is so difficult to find and if it is found it is expensive in Zambia and this will be a huge blessing in our efforts to do our part to help with the orphan problem. Zambia is known as *"The Most Orphaned Country in the World"*



with over 1 million orphans. No other country has that many orphans. We are continuing to increase our facilities so we can care for more orphans and with this formula we can assist village families as they try to care for the orphans left in their village as well as providing for the over 100 orphans being cared for in our facilities. It is estimated that 75% of the families in Zambia are caring for orphans. At Namwianga Mission all our Zambian staff have orphans living in their homes and then we have four home based orphan care facilities as well as a new one under construction.

The 99 wheelchairs we sent have big wheels which are designed for moving on dirt. They also come with a hand pump for the tires as well as many other features to make life easier for those with physical problems. These wheel chairs will go a long way to meet the increasing needs that are in Zambia. We see people traveling miles, some crawling, being carried in wheelbarrows, ox carts, backs of bicycles, and even in the arms of someone else. To be able to offer them a way to be mobile will allow them to be contributing members of their village. These wheelchairs were donated free from *"Free Wheelchairs for Africa"* and we organized a truck to go to California to pick them up. We already have a long waiting list of people in Zambia needing one of these wheelchairs.

The second load was loaded on December 2 in Stillwater, OK. This container was organized by Dr. Jack Bayles and Dr. Richard Prather. There were a number of new people helping with this container. They were able to put on several benches for our schools within the Namwianga system. They also had a road grader that will be pulled behind a tractor. The roads in Zambia are not good and all of our schools and medical clinics are on dust roads. Having this grader will allow us to keep the roads somewhat passable and extend the life of many vehicles. Also on the container were many bicycles that will be given to the needy. Owning a bike in Zambia is like owning a car in the USA. These bikes will relieve the burden of walking for many people. Also on this container were lots of bags of used clothes. The people in Zambia will be rejoicing when they receive these clothes.



The third container was loaded on December 5 in Abilene, TX. We were blessed with good weather which always helps when loading. Helping with this container were at least thirty Dyess Air force Base airmen/women. They were a huge help as we had many heavy items to load. They worked for several hours and had a great attitude about helping. This

container was organized by Ellie Hamby and Star Ferguson. The main content of this container was a conservative estimate of \$400,000 worth of pharmaceuticals. These medicines were all long-dated meds. Many of these meds will be used on our Medical Mission that will take place in July, 2009. We will see between 15,000 and 20,000 people in 6 days of clinics. For many of the patients it will be their first time to see a medical doctor or nurse. Medicines are in such short supply in Zambia and many people die from lack of inexpensive medicines, like certain antibiotics. After the medical mission is over the meds will be given to Namwianga Rural Health Center (NRHC). People come from long distances to NRHC because they know they are going to receive the proper medicine to treat their illness. There are several boxes of blankets on this container. It is very cold during the winter and an open fire is the only heat they have. We give out blankets to the needy. If a family is lucky enough to have a blanket it is generally shared at night by several family members. It is difficult to isolate someone who is ill as they do not have enough blankets. We also put on boxes of canned foodstuff. These will help feed the medical team and also the hundred Zambian team members who volunteer their time to assist us during the medical mission in helping their fellow Zambian. Several hospital infant beds were put on

and these will assist us as we minister to the many babies that are ill and come to NRHC. Many of the boxes of medical supplies contained supplies for the *Clean Delivery Kits* that we give out to expectant mothers. Each kit contains the following: candle, razor blade, 2x rubber gloves, plastic sheeting for delivery, blanket for baby, and vitamins. Most village mothers give birth without the basic things needed and if they will use this kit when they give birth, 30% of the deaths from infection of the mother and the baby can be stopped.



The fourth container was loaded on December 12 in Abilene, TX. This container was organized by Dr. Neal Coates and Dr. Cleddy Varner. Five hundred mosquito nets were sent on this container. Malaria is one of the major causes of death in Zambia and simply sleeping under a treated mosquito net will save lives. Many of the items on this container will be taken to Northwestern Province in Zambia. We minister there to the Kaonde people as well as several thousand people in the Meheba Refugee Camp. This camp is run by

the United Nations and is one of the largest in the world. The needs are tremendous there and we try to do what we can. Also on this container are many boxes of school supplies. Many students in Zambia lack even the simple necessities for school, such as pencils, paper, erasers, etc. Education is the road out from the extreme poverty many children face and it is difficult to learn without the basic supplies. They also sent several pieces of construction materials that will be used mainly for well drilling. These materials will help alleviate the burden of the women and children in Zambia as they are the ones left with the burden of gathering water.



It is difficult to find words to express our appreciation to John Kachelman, Phylliss Marshall, Diane Halverson, Brian Goldy and all the others who made it possible to send these containers. The blessings for the people of Zambia are immeasurable.

Ellie
 Zambia Mission
 658 E.N. 21st
 Abilene, TX 79601
www.zambiamission.org
www.photosbyellie.org

