

Commit your way to the LORD, trust in Him and He will act. Psalm 37:5



Photos from left to right: a friendly visitor to our tent at Victoria Falls; Anastasia on safari; with friends in Zambia

Steps Forward and Steps Backward

In recent months the small group of believers in our village have been making some great steps toward maturity in Christ and a good testimony in the community. The church has moved from meeting at our house (1.5 km outside of the village) to meeting in the middle of the village. Two men, Andrew and Brian, have been growing through discipleship and have been keen to share their faith with family members in neighboring villages. The women in the church have been regularly attending (wasn't happening with church at our house) and the church decided to use a large chunk of the saved offerings to purchase food and soap for some needy members of the community. In addition, just yesterday the church decided that they need to cleanse the witchcraft from among them and they marked a day next week for everyone to bring all fetishes, charms or other witchcraft items and they will burn the lot.

In the midst of these positive signs of growth there have also been setbacks. Michael, our former language tutor who professed faith in Christ and was baptized last July, has been gradually losing his way. His best friends are the leaders of one of the local mosques and they took him along on a month-long trip to teach Muslim doctrine in a different district. He has not yet returned. Another recent convert, Bernard, has been told by his in-laws that if he follows Jesus then he must give them back their daughter. When we marked a day to baptize Bernard he did not show for the baptism and he is not currently interested in taking his profession any further.

In recent weeks the local mosque has begun to shake themselves out of their complacency. They now have a call to prayer every morning at 4:30, which they never had before. There have also been some isolated threats of violence against churches and Christians elsewhere in our province. Would you please join us in praying for God's sovereign hand to protect His children and for all Christians among the Yao people to remain faithful and bold even in the face of threats, insults and ostracism? As we look at what has been happening, both the good and the bad, we see that these circumstances are not in our control. But we praise our Lord Jesus Christ that through his sacrifice we have access to the One who does have control over all this and infinitely more! Please join us in entreating Him on behalf of the Yao people.



Prayer and Praise:

- Praise the Lord for the positive steps that our local church has taken, and please pray for continued growth and moral maturity for all members.
- Please pray for Andrew and Brian to stay bold in their faith and courageous in their witness.
- Pray that the burning of witchcraft items next week would proceed well and be a testimony to all.
- Please pray for Michael and Bernard to follow truth in faith even in the midst of family pressures.
- Please pray for the Lord's protection over all Yao believers, and that these threats would result in many turning to follow Jesus.
- Pray that we will have wisdom to speak God's truth into every cultural situation.
- Please pray for us to be daily renewed by the power of God's word through His spirit.