

CCZT JULY NEWSLETTER

Petauke, July 14th 2020

Dear Partners of CCZT,

It is good to be in touch with you again and again. We know many of you are praying for us and we feel it will be helpful when you read our updates and see what is going on in our different ministries.

College

We had hoped that we could open the College at the start of the second semester on the 13th of July, but the government through the Ministry of Health has not given us permission to reopen. It is such a disappointment for our students, who have been very eager to resume their studies. Most probably we could be opening after the cold season next month or in September this year. For now, we remain closed and keep ourselves busy with developing study material for our students. We remain busy too with all kinds of activities, which involved the selling of our 12-year-old serving Ford Ranger vehicle and the motorbike on behalf of CEM, the solar installation project (still in the survey stage) and running the farm. And in between I recently had the privilege to enjoy my new role as a grandfather! Our daughter Taonga and her husband Kabamba had their first born son, Judah Tiyamike (name means 'let us praise' while Judah simply means 'praise' in Hebrew).



Farm

Since our latest newsletter, a lot has happened at our farm. The harvest is in. The Lord blessed us abundantly. In spite of the daily power outages, the hammer mill and the oil expeller have been running daily. Every month, a big truck comes to load about 30 tonnes of maize bran and sunflower cake, the by-products of grinding maize and pressing sunflower oil. This bulk sale gives us income to pay our farm workers and meet some of our College costs. We also get income from the sales of our piggery and poultry.



In the previous newsletter, we also mentioned the start of putting up a wire fence to cover an area of one hectare, that would enable us keep our cows and goats in a secure place and to provide grazing ground for our cows and goats without having to be hiring 'small' cowboys to be heading our animals anymore. We would rather see such boys instead go to school and church thereby be educated in a Christian way. Hopefully the surrounding people will embrace this idea in due course and thus follow our example. As I write, the game wire fence is installed.

Unfortunately, we have other challenges militating against our good intentions as mentioned above. We have experienced uncalled for bush fires around and within the College grazing ground. As a result, not much is left for grazing! This is very discouraging as can be seen in the pictures below:



Apart from the fires, we also had experienced thefts. A 100m roll of game wire fence was stolen from our locked storage room by unknown people. We suspected an inside work. The management reacted by deducting the cost of replacement from the salaries of all the farm workers for their negligence. However, investigations are still ongoing. During the same time, five bags of shelled groundnuts were stolen from the principal's house. We managed to track down the thieves and parts of the stolen bags were recovered. The culprits, who came from a nearby village, have been identified but they are still on the run. The matter is with the police. In the meantime, we are making plans to hire the services of a security firm to get more security in our premises.

CEM

The work of CEM is hindered by the ongoing lockdown of schools. In June, only examination classes across the country were allowed to reopen. The rest of schools and colleges remain closed and so no conferences can be held yet. This, however, doesn't mean CEM came to a complete standstill. One of the CEM trained teachers, based in the town of Lundazi, has started making small movies coupled with a Bible story or with an academic lesson. Marjanne is working hand in hand with this teacher and has also formed a WhatsApp group, where she posts the movies combined with worksheets that encourage more bible study for the receiving teachers and families. Every week we are getting new people from all over Zambia, who want to join this WhatsApp group. We also post this material on

our CCZT Facebook page. We hope to be reaching out with the gospel to our vulnerable children who, since March, can't go to school or church on account of the pandemic. The cowboys from our neighbouring villages at least have come to love the videos. Whenever they pass through the college, they call on Marjanne by her fence for a Bible story movie. Indeed, they enjoy hearing the Word of God in their own language!



Please continue praying for us especially for our workers not to be involved in clandestine activities and for divine protection in spite of the thefts.

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CEM Bank Details: Zambia National Commercial Bank. **Account Name:** Covenant College Zambia Trust (CEM). **Account No.:** 1814372100111 **Branch:** Petauke **Swift Code:** ZNCOZMLU