

Australia Continues To Help Zambian Members

Growing prostitution observed under Zambia food crisis

The number of people needing food assistance in Zambia has now climbed to at least 1.7 million due to crop failure and rising food prices. As the food crisis grows more severe, young rural girls are increasingly found in urban nightclubs, hoping to earn a petty revenue for their family by selling sex. AIDS rates are expected to explode. (Afrol News, October 3, 2005)

Such is the world we live in! Since July 2001, by running gold coin collections in local churches and feast sites, United congregations in Australia have been assisting members and their local communities in Zambia through, and in partnership with, the LifeNets humanitarian agency. In particular, assistance has been targeted for farming communities, Nangoma and Nalubanda, in the Mumbwa area near the Kafue National Park.

In 2005, we were able to send

\$6,025 to LifeNets—Zambia. In total, since July 2001, \$14,255 has been sent to Malawi and Zambia. These monies have helped church members and their communities become more self sufficient and have supplied urgent necessities such as food and water. Recent monies sent from Australia have been earmarked for building three wells, buying maize for food and seed stock, and for construction of buildings.

A recent email received from Mr Andre van Belkum, United elder and Chairman of LifeNets – Southern Africa, gives a feel for this humanitarian effort:

Many thanks for the funds collected by the Australian churches for our brethren in Zambia. These funds will be used to make the life of the members there more pleasant and bearable. It is not our intention to dramatically change their lifestyle, but to make their lives a little easier.

For instance, instead of walking long distances to fetch water, the wells will be much closer to the homes of the members.... Then there are the meeting halls which we are planning to construct in three different areas, which

will dramatically reduce the distance members have to travel on the Sabbath.

Some members walk or ride their bicycles up to twenty-five kilometres on the Sabbath in order to attend services. It is interesting to see the father on the main seat of the bicycle, with the wife and youngest baby (child) tied to her back, sitting on the carrier. And then there has to be a place for Bibles, hymnals, water, food and if they intend to stay overnight, blankets.

In 2005, 152 people attended the Feast of Tabernacles in the Zambia/Malawi area. The sharing attitude of these members towards their own

communities has made them lights to those around them and an example of God's way of love and concern. *Philippians 2:15...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*

They also very much appreciate the assistance given to them by the Australian churches. Further information on LifeNets-Zambia is available at www.lifenets.org/zambia. Co-ordinator of this effort in Australia is Trevor Huthnance, an elder in Melbourne. □



Christian Leadership Weekend 2006 Start planning now!

Plans for the Annual Christian Leadership Weekend for 2006 are underway. Long Point Camp has been booked again this year from Friday evening, June 30 until Sunday afternoon, July 2.

Young people from 18 to 32 years of age are invited to attend the Camp. The cost is only around \$60 to cover food, accommodation and seminar material.

By announcing the camp dates early we hope that specials on airline tickets will be attainable. Last year, most found it very easy to travel from the airport out to Ingleburn by the airport train.

The Christian Leadership Weekend is a time to catch up with friends from all over the country as well as profit from the seminars, workshops and Bible studies on subjects chosen to challenge young people to personal growth and service.

Additional information will be sent out after the program is finalised, but please feel free to make travel plans now.

Any questions contact Bruce Dean on 0414 699 059.

Church family in Mumbwa, Zambia

