

# The Murray Family

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"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."  
2 Timothy 2:2

April 30, 2008

We had been living in a cottage on the property of another missionary couple. Our house was small - just 900 square feet for the nine of us. It was also too far from church, a fifteen minute drive in a culture where almost no one owns cars. And so we shifted, that is, we moved (even in a culture that speaks English, we find ourselves learning a new language since they speak the Queen's English here).

We found a house just a five minute walk from church. The landlord discounted the first year's rent, so that we could use that extra money to make some improvements to the property. Since we are Americans, we are considered wealthy - if not in reality, at least in relation to most of our neighbors. So the church asked that we add an electric fence on top of the wall for extra security. We also thought it wise to add a security door in the cottage, which houses my office. Of course, the real security is found in the form of our dog - since almost all Zambians have an inordinate fear of dogs. Finally, as a concession to our western sensibilities, we put in a laundry room.



The spacious house gives us plenty of room to spread out. The four bedrooms allow the kids to have more of their own space. The living room is large enough to host meetings from church. The kitchen is large enough to also serve as the eating area. This frees the dining room to serve as a community library. A large porch on the front of the house provides space to play, especially during the rainy season. The main room of the cottage has been turned into an office, with a library in the adjoining room. We buy most of our furniture and furnishings from folks who are returning home - to the States and in one case, Finland. We have an emphasis on functionality, decorated with an African theme. We rejoice at God's provision.



I know that most of you are reading this with western eyes, imagining a house like the one in your community. But this house is in Zambia - which brings a third world reality to things. Take the plumbing for example. Our house has sinks and toilets, bathtubs and showers. Sometimes we have water, too. When we first moved, the water supply was inconsistent. At times, there was more water in the yard (because of leaks in the system) than there was in the house. For the month of March we had water, but no hot water. The local plumbers were no help. The boys and I finally redid the plumbing - from where it comes in from the city, to a holding tank, to a tank on a tower (so when there is no electricity, we can have gravity fed water pressure), to the house. In the process we eliminated all of the plastic grocery bags and pieces of garden hose - standard components

of Zambian plumbing. A steady water supply revealed further weaknesses in the indoor plumbing - so now we have gone through and redone or fixed all of the plumbing in the house.

Though it sometimes seems like it, all of our time is not taken up with plumbing. At the beginning of the year, I taught an introductory course in two different locations (it is often easier to take the class to the students, then to get them to your classroom). I had a total of 44 students - an encouraging beginning! Out of that group, I was able to identify several prospective students for the Bible School. I have also begun to note churches and pastors who might be helpful in establishing a school. In June, Bill Bowen, a vice president with IPM, will be here. He will be the keynote speaker at our church's missions conference. He will also begin to teach a course on missions, which I will finish once he has gone. Through his visit, I am hoping to expand awareness of our ministry with local churches. Bit by bit, the word is getting out!

We depend on your prayers

for the church - Berean Baptist

for Pastor Mwailege as he seeks to re-establish a Biblical foundation for the congregation

for others in leadership as they bear the burdens of a church in transition

for those who struggle to adjust to the challenges and changes of the past year

for new Christians and converts to join Berean

for the Bible School

that local pastors will see the school as an asset for their churches and ministries

that God will continue to raise up students for the school

that the mission conference and course will bring new partners and participants to our ministry

that the relationships I am establishing will bear fruit in the months to come

for the Murrays

for Mark and Tracy

as they prioritize the projects needed to make their new house functional

as they learn to see visitors from both the church and community as ministry opportunities

as Mark works at balancing the family and ministry budgets amidst rising prices and the falling dollar

as Tracy establishes a balance between school, needs at home and outreach to

women, young adults, orphans and kids from the neighborhood

for Kirstin & Sam

as Kirstin graduates from Columbia International University on May 3

as they raise their support (\$7000) for a short-term missions trip to Japan this summer

for Micah (who has returned to the States )

as he continues his college coursework

as he spends time with the family of the young lady he is courting

for Abram

who is without his best friend (Micah) for the first time in years

who is being stretched as he gives leadership in several areas

for Noah

who is living and working with another missionary family

as he explores remaining in Zambia or returning to the U.S.

for the others

who miss friends from home and find it isn't easy making friends cross-culturally

(they do have opportunities 2-3 times a month to socialize with other Americans)

who are students, workers, missionaries and kids - all at the same time

In His service,

Mark, for the Murrays