

# 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

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*And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations;  
and thou shalt be called The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.*

*Isaiah 58:12*

The pastor shared this verse at our church's prayer meeting recently. It aptly describes our focus during this past year. Our family has invested much of our time and energy at Berean Baptist Church, a local, indigenous church. This is a church that was planted by Baptist missionaries about 15 years ago. Problems with the previous missionaries left the church without outside supervision or resources. Things went downhill from there. The former pastor of this church was forced to resign due to a serious lack of integrity. More than the obvious problems involving his personal life, the lack of pastoral leadership for the last several years had allowed wolves to come in and the sheep to be scattered. In the months just prior to our coming to Zambia, the church was without a pastor for several months and was in a dire condition.

A new pastor arrived the same week that we did. He is an older, mature Zambian brother. Together we have worked at encouraging and equipping the church. It has been a slow process. Several people (including some leaders) have been dismissed from membership or have chosen to leave the church. New leaders have been identified for key areas. Programs have been retooled to fit both a Biblical pattern and the present needs of the church. We have focused on preaching and teaching, working to help people understand God's Word and its application to their lives (both in and out of church). After 18 months, the church is positioned for Biblical growth, ministry and outreach.

Working with an existing national church gives our ministry credibility among the Zambians. We are not just foreign missionaries; we are members of a local church and community. When they see our efforts going to meet their needs and to assist their churches, they welcome the partnership. In turn, this gives us a context for our discipleship and outreach ministries. The reality is that Berean will be impacting our town of Chelston and the surrounding area long after we have passed from the scene. Repairing and restoring local churches is a key part of raising up a foundation that will last beyond our generation. And I think they will be key to helping us as we envision planting a church, moving forward with the Bible School or initiating other ministry projects. We are privileged to be considered a part of Berean. Please join us in praying for our African "home" church.

## UPCOMING FURLOUGH

Our family is planning to be on furlough in the States from April to mid-July. Our tentative schedule calls for us to be in Pennsylvania in April and in Indiana in May. We will be in Minneapolis at the end of June and then back in PA the first part of July. We are looking forward to visiting our churches, supporters, friends and families. We are looking for a car that we can use during this time. There will probably be 6-8 of us traveling together at any given time. We will also need housing. We will have tents and sleeping bags along, so it won't be necessary to have beds for everyone. And we are used to life in Africa, so if you have electricity and water most of the time, I am sure that any accommodations will be suitable. We are not looking to be entertained, just for a place that can serve as a staging area for our trips as we visit our ministry supporters and present our work to additional churches and groups. It would be helpful to have something in place with transportation and housing as soon as possible so that we can begin firming up our other plans. Please let us know right away if you could help with either of these needs.

