

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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Some of you may be wondering, "What does a missionary do?"

Of course, we stay busy with everyday activities of home, school, church and friends.

But are reason for being here and our major focus continues to be ministry-related.

And this is not just about Mark – each member of the family sees themselves as a missionary.

Mark is working to make Truth Baptist Bible Institute a reality. It is easy to assemble a group of students – just offer study notes and a certificate of completion. But more than students, he is looking for those who are called to serve as leaders, pastors and church planters. He has been getting to know Baptist churches in the area to see how he might be of help to them. Recently this help has included teaching a course for a congregation, assisting a pastor with resources and guidance in preparing sermons and working with the leaders of a church that currently has no pastor. Through contacts with pastors, churches and those who attend his classes, he is beginning to identify prospective students for the Bible School. His plan is to gather a group that is willing to commit to discipleship meetings on a weekly basis. He will also offer block or intensive course several times in a year. This will provide both academic and practical dimensions to the school's curriculum. All of this requires study time. In addition to preparing notes and lectures, he spends time each day in both Bible study and other readings.

Ways to get involved

bus fare for students to attend classes – about \$3 per student, per session

bookcase to hold resources for students to check out – about \$250

donations of new or used books for students or the library (please contact for titles)

Those of you who know Tracy, know that she likes to keep busy. In addition to homeschooling four students, she teaches the 9-14 year olds in Sunday School. Engaging the children through storytelling, coloring and Bible memory challenges, she is working to establish a firm foundation in the lives of about 20-25 kids. Several of her students are from Vinebranch, an orphanage located between our house and the church. Of the ten orphans that are in her class, only three are readers. So the orphanage has allowed our family to loan books from our library and to teach reading skills. Our library is up and running for others to use now, too. Books are being checked out and returned on a regular basis. Almost daily there are Zambians, young and old, sitting in our living room or on the porch improving their reading skills or learning more about God and Biblical values. Tracy is also excited about a new opportunity that combines her love of crafts with a way to help poor women – crocheting purses from plastic grocery bags (they really do look nice!). An American missionary started this enterprise here to help widows and very poor women. World magazine featured her ministry in a recent issue, which has created a huge demand, especially in New York City. In addition to making the handbags, some of the funds generated are used to make

small, no-interest loans available to the women to start their own businesses. It is exciting to find transforming opportunities for some of the desperately poor women that we know.

Ways to get involved

*donation of used books for the library – we emphasize those that reflect our values
used book sales at public libraries are a good inexpensive source for books!
funds for copying puzzles, verses and pages to color used in Sunday School – about \$5 a week*

Abram works with the choir and leads singing on Sunday morning (and any other time the congregation gathers), started a monthly fellowship for the single adults, leads the youth group, teaches character lessons during the children's time in the service and visits a nearby baby orphanage. He teaches, challenges, coordinates, labors and plays (all in the name of ministry). While his active leadership in these areas keeps him busy, he is also investing his time and effort in discipling others and encouraging them to join him in one or more of these ministries.

Ways to get involved

*fund videos and books related to the needs and spiritual growth of young people
possibilities include I Kissed Dating Goodbye, Every Young Man's Battle, etc.
sponsor a young person for a weekend of youth camp – about \$15
invest in the purchase of a portable basketball goal – about \$350
we would really like to pave a portion of the church yard for a court – at a cost of \$10,000
contribute towards the lamination of character posters – about \$2 per page, about 50 pages in all*



Aaron is involved with the Awana program on Saturday mornings. They have 20+ kids each week. In recent years, the program has suffered from a lack of leaders, consistency and planning. Aaron has made getting to know the kids who attend a priority – most of them are excited about having a friend who is 6'5" tall. He has also taken initiative in preparing and teaching the Bible lessons. Although he is the youngest member of the leadership team, he brings both stability and enthusiasm to Awana.

Ways to get involved

*sponsor a child – t-shirts cost and materials both cost about \$5.00 each
donate small prizes to be handed out to the kids for incentives or rewards
stickers, bracelets, pencils, bubbles, etc.*

The other children are involved in church and ministry as well. They enjoy visiting the orphanages. Every Tuesday they travel Kamanga – one of the poor compounds in Lusaka, where 75-100 folks (kids and adults) are waiting for them. Along with several the young people from church, they play, share, sing and tell a Bible story (they are working through the Bible chronologically). They invite their friends to church. Many of these kids are from unchurched families and this is their first introduction to Christianity. We also have several kids come by the house to play, read and visit. Many of these activities may seem like child's play, but as we develop relationships with others, we have opportunities to show the love of God and to tell them about His offer of salvation.



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Ways to get involved

supply good quality jump ropes to be used by the children

provide sturdy red playground balls that can withstand rocks and broken glass

send cans of instant tire repair (aerosol cans) so we can mend the balls

donate a nylon parachute and a book of games to go with it (check www.Flaghouse.com)

Our entire family feels privileged to be serving the Lord in Zambia.

We continue to invite you to pray for us and partner with us and we seek to minister to the folks here.

Mark, for the Murrays