

# ZAMBIA 20 MAY – 6 JUNE '09

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## TAKING THE ARK TO MUWELE



Loading the boat on the trailer in Lusaka



### OUR VERY OWN BOAT

for Church Planting  
Donated by Bear Valley  
Baptist Church.



Dear Family,  
I want to start off by saying thank you so much for your prayers and support. The emails, sms's and phone calls have been overwhelming. This is definitely one of the toughest trips I have experienced!

Our two-fold goal was to finally get the boat needed for evangelism purposes to Muwele where Milan, Boiler and Reagan would become stewards of this resource to make a living by fishing and to evangelize the islands and start Bible believing churches, where Christ is exalted. They could also do follow up work at those young churches as they as leaders have matured to continue with leadership development under Henry's experienced eye. We praise God for this!

Thinking the boat would fit on the roof-rack of

the Land Rover- we were wrong. Too long and too heavy! As usual God was in control. Kazuma Plastics, where we bought the banana boat had a trailer that we could use.

**“God.....in the midst of one of the toughest trips I have experienced!”**

Pst. Ishmael Mathebule, my long time friend from SA, and Rob Booth, businessman and IMD Intl board member, would join me for the follow-up of the work on the Islands, which was our second objective.

We arrived Friday to pay for the boat, left Saturday to Muwele, and arrived at 10pm.

### Losing the trailer:

The next morning we headed back to Lusaka

to return the trailer. As I drove down the road, I noticed no bumping or banging at the back of the Landie.

**“Oops! no trailer!”** We went back a couple of km and there she was—in the middle of the road.



Rob Booth with the trailer

The tow hitch bolts had snapped. I left Rob with the trailer and went back to Muwele to find bolts and nuts. Milan and Boiler found one bolt but no nut. A land cruiser saw our dilemma and had one bolt. A young boy found a piece of the original bolt with the nut



on. I found one bolt that fit, in my toolbox. Imagine that! Was God in control or what? Well we re-bolted the tow hitch and onto Lusaka we went. Dropped the trailer early Monday morning and headed back. A lot of driving. Kind of exhausting.

Losing two days in our planning we jumped into the boat for her maiden voyage to Chafye. We've named the boat 'the Ark'. Henry, Ishmael, Rob and I set off Milan, Boiler and Reagan as paddlers.



Henry, Milan, Boiler & Reagan in the new boat, named, THE ARK

Boy....from sitting in the car to sitting in a boat for 13 hours with nowhere to go. Stand up, stretch, sit down.

### **Arriving at Chafye:**

Finally we arrived at Chafye! Well the news

was not good. Jonah Mica the leader was put out of leadership some time ago because of drunkenness and an unrepentant heart. Members had begun leaving the church. We found that he had usurped the new leadership. We told the church he was no longer in leadership and announced it to the community that night when we preached. They clapped at the announcement. He was not there when the announcement was made. Later, on the way back from Itala, we stopped in and were told by a fisherman he was very drunk. We met with him and made it clear that he was no longer in leadership. Instead of a repentant attitude, he belligerently cried: "who is replacing me?". We excommunicated him, trusting that at a later stage he would repent. Please pray for Johah, and for the Chafye Christians who have been scattered by these happenings.

### **Conference at Itala:**

When our work was done at Chafye, we went

to Itala and found a very different picture.



A vibrant church, hungry for God's word with a strong leadership. Thank God for this. After the dismal welcome on Chafye it felt like heaven on earth. Hot water for bathing, food to eat. A warm welcome indeed.

A church from Lulimala Central Province did a two day trip with 24 people in a banana boat. No mean feat!

Moses Chiromo from Bwalya Mpondo visited them and told them of the conference we were to have and they turned up.

Moses has started churches is Chinsanka, Lasuka, Mwehshi and Ndola. He is a dynamic young man. Please keep praying for him. He is a great worker and we praise the Lord for him.

Anyhow the teaching

time went well. I started with teachings on Baptism as we had four to be baptized, but when I had finished we had 11 people to be baptized. Some were from Lulimala church.



The 24 delegates from Lulimala....who undertook a 2 day trip, in ONE banana boat...to attend the conference!!!

An incident of note was during the baptism a young girl that waded into the water to be baptized by Milan when she manifested a demon and it tried to drown her, Milan wrestled her out of the water and Henry prayed for her and she was delivered. The significant of this was, if she had drowned the word would have gone out in this superstitious place and greatly hindered our ministry to the Islands.

Henry, Rob and Ishmael

continued to encourage the new believers with God's Word. It was a very encouraging time.

Kanana Baptist Church from Nsumbu Island near Chilubi was also present. The leader from this church is Obious who was converted in 2006 when Henry and I followed up on the work that Milan and Boiler had started. This man was a Catholic who has started a Baptist Church. What a joy to see him and hear him tell of 39 members converted to Christ.

We didn't make Chilubi because of the time we've lost having to go to Lusaka and back to drop the trailer. Praise the Lord we could see Obious.



I really want to thank **Bear Valley Church** in Denver Colorado for buying the boat and

**Christian Church of Estes Park** for helping provide extra funds to transporting the boat and hire the trailer. Thank you to everyone who partnered with us.

We traveled back to Muwele, did another 13 hours back to Mpanda. The water being low Henry, Rob, Milan and I walked to Muwele to lighten the load. We walked the 20 km to Muwele in 6 hours. It felt as long as I remembered.

#### Mpika church building site:



We slept the night in Muwele and left for Mpika to see the site for the church construction with the next team.

#### Land Rover Break-down:

As we left the dirt road and got onto the tar, traveling 110km which took three and a half hours, the clutch packed up. We made it to Mpika, but there were

no parts. So off to Lusaka on a very uncomfortable bus. Left at 10pm and arrived at 7am the next morning. Walked ourselves silly trying to find spares.



Finally found a 2nd hand pressure plate to go with the new clutch plate and master cylinder. Boy was it difficult to find spares. We got the job done and at 4pm we were back on the bus to Mpika, arrived at 2 am and had a few hours sleep. Back to fixing the Land Rover at Biggies Auto Clinic. The guys worked hard. Finally we had clutch and pressure, Not perfectly fixed. Man what a trip! It felt like spiritual warfare the whole way!

Thinking it was all over we were on our way home. Rob had already flown back to the USA when we bussed to Lusaka to get parts. Ishmael and I were looking forward to getting to Livingston before crossing

the border the next day.

#### Accident - Kapiri Mposhi:

The worst was yet to come....but also the wonder of seeing God's grace at work in a difficult situation. After all the repair work we thought the land rover was in a condition to get us home. After all the difficulties and blessings we thought would head home without incident. Man so many we're praying for us. About 26 kilometers from Kapiri Mposhe I was about to pass a stationary vehicle on the side of the road which was off loading goods. I started to pass more to the right as there was no oncoming traffic when a child darted out from in front of the truck as quick as a flash. It happened so quickly I couldn't avoid her. I tried moving more to the right and braking to no avail. The landie hit the child and sent her flying and in trying to avoid her we went off the road. Onlookers said we

rolled three times. Well the landie came to a halt on its wheels in a cloud of dust.



Thank God for safety belts. Some where in the commotion I heard the engine in over drive and switched it off. I asked Ishmael if he was OK, looked for my cell phone, grabbed the vehicle papers and went to see what I could do for the child. Nothing. Her lifeless body lay next to the road. A very sad moment. I went back to the vehicle to fetch something to cover her, but that was taken care of by some one in the crowd.

People started gathering, relatives crying, and a drunk shouting at us. A drunken police man arrived and called us satanists. I started to calm the crowd telling them that we are pastors and that were sorry about what happened. One of the men used my phone to call a

friend in the fire brigade to report the accident who reported it to the police. The fire brigade arrived first and took me to town to report it personally to the police. Met them as we entered town and came back with them to the scene of the accident. I started praying for the grand mother of the child and comforting the family. The police did three interviews from eye witness reports which confirmed Ishmael and my story that Cleopatra tried to cross without due caution.

Well the long and short of it is that it has been a very emotional time, and that the situation is sorted out in a cultural legally accepted manner whereby we needed to cover funeral costs and pay a form of re-compensation. Cleopatras father didn't want to press charges and



Cleopatra's family

asked the magistrate to release the body without an autopsy. This means if the case went to court it would be thrown out. The police actually urged him to settle with us because according to the evidence



we would have won the case. Unorthodox way of doing things. Every one seemed pleased at the outcome. However this is Africa and the devil is not pleased at the progress of the work here in Zambia. I see this as spiritual warfare and a direct attack on our lives and the work of IMD and Disciple Making Ministries. I really thank our Heavenly Father for his intervention in the situation and giving peace through out all of this. I want to thank so many for financial help, prayers, sms's, emails and some calls. I am blessed to have such a team. Each of you will have your reward in one form or fashion from our heavenly Father who sees everything.

I want to ask for continued prayer. I still see vivid images of how Cleopatra ran out into the road and glanced up at me in fear and surprise realising she had made a mistake.

I want to trust the Lord for a million souls to replace the one life lost with eternal life and that God would really minister to the family. I'm also really grateful that my friend and co-worker Ishmael was OK. Thanks also to Nico Venter, a friend, brother in the Lord, and farmer in M o k o p a n e , who came to fetch us, with his own Land Rover.



Thank you again for God's love made tangible in this time.

God bless

*Koos*

on behalf IMD Africa