



“One child  
at a time...”

## July 2008 Newsletter

### Team of Three Traveled to Upeme on June Trip– Here is their story

We arrived in Zambia only to find the Customs fee had increased from \$25.00 to \$100.00 since last year. Hopefully the stamp will last for three years. We went directly to the nearest ATM to become multi-millionaires again as a million Kwacha exchanges for about \$250.00. With our wallets bulging we headed out to the Centre with our chauffer and on-site missionary, Jackie Rundquist. Our previous on-site missionary, Debra Lueck came back to Colorado to spend some much needed time with family, enroll in college and renew from a very

long, challenging yet very productive, and successful 2 1/2 years of faithful service. She is loved and missed by the children and community of Upeme. Jackie came in September of 2006 to help with the work at Upeme and has done a great job of taking on the manager position. We are very grateful for and indebted to these two wonderful and dedicated ladies.

Driving in Zambia is an experience and requires the driver to sit in the right hand seat and drive in the left lane.

“Mazoongas” (white people), must totally concentrate on trying to

drive safely, which I’m sure we try the patience of the Zambians. The road to Upeme is called the Great North Highway. It is the main trucking artery through the country where several Police check points exists. You pray that you won’t be stopped because it may require you to wait and wait some more.

Mike and Rhonda Bumgardner and a friend of Africa Hope, Enid Reece from Montana spent three weeks at Upeme Hope Children’s Centre in June.



### Garden Provides Much Needed Food

It was very exciting to see the Orphanage and all the work that had been done. Two large gardens provide much of the relish and greens for the children and there are several small fruit trees. Paul and Herbert take care of the garden which requires them to pump the water and carry it in 5 gallon buckets 50 to 75 yards on each trip.

## A Great Staff

Upeme has a great staff. Happygail oversees the operations of the kitchen, meals and the overall care of the 60 children. We have three cooks; Catherine, Precious and Helen. Believe me, cooking for the children and staff, washing dishes and pots by hand is a major undertaking.

The main diet of the children is n'shima, made from ground maize, beans and a relish and porridge. Tabitha and Agnes have the job of keeping the dormitory clean as well as the classrooms in the school. They also wash clothes for the children five days a week. Washing machines do not exist so everything is washed by

hand in big tubs then hung to dry. Edna and Teddy are the caretakers for the children. Happy is the night watchman and walks the premises several times a night.

The primary school consists of five teachers. Immanuel is the Head Master and has been around since the inception of Upeme. He began teaching right out of High School and at one time was teaching 119 children in one classroom. Susie Maclean made it possible for him to attend college and to become a certified teacher. He returned to Upeme to educate and give to the

children the opportunity that has been afforded to him. He has a heart for orphaned and abused children. We respect and admire him for his dedication to helping ensure the future of his students.

N'gandu is a very committed teacher who walks 1 1/2 hrs. to and from work. He taught with Immanuel in the beginning in the project for nearly five years with little or no pay until the Africa Hope Project started and began to compensate them. When Africa Hope joined the project his tuition and room and board were paid to teacher's college.

**"OUR SCHOOL IS FARTHER AHEAD THAN A NEARBY GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ..."**

## What is school like at Upeme?

Lawrence is the only government paid teacher on staff. He is a wonderful teacher and an asset to Upeme. We are very glad to have him.

Moddie is the pre-school and kindergarten teacher and loves her students.

Esther is the newest teacher, trained in math, science and

peer counseling. She is qualified for secondary school and is also training for primary school. She is also a tailor and can teach the girls how to sew on the three sewing machines we have.

Most of the children come to the school speaking their native language and must be taught English before they can learn to read and write.

We feel very blessed for the staff that are presently at Upeme. We want to do whatever we can to keep them. Our school is farther ahead than a nearby government school in Kamalia, due to a donation from George and Judy Callison which purchased a full set of text books. Africa Hope also helps to provide notebooks, pencils, etc.



Maybin was one of two students in his class that passed last years 9th grade exams.

## Highlighting Some of the High School Students

It was great to spend time with nearly all the high school students that are in Boarding Schools spread out over a 125 mile area. Muti is 24 and is in the 8th grade, not because he failed but because he had no way to go back to school after his parents died of aids, which is a very familiar story for

many young Zambians. Maybin was one of two students in his class that passed last years 9th grade exams. One hundred and eight others in his class failed the examination. They are a success story with pages being added daily. We met Harrison and Ephriam, two fine young men and spent

some time with Matthews. Also two of our girls Everness and Memory are doing well. Jackie spends a lot of her time through out the week taking these young people food and making sure their needs are met in addition to all the daily tasks at Upeme.

## Projects for This Trip

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What we did while we were there was a mixture of building shelves and hanging them in the storage room, pantry, office and school rooms to installing rain gutters and flagstone in the courtyard with a cement base and grout. We repaired desks, cords, food scales, replaced light fixtures; Upeme would be a handy mans heaven. Many hours were spent playing with the children, from stringing beads to crocheting baby booties and hats. They learned how to

make balloon animals. They were excited by the four Laptops we brought to help them learn typing and computer skills.

Friday evenings are very special. Jackie makes a treat and a movie is shown on the lunch room wall. It is something that the children and staff look forward to.

It was once again an unforgettable experience. Being with the children seeing how well they are doing, watching the devotion and care provided by

the staff, coming along side of someone as special as Jackie who has chosen to give her heart and service to the children of Upeme. We were truly blessed by our time there and as always found it difficult to assimilate back into the routine of our daily lives.



Jackie and Matthews



Rhonda was able to teach some of the girls how to crochet.



Rain gutters were added to the orphanage.

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## Grateful Hearts



Our hearts are truly with the children of Zambia. Whatever we and so many others have invested in these orphans are paid back through lives saved and futures rebuilt.

We want to thank all of our Africa Hope friends who have generously given to help provide a future for these precious children.

Our efforts are ongoing with more construction projects, providing quality education, meeting the basic physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the children, and no not forget or forsake them.

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**Vision:** “Empower the people of selected communities in Zambia to care for their AIDS orphans.”

**Mission:** “Bringing hope to children by providing resources to meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs to build for a better tomorrow.”

**We're now on the web!**  
[www.africahope.com](http://www.africahope.com)

## How you can help!

### Orphan Support

\$25/month elementary aged child

\$40/month child grade 9-12 (includes boarding school fees)

\$600 a term for college, technical or trade school

All donations are tax deductible and all funds go toward the project; there are no administrative costs. If you request, your donation can be earmarked for construction, agriculture or orphan support.

### More Information:

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