

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction (Psalm 107:19-20, ESV).



Hilty Newsletter

Zambia is located in sub-Saharan Africa, the region hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic. In Zambia the national rate of HIV/AIDS prevalence is 16% with urban centers as high as 25% (UNAIDS).



Nearly half of Zambia's population is under 15 years of age. According to UNAIDS/WHO estimates, 85,000 of these children were living with HIV at the end of 2003.

We would like to share with you some exciting news! We were recently accepted by Action International Ministries (ACTION) to join a team in Zambia, Africa. This team, called ACTION Zambia, has dedicated itself to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, primarily serving the urban poor in Zambia's capital, Lusaka. We believe God has called us to support the Church in Lusaka to be both a prophetic and a compassionate voice—the mouthpiece and hands of God as it extends the ministry of Christ into the community.

We anticipate our first six months to be a time of learning and networking. Both of us have spent time overseas and know that learning a new culture is seldom as easy as it may first appear. We will be studying Chinyanja, settling into a new home, and developing new relationships. At the same time, we will observe the ministries ACTION is currently involved in and then begin branching out into the community. We also plan to familiarize ourselves with some secular and faith-based organizations already serving the HIV/AIDS population in order to avoid duplicating the existing services.

For the remainder of our first term in Zambia (two years), we will work alongside several local churches to develop a response to the HIV/AIDS crisis that involves both mercy and discipleship. This response may involve sponsoring seminars to help with the training of caregivers, discipleship of HIV+ Christians, and mobilization of church outreach teams to family units affected by AIDS. As our understanding of the AIDS pandemic deepens, it is our intention to share areas of particular concern in future letters. We believe that raising awareness in the USA is just as vital as it is in Zambia.

We have three specific goals in sending this letter to you. The first is to raise awareness of the AIDS crisis, the second is to ask you to pray for us, and the third is to build a financial support team. Our one-time cost for going to Zambia and getting established is \$14,500, while our monthly support needs are \$2,800. Included with this letter is a response form for your convenience. (A detailed itemization of how this money will be allocated is available upon request).

We are asking you to partner with us in a tangible way to respond to a crisis that affects every sector of the world. Unlike most diseases, AIDS is a relational disease and presently cannot be cured through medical means. We believe that the gospel is uniquely suited to heal relationships and bring about changes of behavior from the inside out. We desire to respond with blessing to a disease that has been labeled a curse.

In Christ,

Tim & Andrea Hilty



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