



# HILTY NEWSLETTER feb '06



Hello from beautiful rainy Zambia. We are in the middle of the rainy season here and it rains almost every day for a bit. The rest of the day is usually sunny and temperate. The picture above is of the vegetables I bought at the market soaking in bleach water. Flowers are in bloom and everything is lush green...reality check—the unpaved roads are washed out and have mud that can be feet deep. The next season is the cold season. I've heard varying reports, some say it's terribly cold while others find it refreshing. After that comes the dreaded hot and dry season, everyone's least favorite.

It is hard to believe that we have been here over a month. We've bought a truck and our cottage is becoming more and more of a home for us. Our landlady gave us permission to paint and paint we have! Each room is a different color. Since our cottage has no closets we have hired a carpenter to build shelving and tables. Our carpenter, Aubry Mfungwe, is a very good man and he and his wife have become friends. Tim is reviewing basic business principles with him as he has been struggling to keep his business going. We've bought some rattan furniture and had Aubry's wife sew the cushion covers. I have finished curtains for the living room but still need to work on our bedroom and the office where a Shuka (red and black blanket) graces the window held up by close-pins.

Our place is situated a couple of blocks from the ACTION Zambia (AZ) office on the ACTION House (AH) property with fellow missionaries, John and Noel Powell. The Powells have four children that Tim and I thoroughly enjoy. At AH we have Zambian staff, guards and house help. They are Paulina, Loveness, Lungu, Daka, and Zulu. They have become instant friends and have been able to help us find our way in this culture. Tim especially spends most of his evenings chatting with the night guards. Once we begin language study, I have a feeling that they will be our primary teachers.



We are experiencing our fair share of culture and “team” shock. I think this should be a new technical missiological term to refer to the adjustment of new missionaries joining a pre-established team. All of a sudden your teammates become your family, friends and co-workers all wrapped into one. It will take us some time to understand the dynamics and eventually establish healthy boundaries. As far as the culture, there are aspects of Zambia that we already love. In general the people here have been extremely welcoming and friendly, always willing to lend a helping hand. There is a vivacity to life here that encourages us. The more difficult aspects of the culture tend to revolve around money. Everyone is looking to make a living and it is easy for outsiders like ourselves to feel taken advantage of. Giving is done primarily through relationships and we are trying to be wise about with whom we build relationships.

So far, nearly every day has been an adventure but I wanted to just share one story that we've entitled Tim's “Get out of Jail Free Card”. Our third week here after purchasing our truck, Tim and I were driving around town with a list of to-dos. We entered a particularly confusing area called Kamwala where we maneuvered our vehicle through the mud rollercoaster called a road. As we were exiting the area Tim unknowingly went the wrong way on an unmarked round-about. Thankfully we did not cause any head-on collisions, however, a police man showed up, commandeered our truck and we headed for police headquarters. There he explained that for the offense Tim would have to spend one night in jail and pay K270,000 (about \$80). We talked with him for over an hour negotiating the fine and trying to keep from offering a bribe. He finally let us go home and told us to come back the next day to pay the fine. The next day when Tim arrived at the police station he was only given a warning! Praise God for taking care of us in such practical ways.

There is so much more to write but I will need to save that for another newsletter or for our website ([www.inwardrenewal.com](http://www.inwardrenewal.com)) which should be finished soon! We love you all and miss you. Thank you for your prayers and support of us!

*Tim & Andrea Hilty*

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