



# HILTY NEWSLETTER may '06



Along any road in Lusaka you are likely to see women selling vegetables and men selling anything from puppies to cell phone covers. The streets are always brimming with life. At first I was intimidated by the droves of people walking here and there but I've come to expect and enjoy such a human element to our streets.

God has been at work in our hearts and in the lives of the people we are encountering. We're challenged everyday to share our faith in very direct ways. Our neighbors on either side are squatters, meaning that they don't have any legal claim to the land, it belongs to someone else who isn't occupying it at the moment. I've been "intending" to go and meet them but in the 3 1/2 months I've been there I've just never had the "time". (I put these words in quotations since they are only my excuses). Just a couple weeks ago on a Sunday afternoon I was resting. That morning we went to church and then to the local hospital to visit a woman in the last stages of AIDS. I couldn't rest that afternoon; just over the wall fence a young 10yr old boy was crying. It went on for 30min and I finally got up and asked our guard, Daka, what he knew about the family. I sent him over to find out what was going on and discovered the family hadn't eaten in 3 days. Noel (missionary neighbor) and I put together some food and sent it over.

I still couldn't rest, this time there was nothing external keeping me awake but the Spirit internally convicting me. We talk a lot about physical *and* spiritual ministry and here I was unwilling to go and offer the bread of life. I could think of several excuses, "I can feel at liberty to rest on Sunday", "This isn't sustainable development", "I don't know the language and would probably communicate something inappropriate." Jesus' words penetrate to the heart of the matter, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

So, with all my excuses stripped away, I went over and met my neighbors and shared the gospel with them. They are professing believers but the parents are too ill to attend church and are not able to read the word of God. Tim has since met with them as well and will be reading scripture with them (aided by a translator).


The woman I mentioned early whom we visited that very day has since passed away. Her questions to us that day were, "How can I be sure I am going to heaven?" "Can God really forgive big sins?" We talked with her, prayed with her, and shared scripture with her not realizing this would be the last time we would see her this side of eternity.

God is molding us through these circumstances and daily equipping us to do his ministry. He is providing comfort, friends, encouragement, conviction and exhortation. We praise Him for not leaving us to our own way, instead as a loving Father he is guiding us and correcting us along the way.

Prayer items:

- ✚ continue praying for team unity and praise God that he is already bringing this about in little ways
- ✚ continue praying for the churches we are working with, we're becoming more highly involved with them this month
- ✚ pray that God would provide someone to AZ for leadership development and discipleship

*Tim & Andrea Hilty*

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