



HILTY NEWSLETTER sept '06

We are officially in the HOT season. Here and there you'll see Zambians walking with umbrellas. It hasn't rained since April but umbrellas are also useful to shade from the sun. The picture above is of material known here as 'Chitenge'. It is used primarily as a wrap skirt but also as head dress, baby strap, curtains, tablecloths, money holder and bag. The Chitenge symbolizes womanhood here in Zambia. It stands for modesty, fertility, respect and motherhood and is used as a meaningful gift for new mothers, brides or from a husband to a wife. Amazing that just a piece of material could mean so much!! It's the "little" things like understanding Chitenge that make up our cultural adjustment. We enjoy living in a new culture even though the constant learning can be exhausting.



In August the C.R.O.S.S. project completed the first round of churches. The month of September has been one of transition from the previous 5 churches to 3 new churches we will work with for the next 5-6 months. We have also selected 3 individuals from the last set to continue on with us for further mentoring and discipleship. John Chitambo and Eta Imasiku will be primarily responsible for their individual attention, however, we will also speak into their lives as a team. Please be in prayer for these individuals, their names are Elder Chimbini, Bana Chizo and Duncan Phinka (God will hear your prayer even if you can't pronounce their names). The churches we will be working with are Lilanda CMML, Streams of Living Water, and Deeper Life. We are excited for the next term, looking forward to building relationships and seeing God work.

This month the C.R.O.S.S. project is also completing a survey of patients receiving ART (antiretroviral therapy) at a local government clinic. The survey is aimed at determining whether or not qualified patients are receiving food supplements donated by the World Food Program. We got involved with this survey on behalf of one of the churches we work with, Venter Baptist. The community was complaining that patients on ART who qualified for food supplements were not receiving them. Julie Bennet and Tim both have backgrounds in Sociology and were able to develop a survey to help us determine possible reasons why the food may not be reaching the intended recipients. The survey will be completed Sept 30th and we anticipate a sample size of approximately 1,000 individuals. Julie and Tim will have their hands full analyzing the results and then figuring out what to do with them.

Thank you to those of you who have been praying for our team relationships. God has been doing a healing work and we are amazed at his goodness to this team. Just in the last couple of weeks our AZ team has grown to include: William and Gerri John, Stephanie Brink and Steve & Liz Stein with their four children. You can pray for them as they enter into orientation and language study. Tim and I will be joining in on Language study twice a week (another prayer item!). Also upcoming is a visit from my (Andrea's) sister, Sarah and her Fiance, Paul. We're looking forward to their time here and know that it will refresh our hearts. Thank you for your prayers!

C.R.O.S.S. PROJECT

Tim & Andrea Hibby

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