

Zambia May 2021

by Brad Rigby



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Friday, May 7 - Arrival in Lusaka, Zambia

"Not today," were the words of our driver just two minutes after leaving the airport for our hotel. Weary from travel and in need of sleep, we loaded our bags into the SUV. As we headed out, we made sure to inquire about seat belts. Our driver, Rex, told us they were not necessary.

Two minutes later the Zambian police pulled us over for - you guessed it - seatbelt violations. The officer told us the fine was 600 (their currency) and to come with him to pay. Bret kindly asked him to take us to his commander. I was ready for the Zambian jail!

Rex said, "Oh no. I'll have words with him," and he stepped out of the car.

Then another officer approached, and the stakes went up. Zambian jail was looking like a realistic proposition for this mission. I thought of Paul and Silas and said, "Lord, is this it? Bret and I don't sing very well!"

Our driver Rex returned to the car. The officer warned me and Bret about our safety while riding stuffed into a vehicle with all our luggage and backpacks in our laps. As I was by then buckled for safety, I said, "Yes sir." We were released without incident (other than some unintelligible exchange of words).

Very joyously, our driver explained, "Not today, maybe tomorrow but not today." The hungry lions, as he referred to the police, would have to feed another day.

Sunday, May 9

We awoke at 4 am. After once again loading the SUV, we made sure to fasten our seatbelts before embarking on the long, bumpy ride to the town of Kasama, where DM2 has been doing biannual workshops for the past 8 years.

Along the 12-hour ride, Bret shared the gospel with Rex. It was the longest evangelism dialogue I've ever heard. In Zambia, as in most places, a works salvation prevails, but on this day, grace was taught.

The explanation went something like this:

"Rex, we don't know you; yet we have trusted you to drive us. You could take us off somewhere, rob and kill us; but we have trusted you to get us to Kasama. We are not helping you drive. We are not putting our hand on the steering wheel to assist you or our leg out the door to help push the car along. We are not helping you dodge craterous potholes along the way; we are just sitting in our seats trusting you to get us to our destination. We have entrusted our lives to you.

"Likewise, Christ did all the work for our salvation on the cross. There is nothing left for you to do. You don't need to help Him. We (Brad and I) are trusting Him with our souls and our eternal destiny."

By the end, Rex understood what Jesus meant by, "It is finished."

Monday, May 10

This was day one of the Hebrews 1-7 workshop. I stopped counting at 100 attendees. We taught for six hours through Hebrews 1-2.

Our driver, Rex, attended the workshop all day and even purchased a notebook (in addition to his workbook) so he could take notes. After the teaching, he wanted a private session to answer his questions.

More on Reverse





Tuesday, May 11

Day two was off to a slow start. It began with a funeral in the church building that was supposed to begin at 8am but did not begin until 10am and lasted until noon. Then we had technology snafus with the projector preventing the attendees from being able to fill out their workbooks.

Wednesday, May 12

We taught Hebrews 2-3. Nearly 120 came today and we expect more tomorrow, even some from the Congo.

Friday, May 13

Despite Tuesday's chaos, we finished Hebrews 1-7 with an hour to spare. We ended with 150 attendees.

Saturday, May 14

Our 12- hour ride back to Lusaka included much praise to our Lord Jesus Christ as we recounted the events of the week and as Rex our driver shared his newfound understanding of the gospel.

Sunday and Monday, May 15-16

Sunday morning, Bret taught at Pastor Obed's church in Lusaka. They asked us to come back on Monday, which we were able to do, and we taught four more hours that day.

I have been on many DM2 trips, but this was my first trip to Zambia and one of the best so far. Pray for these men and women to grow in their faith and for those the Holy Spirit is still working with concerning their salvation.



Calendar and Prayer:

- Please pray for the young men in this picture as they tour Georgia, Virginia, and Texas from **June 5-July 2**, teaching the book of 1 Peter. We are thankful for answered prayers concerning the provision of a van!



- The 2021 Women in the Word Workshop will be held **July 28-August 1** at the scenic Blue Creek Lodge in Heron, Montana. For more details go to: <https://womenintheword2021.planningpod.com>
- We are approximately 3 months out from the start of our 3D Training Center, beginning **September 1, 2021**. To learn more about this gap year program for young adults, visit www.3detc.org