

July 2021



Zambia, home to the world famous Victoria Falls



Report from Zambia - "Come over and help us!"

These words heard by Paul in a dream (Acts 16:9) reminded us of the urgent invitation received from Katete, Eastern Zambia. Ezekiel Sakala, Regional Overseer of the Church of God, invited us to a pastors and leadership seminar. The last meeting of such kind was more than 20 years ago.

April 15-18, Peter Thomas, Charles Karangwa, Joseph Ndashe, Timothy Gbo and I travelled 400 miles

from Lusaka to Katete, a city close to the borders with Malawi and Mozambique.

When we arrived, around 300 pastors and leaders were in the church, and the air was filled with praise and worship. The main topic of the conference was "Servant Leadership". The teachings were absorbed like a dry sponge, followed by intensive prayers. Choirs of all age groups enriched the program. There was an awesome presence of the Holy Spirit during the 3½ days of training. The atmosphere was indescribable. We were told that many participants had fasted and prayed specifically for this seminar.

The parking space in front of the church was filled mainly with bicycles and a few motorbikes. A group of ten pastors & leaders travelled with five bicycles, i.e., each bicycle with a passenger being either the spouse or a fellow pastor. As a group they rode for two days, the road leading partially through areas where elephants and lions are freely roaming. What perseverance and devotion, what a hunger for God's word and fellowship! In order to return this committed group home safely, proper transportation was hired.

This pastors' seminar in Katete in April was one of three regional leadership seminars in Zambia this year. Others took place in the capital Lusaka in January and in Ndola in the northern part of the country in May.



Several pastor couples rode for two days on one bicycle, the spouse travelling on the luggage rack



300 pastors and leaders fill the room

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Master Program - last module of the second cohort

For the past ten years (since 2012) the Church of God Africa offers an accredited master program (MA in Theology and Leadership) through a partnership with the *Asian Seminary of Christian Ministries* (Manila, Philippines).

The students of the second cohort convened for their last module April 26 - May 14 at the Leopard Hill Retreat and Conference Center in Lusaka, Zambia. The student body derives from eleven different African nations.

The world has gone global and Africa is no exception. Of the four professors only one traveled from the USA to Zambia, the other three lectured via internet technology from the Philippines and the USA respectively. In light of the twelve hour time difference between all involved, a sophisticated timetable made simultaneous lessons possible.

The following three courses were taught during this final module: Pastoral Theology (Dr. Daniel Álvarez), Systematic Theology (Dr. Jose Abraham) and the Book of Revelation (Dr. Christopher Thomas and Dr. David Johnson).

This module ended a five year program, typically meeting biannually for two weeks each. It was a unique time of fellowship, as we all knew that this was our last time together. The only part missing in order to graduate is the master thesis.

As we are writing these lines, we are in full fledged preparation to organize the third cohort.

Thank You

From the depth of our hearts we want to thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. This mission work in Africa is only possible through God's and your support.

With grateful hearts, your missionaries to Africa

Jürgen & Ulrike RUDOLPH



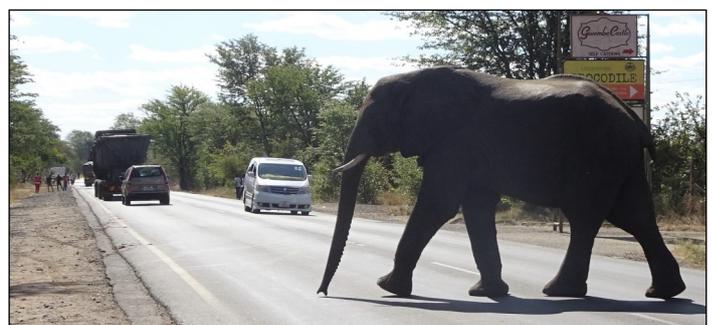
Master Program Students together with their professors Peter Thomas and Kim Franks (Nov 20)



Students body with Dr. Daniel Álvarez (April/May 2021)



Dr. Jose Abraham (ASCM), Dr. Christopher Thomas & Dr. David Johnson (PTS) teaching via internet technology



Main road leading to Livingstone, Zambia, who has the right of way?©