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MOOMBA (GROUND HORNBILL) by Mike Jones

The Biblical “Macedonian call” has come to me from several far away places that are especially hard to reach. Teams are continuously planting churches, but not usually from more than a four hour drive away. In the midst of battling drought conditions in this area, where people are selling their animals, making charcoal, and doing anything they can to provide food for their families, we are literally going where no missionary has gone before. Last month I tried to describe our unforgettable journey to Mbila, driving six hours completely off-road one way. Thinking of the things that could go wrong on such a journey would prompt the conclusion, DON’T GO! The thought of people coming to Jesus overrides the difficulties. When I agreed on a date to go to Moomba I didn’t know what I was getting into. That was a good thing! I knew we would drive through a portion of Kafue National Park. The Park is always challenging, with deep mud and sand and rocks. One can drive in the Park all day and not see another vehicle or person. Adding to the challenge, I would drive the 3.5 ton truck to carry the choir from Bbilili Church. I departed from my house around 9am, having been told Moomba was about a four hour drive. I reached Bbilili about 10am where I was surprised to see 40 people and two infants climb into the truck, all having bags for the several nights we would be out on top of the Jesus Film equipment already loaded. The choir was so excited, singing and laughing,

that they didn’t mind me pushing them down into the truck. They were packed so tight, as soon as the truck started moving they popped up on the rails and tail gate. I couldn’t stop in the deep sand without getting stuck. I drove fast enough to stay on top of the sand while sliding between the trees. Somehow, they “ducked” the low lying branches as



we drove under. The Bbilili Church Choir, living over an hour from town, saw many animals in the Park for the first time. I don’t know where these animals were getting water. It was the hottest and driest time of the year. We had no food or water with us. When we got out of the Park and saw a hand

pump, everyone jumped out and ran to drink water. That’s when I discovered Moomba is a Chief of an area covering hundreds of miles. After much hard driving, we reached the place. We were asked to split up, leaving some here to plant the church while the rest would go on to plant another church. We were all surprised to learn the next place was 75 kilometers away. We didn’t have enough fuel to go there and return. One of the pastors with me informed me he knew a man that could carry fuel from my house in Kalomo to where we were going. My mind said, “Maybe a one in three chance the fuel would come.” I followed my heart that said, “Go.” We arrived there (Western Province boarder) in the dark around 7pm. Over the next few days people came from all around to join us for teaching and singing and having “church”. After the Jesus Film showing, practically everyone attending made a public confession of Jesus as their Savior. What happened next was one of the greatest moves of the Holy Spirit I have ever experienced. Spontaneous Christian singing and dancing and laughing, with the greatest and highest joy, went on for hours into the night.

By Sunday morning, three new churches were established. I believe from these three churches will come many more. Arriving home greatly excited to see Linda, that night I thanked the Lord for all He did through us, and for the provision that came through you, our partners.

Remain Faithful

GOOD REPORT

by Linda

This month we brought Royal into town for his yearly review and had an Xray done of his pelvic area and Praise the Lord it has gotten better than the Xray we had 2 years ago. Royal's hip bones and sockets never formed properly as a child and that is his reason for not being able to ever walk. They gave us some tips on massaging his shoulders elbows and wrists before each work out even using a bit of strong heat to help muscles work better. We had found some stiffness in these areas. We took Victor with us just to show them how he is walking and they where so excited to see him again. They shared if we just keep working with him on his sounds he

will one day by God's grace talk too. He is making more and more sounds. Mackmore's ear surgeries have left his ears unable to clean themselves so instead of returning to Lusaka for this procedure I tried the mission Clinic. We found the most wonderful Dr who called in his surgical nurses and he was able to clean his ears. I was so thankful to



not have to make the 6 or 7 hour drive one way to have this done. Water is getting harder to find. More and more people are using their ox carts to travel 10-15kms to a working borehole (well) to get water for their families. Our orphanage sites are holding up well but we are truly conserving water. Our tank is not filling up so we know its God grace helping with what is needed for the children. Several wells are already dry around us. The government has started food relief programs but they have not yet arrived in our area. Power is off 10 hours a day now with rumors of 15 hours off each day in November. Continue to pray for our rains to come replenish the land and for a good harvest for Zambia this growing season.



Prayer

For good rains starting November.
 For zambian provision through the drought.
 For upcoming evangelism and church planting.

Praises

For new church and new Christians.
 For the peace of God in midst of drought.
 For God supplying our needs.

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