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RAIN

by Mike Jones

We have been praying for good rains in good time. I grew up in a farming area. I remember praying for rain many times. Practically every summer we would experience “a dry spell” and pray for rain. We prayed for rain, not because we needed more food to eat. The amount of rainfall would have little affect on our consumption of food. We went to “prayer meeting” every Wednesday night. I can’t recall anyone quoting or reading 2 Chronicles 6:26, while falling on our knees in repentance. Our motivations behind the prayers for rain were financial gain, or at least “paying the bills”. There were many times we thanked God for giving us His many blessings. It was true, but my prayer was a lie. My mind thanked God for the blessings, but my heart believed people living in farming communities of North Carolina were poor. I didn’t know my



life was the envy of most of the people on the planet. In our prayers we reminded God the food we were growing would feed hungry people around the world, which was certainly true. As a boy, I didn’t know most of the corn we grew would go into animal feed. I never saw hungry cattle standing on their hind legs eating green leaves from trees (these are the same breeds of cattle we have in America), until I came to Africa. Our hearts were “warmed” as we prayed in thanksgiving for sending food

around the world to feed hungry people. I really thought we were the only true senders of food. Since the year 2007, when I moved to Kalomo, every year until this year huge mountains of food were built by the rail road tracks to be loaded on trains and sent all over southern and eastern Africa, feeding people. This year the Thanksgiving Holiday “touched” me in a greater way. I know something about patriotism. I’m a

Veteran. I volunteered in 1975. This year I realized the blessing of God on me, North Carolina, and America like never before. Great shame also gripped me for failing to fully appreciate the great blessing of God on my life. Like Abraham, God made me a blessing so that I could be a blessing to the world. We are living in a time of hunger, as did the Americans of the first Thanksgiving. They cried out to God to save them. Half of them had already died when Squanto walked into their camp speaking their

language. He taught them how to live in the new world and how to make peace that lasted for over 50 years. The first Thanksgiving was fully integrated. The native people voluntarily contributed food to the celebration. Everyone recognized the great miracle from God. This past year the Zambezi River, fourth largest in Africa, had the lowest water flow to Victoria Falls since 1995. From 1995 to 2005, several times emergency relief

food came to Zambia, but not this year. Officially, no one has died from hunger (we have heard some unofficial reports of death). We are doing some things to help, but why are the people not starving in mass? The only answer is, IT’S A MIRACLE! Churches all around us have been praying intensely, as you would expect from hungry people. I believe your prayers are being heard and answered for the Zambian people of Southern and Western Provinces. The rains have started

nicely. The maize is up and looking good. We need good rains to last through March. I pray the Lord will bind us together with cords that can’t be broken in fully appreciating His tremendous blessings on us, and taking away our shame of selfish desires, greed, etc. caused by NOT using our blessing to be a blessing in The Kingdom of God and to others. Let us proclaim together to the world, JESUS IS THE ONLY SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!

Remain Faithful

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

by Linda

We had a wonderful never done before Village Christmas Blessing. I felt something needed to be different this year from our normal Happy Birthday Jesus party which is done just at the orphanage with new shoes gifts balloons and chocolate cake. All around us people have been struggling to get water and find food. We talked with our Headman and Pastor of our area and ask how many households where in our village. Wow 186! Mealie meal has been hard to find in town and our large truck was having a repair any way so how could we find and take out 200 bags. A bag of mealie meal increased from K150 to K195.00 seemingly overnight. I had an idea I thought would blessed our whole village with a Christmas blessing of food. The government has a food relief program in which you could buy a 50kg bag of maize for just K110.00 Double the size of a 25kg mealie meal. After another meeting with everyone it was decided that Kwacha would be given to each household, round trip transport money, and the fee to take the heavy bag back on the public transport truck to their

homes. Everyone was so excited..... Our children sang Christmas songs and one of our oldest read in perfect English the Christmas Story from the Word. So proud of our kids. After talking with and shaking hands of many people we had not seen in a while we went to the activity center and I did have treat bags for the kids with all the sweets and snacks they normally don't get. They



thought they would receive nothing this year. A precious man in the states sends money every year to bless our hard working mothers and helpers at all three sites with a bonus to start the New Year. Several people sent money for relief so thank you, we blessed a whole village and our older children now living on their

own. I hope we got the message through to our children that it is better to give than receive and this year we blessed our village in a big way. Keep me in prayers, I went to a Dr. the first week of November for blood work. Feeling really tired no energy. blood work was done it was not my thyroid but an infection in my left kidney was found. Antibiotics were given then a scan to make sure the infection was gone but I still could not do things without resting a lot of my day. More blood work white cells good kidney function good but red cells very low. I am still struggling to get going again. School opens January 13th and there is a lot of running to get done. Very Blessed Sheri will be with us for Christmas this year. She is 34 now but it's always great to have your children near. As we say in Zambia HAPPY Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Prayer

For defeat of hunger in Zambia.
 For good rains in good time through March.
 For newly started MOT-MOT class.

Praises

For breached dam mostly fixed holding water.
 For food and water.
 For our Partners and God's provisions.

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