

*...ating the next generation,
Christ.*

Ndola, Zambia

Moving Forward

Vince Smith

Chairman, Haven of Hope Ministries

The December 2011 trip to Zambia was another life changing experience. It was another opportunity to renew a passion for serving these children that are so close to the heart of God. As we visited the new Haven of Hope property that was purchased in 2011 by the generosity of many of you reading this letter, I stood on a termite mound in the middle of the property. I felt an incredible peace from the Lord just whispering, this place will be a tool I use to change the lives of countless thousands of people, the saving of orphans and widows. Later that day as we held a dedication service with the children and several of their caretakers, we envisioned what God would do with this property (2.5 hectares or almost 5 acres) through faith. We envisioned the school building where the children will soon be meeting. We envisioned the possibilities of things like a medical clinic that will serve the community. We praised God for all that He is doing in the lives of the students (please be sure to read John and Shannon's letters for an update on student progress) and for giving us this piece of land. It was one more time when I wish every sponsor/supporter of Haven of Hope could have been there to experience the overwhelming power of the moment. But for now, please enjoy the pictures you'll find in this newsletter. We still have a long way to go before we meet the financial goal for building the school building. Your help and creativity in reaching this goal would be much appreciated. Please continue praying with us as we prepare to start building in the near future.

Haven of Hope has grown significantly over the last 5 years. One thing that is disappointing to us is when we have to say "goodbye" to one of the children. On several occasions Marci has needed to contact a sponsor to let them know that the child they have been sponsoring has left our program. There are numerous reasons for this. I'll list just a few of the most significant reasons to help you understand:

- Children are often moved to a village by their caretaker to be used as child labor for farming.
- A caretaker moves to another community with the child for work or other reasons.
- A caretaker isn't supportive of their child attending school so the child's attendance is very spotty and requires us to remove a child from the program.

Each time we say "goodbye" it breaks our hearts, but we know that HOPE has been planted in the heart of that child. The child has been fed, clothed, educated, medically treated, and given HOPE for tomorrow. Even if for a short time, we thank God for

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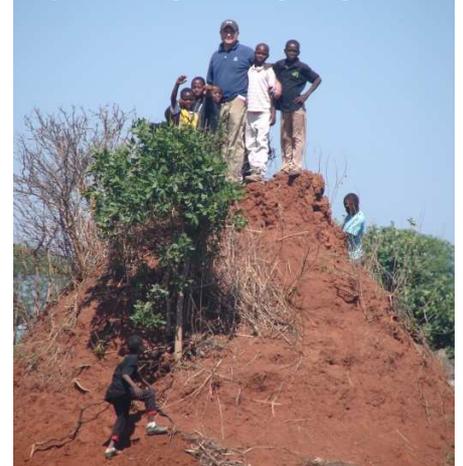
the way they have changed us and the change they take with them. The hardest part for us here at the office is when we need to contact a sponsor about the change. To date, all of the sponsors have been so gracious in their response and continue their sponsorship with another child. We thank you for understanding and continuing to provide HOPE with us on behalf of these children. A special thanks to those of you who have endured more than one change.

As the program has grown, so has our wisdom (we hope) in how to improve attendance and turnover. When we started HOH we went looking for children who were not in school. This was the only way we knew how to get started, but it also led us to situations where children were not supported by caretakers that valued education. Thus, the attendance and commitment of these children was not very strong. We implemented a new strategy about one year ago. We now wait for the children and their caretakers to come to us. When they come looking for an education their commitment level is already high. We are now admitting children to the school on a trial basis. They need to demonstrate that they are committed to all aspects of the program, not just coming for the food (although we understand why they come for the food). We are seeing marked improvements with this new procedure.

For those of you who have experienced a change, we hope this helps you better understand the conditions in Zambia. Thank you all for persevering with these children who need our love that will stand the test of time. What you're doing is making a huge difference.

Because it matters,
Vince Smith

*Now faith is being sure
of what we hope for
and certain of what we
do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)*



A New Year, A New Beginning

*John Banda, Director
Haven of Hope Schools*

As we enter into a new year, it is a good time for us to reflect on the past year and then direct our attention toward the new one. The New Year can be a new beginning in many ways for all of us. It can be a time to abandon harmful habits and lifestyles. Relationships can be healed. Families can be drawn closer together. The New Year must also be a time of forgiveness toward others. If our walk with the Lord was less than it should have been, He is patiently waiting for us to restore our trust and dependence in Him. The list could go on and on. Each of us should take the time to sit quietly with a note pad and write down all the ways we have been blessed by God. If we are honest and focus on them, the list will soon become very long. We all have been truly blessed beyond measure. We must praise God and thank Him every day for His goodness, for abundantly providing for our needs, and for keeping us safe in the palm of His hand. Above all, we must humbly thank God for His matchless gift of salvation through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and resurrection, freely offered to all who choose to reach out by faith alone to receive it.

The year that ended brought with it many good things and a few things that looked like they were bad. One of these things was when my son Daniel was diagnosed with Inguinal Hernia. I saw my son go through great pain and he was in tears. We were devastated by this development. When we visited the hospital we were given the costs for surgery and it was beyond our reach. We communicated to Vince and the team and we were amazed by their quick response. Our dear brothers and sisters in the USA raised the funds to have Daniel get his surgery. Once the funds were available we found that the doctors were scarce. The children's hospital in Ndola had one surgeon doctor and was only able to perform two operations in a week. The doctor informed us that he had a list of patients waiting for surgery and could only add Daniel to that list. According to that list Daniel was scheduled to have surgery in late November which never happened. Then we tried the mine hospital but they also had one doctor who had a lot of cases to attend to. He booked us for December but then the unexpected happened....

In September a new government was ushered into power and they had promised people more money in their pockets. This led to strikes in the nation including hospitals and there was no one to attend to patients. This created a backlog for the doctors and Daniel could not have the surgery due to the strikes. When we visited the doctor he told us to come back in March. We could not wait because Daniel was having a hard time. We decided to try the rural areas and we were fortunate to hear that there was a surgeon doctor in Mwinilunga where Charity comes from. In no time we had Charity and Daniel on the road to Mwinilunga for surgery. They arrived on a Sunday and on Monday they visited the hospital.

That very Monday Daniel was admitted and on Tuesday morning he had surgery. Daniel is healing and is now back to school. The sickness wanted to rob Daniel of his childhood. As a child he wanted to run, climb trees, jump and do other things that kids can do. Every time he tried to do this he could end up in pains. Now Daniel will be able to play like a child. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Because of the many prayers and support from our dear brothers and sisters in the USA the surgery was successful. To God be the glory.

On the other hand, the first students of Haven of Hope School in Ndola did make us proud. We were excited when the government of the Republic of Zambia released the results for the students who sat for the government test. The exciting part of this is that all the Haven of Hope students who sat for these exams passed with merits and distinction. Carol Mbuzi passed this exam with a distinction and so did Mathews Chime, Steven Nyirenda, Lawrence Chileshe and Moses Kapeya. Dominic Sakala, Aston Mulenga, Adam Mtonga and Boniface Mulenga all got merits in these exams. Carol was the best student in the zone where she took her exam. The only student who did not take the test is Justin Chulu and he does regret it. We have since found a school for Justin and he will be in grade 7 at a nearby public school. We will monitor his progress and the progress of the other student who are currently in Grade 8. What started as a small thing is now yielding great results. The Haven of Hope School was not taken seriously due to the fact we started the school in an unfinished building with no windows and it was dark especially during the rain seasons. People thought we were wasting our time but now they see that Carol Mbuzi managed to get a place at one of the best schools in the city of Ndola. Every girl in Ndola dreams of going to the convent school because the school has facilities like a swimming pool. As I write people are bringing their children to Haven of Hope School so that they can be enrolled. These people are willing to pay for their children to enroll to this school. Other parents want to remove their students from public schools to bring them here. They say there is no education taking place in the public schools. We praise God for the many wonderful blessings that He has bestowed on the staff and the student body of Haven of Hope Schools. The success that God has given to us is collaboration between Zambia and USA. We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Daniel Banda



Haven of Hope scholars

Shannon in Zambia

Shannon Morrison

Haven of Hope Missionary

It's crazy to think that I have been in Zambia for a little over two months! Life here is in full swing and it often seems like I get busier by the day. I do my best to make the most of each day. I have also been learning a lot! I am learning about the culture, language, and life here as well as learning more about the depth of God's love. I have seen firsthand just how precious the children we sponsor are. I can't thank you all enough for what you are doing because it really does matter. Every smile, every handshake, every hug, and every time they look at me with their big shining deep brown eyes tells me they are thankful to be there learning.

It has been really fun to start to get to know the kids. I like to see how the combination of personalities is much like an average classroom in the US. You have the funny kids, quiet kids, studious kids, talkative kids, etc. Some kids like to speak to me in Bemba to see if I'll understand what they are saying while others like to practice English with me. There are days that I wish I could forget about school and just play and read books with the kids all day. I am also excited to see how they will improve while I am here.

Your continuous prayer for these children is important and appreciated. Sending my regards across the ocean to the USA

– Shannon

Below are some excerpts of Shannon's experiences in Zambia from her blog. Shannon has been in Zambia since December. You can follow her story on her blog at shannoninzambia.wordpress.com

A very Merry Christmas – posted Dec . 22

... Today was a very Merry Christmas at Haven of Hope in Ndola. Our friend from the Peace Corps, Nick and his family had donated money to have a Christmas celebration at Ndola. We even found a Christmas tree! It hasn't felt like Christmas to me yet because of the hot weather, sunny days, and lack of crazy holiday bustle. But chopping down a Christmas tree with an African ax and putting in a container with dirt made it feel like Christmas to me. I was full of excitement for the festivities to come. My fellow teacher Dorcas had decorated the big classroom with the pink toilet paper as streamers and some balloons. In the corner stood the Christmas tree. We set up some speakers and had some music. 33 of the Ndola students showed up in the middle of their holiday to celebrate and eat together.

The first activity we did when the students came in and sat down was to make paper snowflakes. I was feeling confident when all of the children had their white papers folded the correct way and holding them up proudly and confidently for me to see. Then it came to trying to explain how to draw a design on the paper and cut so to get a snowflake figure once cut out.... This task proved way more difficult than I had hoped. These kids haven't grown up

making these snowflake crafts; they had NO CLUE what I was talking about. Kids were drawing trees, angels, and the ones who were drawing abstract designs were in no way resembling a feasible snowflake design. I had a moment of panic; I thought it would be an EPIC FAILURE. But then I started helping kids. I took their design; I erased one or two lines and added one or two of my own. One by one I modified their designs. Dorcas caught onto the idea of how the snowflakes were formed and began helping the younger kids cut. I also found a pair of scissors and began to cut.

The first kid I helped cut was a little boy named Paul. After I finish cutting I knelt down and unfolded it before him. He started to smile a little, but as soon as I said "look how good that turned out! You did a great job creating that!" Then his smile went ear to ear and his little eyes lit up and he took his snowflake and started showing his friends sitting around him. ... I would cut out hundreds of snowflakes to see their smiles and eyes light up when they unfolded the final product. Students were shouting "ShanO, ShanO!" to get my attention to approve their sketch or cut their design.

After making snowflakes we made ornaments for the Christmas tree. We gave students paper and told them to cut a shape out of it and decorate. Then, with paper clips as hooks, we decorated the tree. The kids came up a few at a time and posed for a picture with their ornaments before placing them on the tree. Their creations were precious and the tree looked great with all of their art hanging on it. I must admit I have never decorated a Christmas tree while sweating profusely before though, but there's a first for everything.

Then it was time to feast. And we ate. And we ate and ate and ate. Then the popcorn got passed around. Food was disappearing faster than it could be eaten. My friend Bruce was stuffing popcorn into the pockets of his stylish pink pants 😊. It made me smile to know we had filled their bellies and could even send them away with leftovers. After the feast we sang some Christmas songs then we had to take the tree outside to take a group picture. Then we had the kids draw a picture of where they dreamed they would be in five years. It was their Christmas wish. Many drew themselves as nurses, police people, doctors, or pilots. Lawrence wrote his wishes with a picture and gave it to me. It is labeled Lawrence's Ambitions and I will keep it to remind myself that all of these children all have ambitions and dreams. It is the job and plan of Haven of Hope to see those ambitions and dreams come true. I pray that these children would be protected from anything that would get in the way of them accomplishing those dreams.



(Shannon in Zambia, con't)

Early School Days – posted Jan. 13

I think the biggest struggle in this school is the fact that there are two teachers and 5 different grade levels. So the teacher's spend their time teaching a lesson, giving work, running to the next class, giving more work, and running on. Also, in Africa it is very common to only go to school from about 7:30 or 8 until around noon or 1pm. Some days a week the grade 5 will stay until about 3pm to have a couple more lessons taught to them. Unfortunately with this limited system and limited resources that means that children receive very little instruction each day compared to a school in the US. The good news is that each class has around 7-10 students in it so kids can receive some specific instruction.

In the class it is interesting to see some of the same things you may in the US. Some students like speaking more than others. Students have certain subjects they excel and struggle in. There are still good helpers, gigglers, talkers, fast workers, slow workers, bullies, tattlers, and criers. And children here still get the chicken pox. I am starting to see different personalities come out, especially in the younger classes. One difference is if it is raining many of the kids will come late to school. The kids walk to school and some would rather wait to see if the rain stops than show up to school on time.

Friday this week was a parent's day where the parent or guardian or representative of the child came in and got the "report card" from the previous term. I was able to meet many parents and guardians. Many children at the school may have one parent, an aunt or other relative that looks after them. Also 7 of our 9 new high school students came in to sign their paperwork for their high school. We had an opportunity to encourage them to keep working hard. I told them that there are very many people in the USA that are praying for them and are proud of their accomplishments so far and excited for their continuing education. We talked about how this time of high school (and university) is such a short time in our lives, but if we can push through these years than life in our future will be much brighter.

Making snow – posted Jan. 19

Lastly, today I was smiling wide because after over a month of waiting I FINALLY got the Christmas package my parents sent me! Praise God! I started to think this package may have been lost. I am very excited to have the pair of Capri pants I had asked them to send as well as a few other odds and ends. And of course with it being a Christmas package my parents made it very fun! One of the coolest things was a tube of instant snow! Just add water, and it expands to snow! I got really excited over this because one of the first things the teachers told me was that the kids here want to know what snow feels like and looks like. (This request was what inspired the making paper snowflakes at the one Christmas party). It was like my parents knew! I had no idea such a toy existed and I am really excited to share it with my new friends!



Shannon sharing snow with the kids

Meet Amy Munn, Haven of Hope's next missionary to Zambia

***Amy will be traveling to Zambia in June and will be staying to teach at Haven of Hope indefinitely.*

Six years ago I was a senior in high school on my way to Zambia. There was no way I could know that God was about to change my life (and the dreams I had for my future) in a monumental way, but that's exactly what He did. Like most people who experience Africa for the first time, I walked away feeling like I learned more than I had taught, been blessed more than I had blessed others, and had a new understanding of what is truly important. But it was more than that. Something had awoken in my heart. I don't know if you've ever felt the immeasurable joy that comes from doing EXACTLY what God made you to do, but that's what I felt when I was standing in those tiny, dark classrooms with 50 pairs of curious eyes on me. I had never felt more joy than when I was sitting in that red dirt playing duck-duck-goose for the seventeenth time. It was as if God had given me His eyes for a brief moment in time, and I suddenly understood why it was that I never really fit in here in the States. Or why I would rather play with children for hours on end than go to the movies with my friends. Or why my heart ached anytime I watched those Feed the Children commercials on TV. Because THIS is what I was created to do.

I wish that I could say I came home and knew exactly what the next step looked like. I wish that I could say everything had gone according to my plan and I went back to Zambia in no time at all. But that's not what happened. Instead, I had to learn the hard truth that all of us must learn at some point: God's timing is always best. The past six years have been a very long process that has stretched my heart, tried my patience, tested my faith, and left me feeling frustrated, angry, hurt, and disappointed on more than one occasion. So many times I yelled at God, telling Him we were wasting precious time and that my way was better.

(Amy Munn, con't)

I have even been silly enough to think that God had forgotten His promises to me; like He had given me this dream and simply walked away. But God never forgets.

This past November, I boarded a plane to visit Zambia for the first time in four years. To say that I was cautious about this trip would be an understatement. I was so excited to go back, and yet so scared that I would have to experience the pain of being there with those children and hearing God tell me for the millionth time, "Not now." Afraid that maybe I had dreamt about Zambia for so long that it wouldn't live up to my expectations. Afraid that I had somehow changed and my gifts would no longer be needed. But my worries were so unnecessary. Walking through those streets felt like coming home; and being in the classroom with those students brought me more joy than ever. And when I quieted my heart long enough to listen, I realized with awe and gratitude that all I could hear was God whispering, "Now."

So here I am. Less than 5 months from heading back to Zambia long-term. I know I have learned more in these past 6 years of waiting than I ever would have learned if things had simply gone my way. The future is still not clear, but I'm learning to rest in the knowledge that He has a plan. I am so excited for this next chapter of my life, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for me and the children at Haven of Hope! I'm claiming His promise in Philippians 1:6 for all of us, which says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to the completion!"



Follow Amy's journey on her blog at:
thewaitingisdone.blogspot.com

Dedicating the Land

During the December 2011 trip, everyone came together to dedicate the land, purchased for the permanent elementary and secondary school facility, to the Lord.



The students piled up stones as "Standing Stones" so that they could tell people what God has done in the hearts and lives of the children at Haven of Hope.



Building Campaign Continues

Our fundraising campaign continues as we strive to raise \$100,000.00. With those funds, we plan to build a permanent school facility for the elementary and secondary students at Haven of Hope, Ndola, which is in line with our strategic plan. We have been blessed to be able to purchase the land (see our dedication ceremony on page 5) and we continue to raise funds for the actual school building.

Our hope is that establishing a permanent presence in the community will help strengthen our ties and deepen our roots in Ndola. A permanent facility will also help to strengthen the church in Ndola by providing a place for worship on Sunday mornings as well as serve the community by offering a facility for job training opportunities.

Want to make a donation to the Building Campaign? You can send your **tax-deductible** gift anytime to: Haven of Hope Ministries, 403 S. Allen Street, Suite 112-A, State College, PA 16801.

Haven of Hope BUILDING CAMPAIGN



Financial Goals

Here is an outline of financial goals that Haven of Hope is striving for:

- ❖ We are looking for generous people interested in making a financial commitment toward John Banda's salary. Sponsoring John and his family with an ongoing, monthly amount would allow him to focus completely on the Haven of Hope ministry.
- ❖ Join us in the Building Campaign. Funds raised will finance a permanent school facility in Ndola, Zambia. All donations are tax-deductible.

Waiting for Sponsors

I am pleased to say that all the students at Haven of Hope are currently being sponsored! John is currently working on profiles of children who want to attend school, but cannot afford it. Those profiles will be available soon. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Marci Bidelspach at: marci@havenofhopezambia.org

or visit our website at:

www.havenofhopezambia.org

Sponsors pay \$30/month which provides a child with a Christian Education, 2 meals each day, their medical needs met, clothing, shoes and blankets as needed and hope for a bright future through the love of Jesus Christ.

Trip to Zambia – June 2012

Haven of Hope sends travel teams to Zambia twice a year. The next trip is tentatively scheduled for June 20-July 3, 2012. Have you ever considered a trip to meet your sponsored child? This is it! The heartbeat of our ministry is the connections made between child and sponsor. Why not take the time to let your sponsored child see the love of Christ in your eyes? Your smile? I guarantee it will change their life – and yours. Trips are tailored to the expertise of those traveling, so don't be deterred by the thought that you'd have nothing to give or do on a trip – lots of these children just need someone to love them – give them a hug, kick a soccer ball with them – just be there! Want more information? Contact Marci at marci@havenofhopezambia.org.

Seriously considering this trip? We need your commitment as soon as possible. Your non-refundable deposit of \$350.00 is due to the Haven of Hope offices by March 15th.

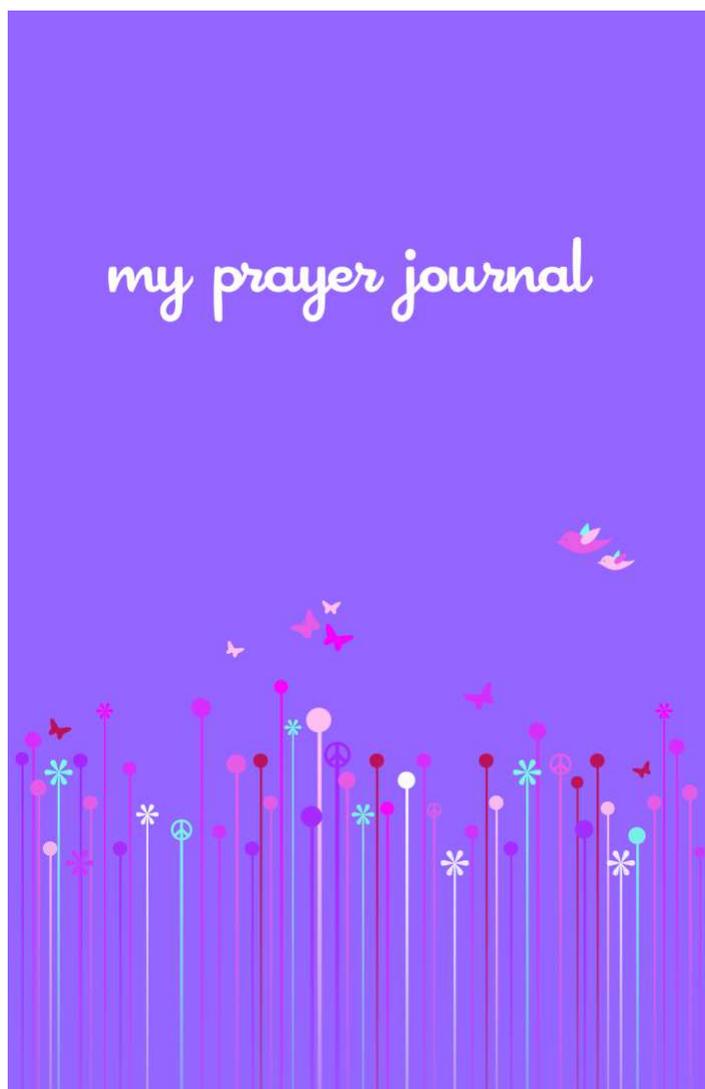
Prayer Journals for Kids

Emily Cosentino, a pastor's wife with limited income, was just trying to come up with a way to help children know Christ and to meet their physical needs. She feels that God has given her this idea for a children's prayer journal to do just that. Her prayer journal for children, being published by Lulu.com next month, is her way to live out James 1:27. Proceeds from the sale of all these purple-covered journals will be donated to Haven of Hope Ministries. All proceeds go to this ministry. She feels this is God's gift to help his children who live in Zambia. It is her prayer that he would bless this project so that children and their parents would know Christ and would be equipped to share the gospel in their communities. She is thankful for everyone involved in this ministry and was impressed by Pastor John Banda and his wife and their passion for these children. She just hopes to help in any way that she can. Many thanks to Emily for being the hands and feet of Jesus, and for living out her faith in this way.

Prayer journals will be available for purchase in March from Lulu.com. Check the Haven of Hope Zambia Facebook page for ordering information available in the next few weeks.

The inside cover of the journals will read:

"Haven of Hope, Zambia. The proceeds from the sale of this prayer journal go to Haven of Hope ministries in Zambia. Haven of Hope ministries works through two schools established to provide clothing, shoes, blankets, meals, medical attention, Christian education, and most of all, hope to the children and families of Ndola, Zambia. The Haven of Hope ministry is transforming lives in Ndola by strengthening the church, educating the next generation, and serving the community in the name of Jesus Christ. Haven of Hope Zambia is a charitable organization so all gifts are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to Haven of Hope, 112A-403 S. Allen Street, State College, PA 16801. For more information, please visit the website: www.havenofhopezambia.org"



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