



New-Born Blessings

**"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, that Your ways may be known on earth,
Your salvation among the nations." Psalm 67:1-2**

Dear Friends and Family,

We continue to praise God for the adventurous life to which He has called us. The last few months have had their times of great joy and their moments of frustration, but we praise God for His faithfulness in leading us to do His work here in Africa. Our life is sometimes a little crazy, it's sometimes a lot of hard work, it's sometimes challenging, but our life is never, ever boring! Praise God for filling our days with His work, His love, and His joy.

Introducing: Frederick Douglas Keller

On Monday, December 28th, at 1:40pm, Frederick Douglas Keller got his first glimpse of the wide, wide world. He arrived ten days ahead of schedule, much to his mommy's delight. He weighed 7lbs and was 21" long. His delivery was a bit of an adventure... the hospital wouldn't allow us admission to give birth!

Contractions started early in the morning, but I thought it was false labor- no

point in waking anyone up, right? Around 8am, I told Timothy that I *might* be in labor, but I wasn't sure. We decided to go forward with our plans for the day, starting with a grocery run for the folks who were hosting us there in Polokwane. When Timothy found me doubled over in the dairy section, being patted on the head by a very concerned little Monica, he decided it was time to go to the hospital. We had made a "pre-booking" at the Medi-Care Hospital, just down the road from our lodgings, so we walked there, contracting all the way. The pre-booking was supposed to guarantee us a room. Well, if you're full, you're full... and there was no room at that inn! Next we went to the doctor's office, conveniently right across the street, for an examination. We all assumed that I would be able to walk around for awhile, waiting for a room to come available. However, Dr Henn quickly discovered that I was over 9cm dilated- no time to be picky.

"Where can we have this baby???" She managed to find an acute care clinic (for cancer patients, eye surgery, etc) just down the road. In fact, it was right next door to the guest house where we were staying! As we walked there, I was having contractions about every three minutes. Timothy was worried that he would be delivering that baby on the roadside. By God's grace we arrived in time. Baby Frederick was born with very little trouble (considering) and was welcomed into our family with a lot of joy and kisses.



We were grateful to see the Container finally in Zambia! It is being stored at the Flying Mission Base near Lusaka.



Monica meets her brother for the first time.

Monica did not take to him right away, but she is now a very proud, and very helpful, big sister. Although we are still trying to convince her that "Freck-ick" is *not* a "Pony! Bdyum, bdyum, bdyum!"

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. The Lord blessed us with a healthy baby, for which we are very grateful.

The Container Has Arrived!

Despite the many obstacles it had to face on the way here, our Container has arrived safely in Zambia! Normally the process of getting a shipping container across borders and importing it finally into the country can be quite challenging. There is a lot of red tape, paperwork, and sometimes even problems with corrupt authorities and their expectations. We were surprised



The precious materials inside are being welcomed around the country, as we use them for ministry and discipleship.

Once the Container was cleared by Zambian customs, we were able to begin unpacking the contents. Several days were spent just sorting out the Bibles, school materials, what belonged to ourselves, and the items of the missions who split the shipping with us. We were able to bring our own household items back to Kabwe, ending our days of “camping it out”, which made us all very happy and much more comfortable! There’s something about having your own plates and your own sheets that makes life just a little bit nicer. God has indeed been gracious in providing the means for us to have these treasured items from the USA. As soon as the boxes were sorted and replaced in the Container for storage, we were able to begin distributing the literature and school supplies.

The Hand of God was truly with us, and on the Container, throughout this whole process. In many ways, the Container Project never should have happened. From the colossal amount of materials needed to fill it, to the funds needed to ship it, to the difficulties involved in bringing it into the country, this was a daunting project from the beginning. However, the Lord showed us every step of the way that this was HIS project and He, of course, had everything under control. Often our needs, such as donations of Bibles and books, funding, even a place to store and sort the materials



A group of pastors in rural Chongwe, eager to learn from God’s Word.

and pleased to find that our container arrived with very little trouble whatsoever- and not by any exceptional feat of organization on our part. In fact, the seal on the door hadn’t even been cut, which means that the border and customs authorities didn’t look inside. (While we don’t have anything to hide, we still prefer that it remain closed, as the temptation to help themselves to the contents is often too much for the poorly paid government officials.) Another risk when shipping containers overland in Africa is physical damage. Because you have poor drivers (sometimes even unlicensed) handling materials that are not their own, over decrepit roads, the risk for damage is very high. It is with great joy, and surprise, that we can report only two broken cups (from our own personal supplies). None of the boxes of Bibles, school supplies, or materials suffered any damage. Praise God for His protection!!

in Phoenix, were offered before we’d completely realized the need was there!! **“For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”**(Matt.6:8) God’s provision has been incredible. We are so thankful that He has allowed us to be a part of this incredible project.

Now it’s time to distribute all the wonderful materials inside the Container! We have Bibles, Christian discipleship materials, textbooks, school supplies, and stationary. These items are already being put to use around the country, as we visit pastors, teachers, and fellow believers in need

As we continue to use the Bibles and materials from the Container, we pray for the Lord to open doors for evangelism and discipleship. We are looking forward to several training seminars in the coming months. Having books and materials to give to the people who come will make these discipleship training sessions much more effective. Pastors, church leaders, teachers, and believers will have resources to take home, becoming more effective for Christ in their communities.



Pastors like Reuben (next to Timothy) help us distribute the Bibles and materials. After we leave they are able to continue ministering with their newly acquired resources.

The last challenge facing the shipping container is the African elements. Please pray for the Lord's protection against water damage (it's rainy season now), termites (they are HUGE, and they eat EVERYTHING), theft, and vandalism. In this respect, we are grateful for the overwhelming number of opportunities we have to distribute the materials.

We want to especially thank everyone who has been involved in this project. We've had many people give generously in materials, use of facilities, and the necessary finances to pack and ship the container. We've also had great help from volunteers who helped load and unload the many tons of books and materials. We would never have managed if we didn't have so many faithful Saints laboring with love and giving with such generosity. Praise be to God!!! **"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."** (Lam. 3:22-23)

There's something you can do too!

One of the many facets of being a missionary is sharing stories of God's amazing power and provision in the field. This serves to inspire and encourage others in their walk with God, helps people remember to pray for us, and sometimes even motivates young people (of all ages) to serve as missionaries themselves, either at home or abroad.

We will be traveling to several areas of the United States later this year (probably November/December time). If you would like to organize a meeting for us at your Church, with your Bible Study or youth group, or in your home, we would be honored to present pictures and stories of how the Lord is using us in Africa. Timothy is also available for preaching and teaching opportunities.

Organization from your side is simple, talk to your church about having us speak at a Sunday Service and/or youth group meeting, or organize a meeting of your own. Promote the event at church and amongst your friends (we can send you pictures or a flyer if that is helpful), and let us share with them about our life and work in Africa. If this is something you are interested in doing, please get in touch with us via email: Ashley@KellersC23.com, or you can call ITMI: 888 918 4100.

Organizing a meeting should be done as soon as possible, as many churches put their calendars together months in advance. It is also helpful for us to flesh out our itinerary in advance in order to organize our time most efficiently. We hope to see you soon!



"Brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith." II Thessalonians 3:1-2



Ministering to teachers in Mufulira

Reaching out in Mufulira

A few weeks ago I traveled with some other American missionaries, as well as fellow ITMI missionary Eugene Kalunga, to the village of Mufulira. Our friends have a school out there that was in need of teacher training. It was a great opportunity to teach some of the material that I have been putting together as a Teacher Training Manual. Having Eugene there teaching with us was a particular blessing. His years of experience as a Christian school principal make him a priceless asset in training other African teachers. It is also inspiring for the Zambians to meet one of their own who is succeeding in the field of education.

Mufulira is a small town that sits right on the border of the Congo, in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. Like many such places in Africa, what was once a successful mining town is now only a shadow of its former prosperity. Much of its deterioration was due to the former government's nationalization of the mines. While the mines have been privatized again, it will be a slow recovery for this and many other rural areas.

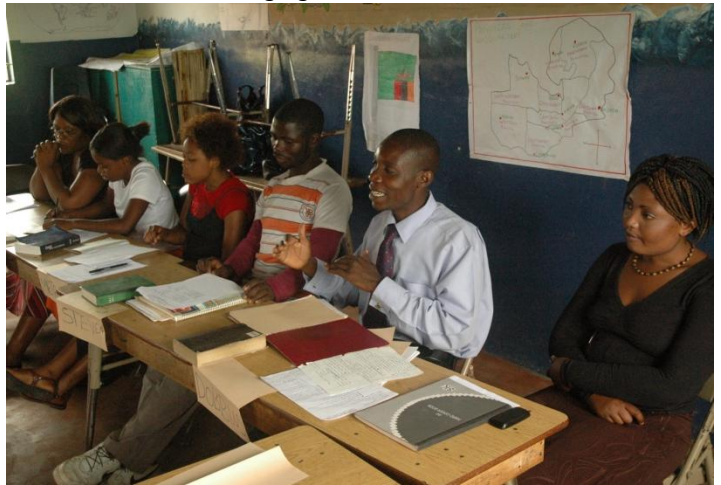
Hoping to arrive in Mufulira before dark, we left Kabwe in the early afternoon. However, after several hours driving north over pothole-ridden roads, in the pouring rain, crammed in a minivan, we realized we wouldn't make it before the light faded. Traveling near the Congolese border is risky, especially at night. Armed bandits crossing over into Zambia find it easy to rob and kill under the cover of darkness. God was indeed gracious, delivering us safely to our hosts.

At this particular "seminar" we had seven teachers, as well as a few local pastors. We covered a wide range of material, from "Teaching to the Glory of God" to "How to Administrate a Christian School". In each session, we carefully looked at education, and how

it is one of the best means of both evangelism and discipleship. We also looked at the responsibility and purpose of Christian education, and how we can run our schools in a manner worthy of the Name of Christ, bringing His children to Him in love and truth. Schools and education are the keys to long-term discipleship in Africa (or anywhere for that matter). **“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6** While training African teachers to be good at their job, we are also giving them the tools and practical applications that they need in order to be effective for Christ in their schools.

I was encouraged that several of the teachers there in Mufulira were willing to ask questions. In African culture, it is often considered rude to question someone in a position of authority (even a teacher). This can make teaching and training difficult, as we try to ensure that our message is coming across in an understandable manner. Steven, a teacher in the local school, was more interactive than most. He had a good understanding of Scripture and is a very dedicated young man. In fact, he doesn't even receive a salary for teaching. The school is run by a mission and he volunteers his time because he recognizes the value of raising the next generation of Africans up in Christ.

In II Timothy 2:2, Paul charges Timothy, **“The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”** By teaching others who teach, the glory of God is multiplied. Sometimes we don't get to see the long-term effects of each training session that we do, but we know that God's Word never returns void. It's incredible to realize that when we leave a place like Mufilira, the work of the Lord continues as the Holy Spirit moves through the teachers in their classrooms. Those seven teachers represent over 150 students per year. One hundred and fifty students who will have the opportunity to better understand the Gospel because their teachers are following the Lord's command to be His witness. It is truly a blessing to be able to provide these men and women of God with the tools and training that they so desperately need. Please pray with us as we continue to reach out to the teachers of Africa. There are so many opportunities for training.



Teachers discuss and debate the meaning and application of discipleship in the classroom.



News from the Field

Don't forget to follow us on our website and blog: www.KellersC23.com and www.KellersC23.com/blog.

Pro Rege,

Timothy, Ashley, Monica, & Frederick Keller

Please pray...

- For the Lord's Hand of protection on Monica and Frederick as we continue through Malaria and measles season
- For the Lord to guide our hands as we distribute the materials from the Container
- For fruitful ministry with Zambian pastors, church leaders, and teachers
- God's continued protection over the Container and the materials inside



Gifts may be sent to: The Keller Household, c/o ITMI, PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281
To receive a tax receipt, cheques should be made out to "ITMI" and designated to "The Kellers"