

A Trip to

ZAMBIA



Cliff & Murriel Poidevin



Cliff and Murriel Poidevin live in South River, Ontario and attend the Chapman Valley Gospel Hall.

Murriel and I traveled to Zambia, Africa, for our fifth visit to our three sons and their families who are serving the Lord there. For three months we had the wonderful privilege of a great family time and of being involved directly in their ministries for the Lord. There are so many areas of the Lord's work in which one can help – meeting physical and spiritual needs. Working together with the Lord's servants in both is indeed a blessing.

On a Sunday, after we arrived in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, we enjoyed meeting with the Christians at a large English-speaking assembly there, and then, as visitors, being invited into a home for a Zambian meal provided by several couples. We had a few days near Lusaka for a special time of togetherness with our family and relaxation from their heavy schedules. Subsequently, we spent some time with each of our three sons and their families at their respective areas of service, Kalene, Kabompo and Lukulu. We were preserved from traveling on many of the very rough roads this time, because our middle son Bruce was able to fly us from place to place in his plane. It is an eight-passenger Cessna, operated by the C.M.M.L. Flight Service, for which Bruce is the director and one of the pilots. This service is available to all missionaries, to their visitors in Zambia, to children going to Christian schools in and out of country, and for emergency flights for those needing medical attention.

Our first visit was with Bruce and his wife Marilyn at Kalene, the location of both the C.M.M.L. Flight Service and a large mission hospital. We kept busy repairing and reupholstering furniture and chairs at the Flight Service hangar, and in one of the homes. I was an all-around "Mr Fix-it", while Murriel was a seamstress-mender of many things and a helper in unpacking parcels, etc. This type of

work seems to be essential at all of the mission stations in Zambia. A Christian brother from Canada was also there, helping to repaint hospital beds, and welding burglar bars for the windows in the mission homes. Such practical help is always much appreciated. Although the Lord has blessed the large hospital work at Kalene for many years, there is still a great need for more trained nurses.

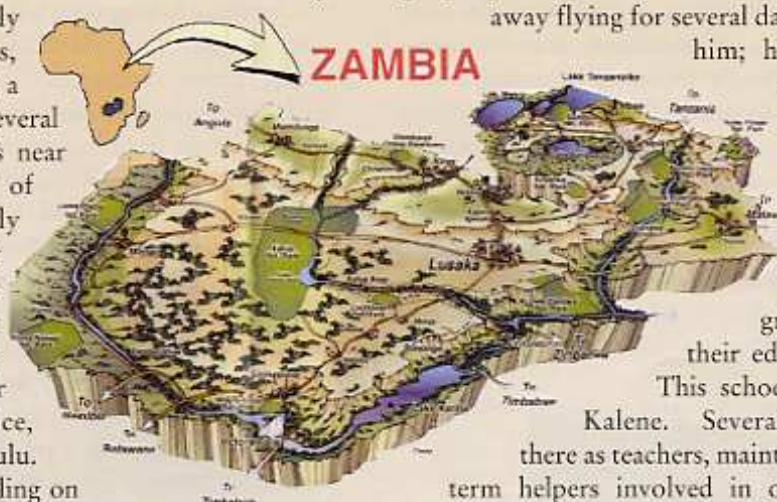
Turning to spiritual things, on Sunday, I was asked to preach the Gospel with an interpreter, since the local language spoken at Kalene is Lunda. Then when Bruce was away flying for several days, I was asked to fill in for

him; he has a Gospel/ministry message for his workers at the start of each day.

We also visited Sakeji School, a Christian boarding school, sponsored by our assemblies, where five of our grandchildren had received their education up to grade eight.

This school is seventeen miles from Kalene. Several Canadian couples were there as teachers, maintenance workers, and short-term helpers involved in overseeing construction of additional housing for staff. Other short-term workers were helping in the kitchen and in art, music and other classes. Both short-term and full-time workers and teachers are greatly needed in this important work.

Our next three weeks were at Kabompo with our oldest son Paul and his wife Eunice, but were divided between time at their home in Kabompo and at the conference center near Loloma, about eighteen miles away. At Paul's home, we helped unpack and install items sent over in the Canadian containers. It seemed very normal for us to be involved in sending items to Zambia and then unpacking them in Zambia and putting them to use. Missionaries have little spare time; therefore they are very appreciative of those who visit and are able to help them in these ways. A couch had to be reupholstered there as well.



Photos from Zambia...



Work at the conference center consumed most of our time. This center is used for conferences for schoolgirls and schoolboys (separate sessions), Sunday school teachers, and assembly elders, and also for ministry meetings in the local languages. Our first week was at the girls' camp, where young girls are taught Scripture verses and heard Gospel messages and teaching about Christian living and health subjects. Murriel was one of the counselors during their quiet time for the young girls and was able to give a Gospel message to all the girls one evening. The next week was a work week, in which everyone – Zambian Christians and missionaries – came to help and work together. Expansion and upgrading of the facilities to provide improved service for these meetings is such a great need. Also because of constant use, such things as mattresses showed substantial wear. Twenty-two new mattress covers were made from parachute material that had been sent out from Canada. I was involved in such tasks as planning for outside meal tables in the counselors' area, and designing a lean-to for a forty-foot container to provide sleeping accommodations for the kitchen workers.



After the work week was a full week of village meetings which started at 4:30 p.m., and we arrived home just as the sun set at about 6:30 p.m. The halls are just little mud huts with seats made of planks set on bricks with no back support. I ministered God's Word, and Paul interpreted into the Luvale language. The people were thrilled to meet Paul's parents.

Our last working time with family was at Lukulu with our youngest son Murray and his wife Grace and their four children, Tiffany, Nathanael, Naomi and Joel. They had just returned from a three-week boat trip, visiting different assemblies up the Lungevungu River. They came back just in time to get a room ready for our stay. Our hope was to help them settle into their home by accomplishing many of the odd jobs left undone. Since the rainy season was just finishing, the flood plains were impassable, hindering them from traveling by vehicle to the various places wanting the Word of God. Our coming at this time was a suitable month to be with them in their home at Lukulu. However, one weekend we were able to travel almost two hours by boat up the Zambezi River to a small assembly. Although Murray had not been able to notify them in advance that we were coming, we enjoyed a good Gospel outreach on the Saturday night and were able to help the assembly on the Lord's Day. On a number of occasions, I also had the privilege to give ministry by interpretation at the various local assemblies near Lukulu. However, since I did not know the local

dialects and therefore could not converse freely with most of the Christians, it was a challenge to provide suitable ministry to meet the particular needs of individual assemblies.

We spent a lot of our time with Murray and Grace working on their





home. Murray was just preparing for the last pour of the inside concrete walls, when we arrived. I helped Murray install reinforcing rods for the top layer prior to the pour. Murray installed the forms and made the pour with the help of his Zambian workers, mostly Christians. The gravel had come from rocks carried out of the Zambezi River in front of their property. The rocks had been broken into pieces with hammers, mixed with local sand and finally with cement brought in from Lusaka. All was then mixed in a small electrically-driven concrete mixer. Subsequently I planned, cut and temporarily installed the water and drain piping, connecting it to the outlets in the walls in preparation for gluing when the sinks and bathtubs would be installed later. Before we left, the walls of two bathrooms had been ground, sanded, and then plastered to cover the little holes; then one room was painted, a real step forward. However, substantial work was still required to grind, plaster and paint the rest of the inside walls before all the rooms would be ready for use. Help in tasks such as plastering, painting, and installing

plumbing and electrical wiring is always appreciated.

Murriel was very active sewing, altering, and mending clothes for the whole family. She was able to pass along some of her knowledge to Tiffany as she taught her how to use a pattern and make a dress for herself. She was able to help all the children with their home schooling and with additional craft classes. She devised things to help out in camping, such as soap bags made of netting, and towels that could be conveniently hung for use. Protective bags for flashlights, thermoses and other kitchen items were some other sewing projects. I was also able to find time to give lessons to Nathanael in electronics, using a kit that we had sent out from Canada.

Before we left Zambia, we again spent a few days near Lusaka with Bruce and Marilyn. It was a time of relaxation after our busy schedule with all our families. We were so pleased to be able help them all during our short stay in Zambia.



1) Cliff and Murriel with family in Zambia; **2)** Cliff and Murriel in CMML Flight Service hanger - Murriel is in a newly reupholstered lazyboy chair; **3)** Murriel with Mary, a woman Murriel taught upholstery sewing to; **4)** Jill Avery's class at the Sakeji School; **5)** Cliff, Paul and Eunice with believers at an assembly near Kabompo; **6)** Girls doing craft projects in the Girls' Camp at the Conference Center; **7)** Murriel and Eunice at the Conference Center with newly recovered mattresses; **8)** Cliff, Murray and Grace and their family, with believers at an assembly near Lukulu; **9)** Murriel with Murray and Grace's family, helping in home schooling and projects; **10)** Murriel working on the sewing machine in Murray

