



Focus Newsletter

Zion Evangelical Ministries of Africa®

Volume IX - Issue IV

February 2016

News from the Home Office...

had the privilege of attending the ZEMA field conference. It was especially exciting for us as we had the opportunity to introduce my "little" brother and sister, Matthew and Haley, to Africa and to a ministry I've been passionate about since my first visit in 2004. Little did I know, as I sat in conference with my family, the plans God had in store for my transition to ZEMA later that year.

In Jeremiah 29 God promises his people "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Since that original trip in 2004, God had been building a passion in my heart to serve Africa, however I can be a slow listener and it took quite a few "no" answers and a few hard nudges before Lew Richards called me in late July and finally I said "yes."

It took a leap of faith for Phiona and I to move from the business world to ministry. The thought of having to raise your support can be rather intimidating! By faith we decided to step into this role and are excited to see what God will do. We are grateful to those who are supporting us in this ministry. To quote William Carey, one of the first missionaries to India, "I will go down, but remember that you must hold the rope." As 2016 begins, I want thank you "rope holders" for all of your help in the past year! Your faithful prayers and financial support "hold the ropes" for us and our missionaries in the field.

As 2015 drew to a close, Paul Seelhammer and I attended the triennial Urbana student conference. We spoke with over 200 students who are seeking God's calling in their lives. We are excited that already received three applications for missionary service!

The ZEMA home office team will be working with professional designers to improve the appearance and functionally of our website to better support our image as a growing organization. We have setup a ZEMA Development Fund for those who may feel lead to help us with the website update and other projects focused on promoting ZEMA.

We have made the missionaries' newsletters available on the current website and encourage you to see what God is doing in their individual ministry areas. Continuous prayer support is essential for the field, home office and even those going on short term trips this year; we thank you AND PRAISE GOD that you continue to lift us up in your quiet time.

Andrew Sisson

News from the Field...

2015, a year of steady progress.....

F. D. Roosevelt is quoted as saying 'The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, but whether we provide enough for those who have little'. Jesus said 'Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. This is why I have come (Mark 1:38).

I don't think ZEMA will ever 'finish the job'. We may never 'complete the task' but we DO want to provide SOMETHING for those who have little and we want to follow the example of Jesus and keep on extending our reach. While 2015 saw an increase in personnel, in opportunities of service, in miles travelled and in classes taught, the task remains as big as ever !

ZEMA has an interesting work force.....we're weak, overextended and often feel overwhelmedbut what really revitalises me is that when I look at what is being done, I see a group of people driven not by human goals, but driven by passion and obedience and a firm conviction in the power of the Gospel ... ZEMS has remained a remarkable tool of ministry and we have had another BUMPER YEAR of classes and of church leaders getting recognition through certificates for the work

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Staff Update...

We would like to introduce you to our newest staff member, Kathleen Richards.



Kathy has been married to her husband Terry for 26 years and has 3 children: Dominick, Zachary, and Danielle. She is involved in music and children's ministry in her church as well as being involved in local community groups. Her experience in industrial relations, office management for international professionals, public pension fund administration, event planning and government service provides her with a broad knowledge base that we believe will be beneficial to the home office.

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they have done, The last count showed that ZEMA does leadership training at 68 different venues with just under 2500 Church leaders in attendance – some real reason for rejoicing. However, we are also so encouraged by the ‘other opportunities’ which come our way, opportunities to visit churches, to attend family events like weddings and funerals where we are able to proclaim the gospel of Jesus, to train Sunday School teachers and work with Children and Young People.

2015 has seen the work deepening in places like neighboring Zimbabwe and the Makuya district in Northern South Africa, We have seen a bigger footprint as far as Radio Broadcasts are concerned and at the end of this year the radio broadcast for the first time covered the whole of Soweto, one of the most populated parts of South Africa.

We were so grateful when the Hoffmans and Kit Tischler arrived on the field but 2015 has also seen a number of missionaries on Home Assignment which always adds to the challenge of keeping the wheels turning. . The appointment of Andrew Sisson as Mission Director in the Home Office was a real blessing to the Field, and we look forward to real fruit from this step.

Won't you pray for more missionaries, more opportunities, greater acceptance and especially that MANY of the amaZioni leaders we are training would in turn become trainers themselves.

Have a Blessed Christmas season, and we depend on you for your continued support through 2016.

Richard Akers



*You are Invited To
Zion Evangelical Ministries of Africa®
Annual Business Meeting*



ZEMA
PO Box 727
Zion, IL 60099



Join us at our Annual Business Meeting to discuss ZEMA business old and new.

When: Friday, April 8, 2016, 6:00 PM

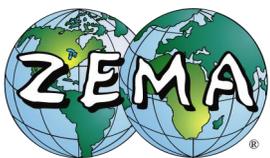
Where: Grace Missionary Church
1415 27th St
Zion, IL 60099

We will provide meat, beverage, and dessert for the evening. **Please bring either a vegetable dish or a salad.**

Please RSVP by April 1st to

847-872-7363 or **ZEMA@zema.org**.

God bless, and we look forward to seeing you there!



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