



Home Office Director's Report

It is a privilege to participate and watch as God builds His Church in Southern Africa. We are thankful for so many who join us in this work! By keeping informed, offering your prayers, and the many other ways you have encouraged ZEMA's missionaries, we stand together as one Body. And He does the amazing work of bringing people together. As people of a variety of ages, nationalities, and cultures come together, it is a joy that foreshadows the greatest celebration of the unity we share in Him. This, His grace, we'll one day feast together and share, as one! (Rev. 7)

The four summer interns are now processing their experiences with family, friends, and fellow missionaries. We look forward to uniting with them in August and continuing to process and participate in their lives as they trust God's promise to complete His good work and direct their lives!

From ZEMA's new fields of Malawi and Zimbabwe, respectively, Greg Akers recently reported: "Today the village headman joined [our] class and afterward greeted the congregation. He said he has had many missionaries pass through his village, but this is the first time he has heard the clear gospel. He said he opens the doors wide to further work here and welcomes this teaching." And from Matthew Kuehl, "At the new school in Harare, I overheard [some students talking about the] ...excitement they felt, and how there had never been anything like this [in Harare] before. They indicated they felt 'proud to be present for its maiden voyage.' It got me thinking. Sometimes I forget that what is happening is not a small thing to them. This is exciting! It's everything. God is doing something, and all I can do is hang on for the ride!"

In ZEMA's home office, we continue to rejoice and be amazed that we get to participate and watch God at work preparing for that Great Feast and celebration (Rev. 19). Pray for the missionaries, the executive board, these interns, and for us. Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers. And please, rejoice with us at God's good work, and your part in it!

Very Sincerely in Christ

Greg & Carlene

Standing with the Saints

ZEMA's focus has always been the "People of Zion": the AmaZioni. These African-initiated churches, found in many Southern African countries, are +20 million people strong. Beliefs vary from conservatively Christian denominations to strongly syncretistic. Zion congregations range from small house churches to independent denominations with thousands of congregants. After years of enthusiastic invitations to Zion churches, ZEMA missionaries, experiencing the traditional African services of the amaZioni, recognized that many Zionists have a zeal for God, whom they do not know. Opportunities to study the Bible are scarce and costly, especially for Zion pastors who most often need additional employment to support their families. ZEMA missionary Richard Akers began writing curriculum much like that found in accredited Bible schools in the 1990's. This was the beginning of ZEMA's Zion Evangelical Bible School (ZEBS), and Zion Bible Colleges (the Bible Schools located in eSwatini). The curriculum, by design, caters to the needs of the African-initiated church leaders. But the schools are open to anyone, regardless of denomination and educational background, who want to study the Word of God.



Josie Praytor interviewed amaZioni leaders



Ian & Mia McFarlane interact with amaZioni Students

In a 2016 video on the Zion Bible Schools, Tim Kuehl states, "When we first started ZEBS, we didn't know what to expect. We didn't know if people would come even. And we were amazed at the openness of the people to receive the truth of the Bible. They were so open, asking a lot of questions just trying to know exactly what does the Bible say?! The amazing thing is that when they see what it says, they do kind of compare it with what they've learned before, what they've been taught before. And then when they see the truth, the majority of them receive the Gospel with joy! Because the Gospel message is so much better than the false gospels they've been given."

Bishop Shumi Shongwe a 2013 graduate of ZEBS, said, "To tell the truth, before coming to ZEBS I was not born again. I came to ZEBS and learned the Gospel. Then out of that I got a deeper understanding about salvation. Members from my church, they are benefitting a lot because even if they come with problems to me in as far as salvation, culture, traditions, rituals, I can give them a better explanation now and they get born again. They understand God better."



Zimbabwe ZEBS in Bulawayo

Standing with the Saints

Similarly, Pastor Emanuel Mhlongo shared, “I was born and grew up in a family whereby my father was a pastor in Zion. [At] ZEBS I started to realize there is a difference between the cultural practices [of ancestor worship,] and the Christian practice. I was just a churchgoer, not knowing which is wrong and which is right. ... Since I started attending ZEBS, I know that we are not supposed to mix [worshiping] God and other gods. I am one of those people who was changed by ZEBS. I am a living testimony, because ZEBS has transformed my life. ... I [now] cast all my burdens onto [Christ]. He was the one who decided to die on my behalf and through Jesus I know that I’ve got eternal life and my sins are forgiven. He is the one who gives me strength to keep going, and I will never turn my back on Christ.”



In 2025, there were 83 Zion Bible schools in South Africa, eSwatini, and ZEMA's new fields of Zimbabwe and Malawi. Studying God's Word with +3000 Zioni church leaders, there are 77 missionaries and pastors running those schools. Sixty-one of these are trained African leaders with a heart to reach their own people with the truth of God's Word. Pastor Mhlongo is one of those who has continued with ZEBS. He became a ZEBS teacher in Gauteng and currently accompanies Matthew Kuehl as they administrate ZEBS in Zimbabwe. As part of ZEMA New Fields Ministry Focus, Tim and now Matthew Kuehl, along with Pastor Mhlongo, have begun ZEBS in Bulawayo, Ngundu, and most recently Harare, Zimbabwe. Luaan Goosen, along with Greg Akers, currently runs ZEBS in Ntcheu and Blantyre, Malawi.





Meet Board Member Lorraine Green

"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

The promises of God to Abraham so long ago made a deep impression on Lorraine Green when she studied at a Bible college in Western Canada. There, Lorraine realized that the promises belong to us as Abraham's descendants by faith. Imagine the potential, and also the responsibility, wrapped up in those words! Through the study of God's Word, Lorraine sensed that the Lord was calling her to full-time ministry. She left for Chad, Africa in 1980 and served for 30 years as a Bible teacher among women. In 2013 Lorraine relocated to South Africa as TEAM's Senior Director for Sub-Saharan Africa.

There she got to know the ZEMA missionaries and appreciated their ministry model of satellite Bible schools for training church leaders. Being familiar with traditional religion and the devastating effects of syncretism, Lorraine affirms the power of the Word to transform individuals and the entire Christian community. She is fascinated with ZEMA's ministry expanding into Zimbabwe at a time when TEAM can no longer secure long-term visas, causing the missionary community to dwindle. Now retired and living in Rapid City, SD, Lorraine joined ZEMA's Board of Directors in 2024.

Thank you for reading!

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