

African Shade News December, 2024



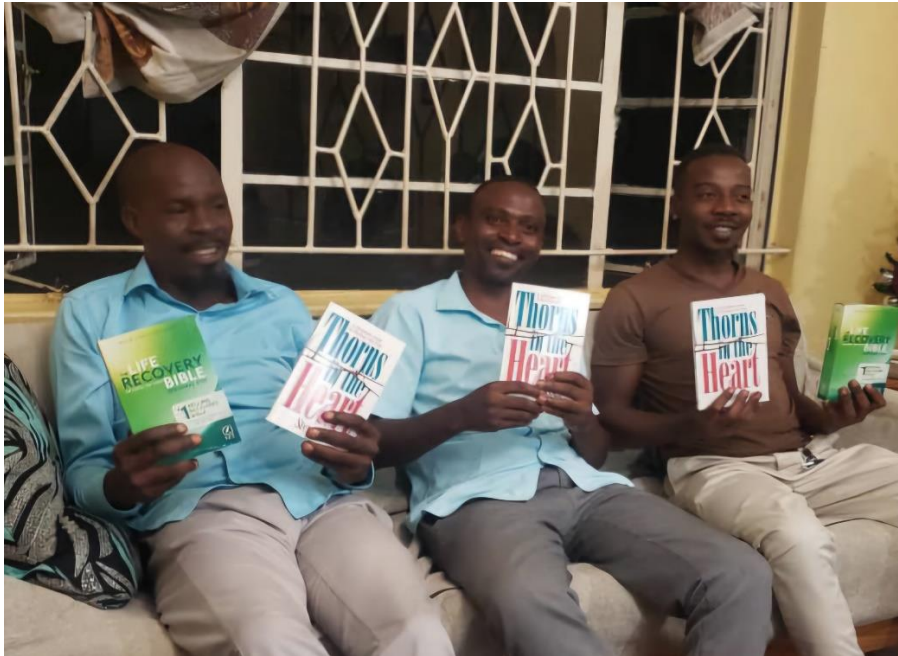
This has been a year where we have practiced gratitude like never before! With a drought lingering, serious heat (100F+/38C+) extreme power cuts (long periods of only 3-4h a day of electricity) and most things moving with snail speed, we are learning to be thankful for the small victories! And we have had many of them!

Top left is Edward, who just graduated his 3 years of teaching college. He went through some personal health challenges, but after a break and time to heal, he is now one of Zambia's new teachers! We are celebrating his accomplishment!

Next to him is Joshua, almost 19, who just graduated high school. He is a very tall young man (2 m/almost 6'7) with size 14 feet (44), sponsored with shoes and clothes by someone in the US as it's hard to find his size in Zambia. Things we take for granted, like finding clothes that fit, can be a huge challenge in Africa.

Thank you for helping these 2 young men to build a foundation for their future and giving them dignity and hope for change!

KUYAMBA HOUSE rocks!!



Humphrey, Sandwell and Josephs graduation on December 8, 2024



Despite the extreme heat, followed by lack of water and electricity, our rehab is flourishing! We have graduated more guys than ever during 2024, and we are witnessing some real miracles in our midst! 2 guys completed their rewriting of

grade 12, and another one got an internship (soon a real job we hope!) at Protea hotel. Any job we are able to secure, is usually through one of my "special relationships". I've put in a lot of time networking within the community, looking for people to partner with us, helping the guys to find ways to succeed. Jobs are still VERY scarce, and the 3 guys who just graduated still haven't found a job. Sandwell (top middle), will step in as our new House Manager when I return in February.

Jack, who has served with us for 5 years, is ready to move on. He desires to put to use his last 3 years of virtual studies somewhere else. It will be another big change for us, but change keeps us on our toes and usually brings good growth!



Kaoma and Lena having a planning meeting. Pastor Zulu and Pastor Fred bringing joy to Kuyamba, sharing their wisdom and joy of life!

Both of these men have faithfully showed up teaching, every week since the start of Kuyamba House in 2016. We appreciate their love, wisdom and support of African Shade!

BETHESDA SAFE HOUSE



We continue with weekly life skill teachings at Bethesda Safe House, consisting of 15 girls this year. Most of them come from the village, and due to having no parents and/or funds, they get a chance to complete high school studies at Bethesda, in town. Here we're having a special Christmas party for them, and also celebrating 2 of the grade 12 graduates. Jack, Doreen and Faith have done a fabulous job all year, consistently showing up and mentoring these girls! Thank you all for helping us making this heartwarming ministry a steady outreach!



Beautiful elephants



You know what

The elephants are causing great damage this year, due to lack of water and food. (drought induced) They are entering the compounds at night in search for food, and they tear down mango trees and anything else in their way, including people's vegetable patches. Several people have been killed only in the last few months. They are beautiful animals, but become very stressed from the lack of food and people throwing rocks at them! I wasn't able to ride my bicycle outside town this time due to all the elephants.

The drought has also complicated the start up of the corn milling business we still are trying to launch. Like we needed another curve ball! 😊 With no water at the mill, we just drilled a borehole (70 meter/200feet), and are in the process of connecting a solar pump and a water storage container. With this pump we hope to also serve our neighbors to help out with the ongoing water issue. In this very hot weather water is of course a very significant life line!



I had no idea all it entails to drill a borehole! It's been a fascinating process, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to do this, despite all the work involved.



Cosmas (here with his lovely wife Gina) continues to be challenged. Out of nowhere, he got a splitting headache for a few days, and when we pursued the issue, he was diagnosed with a BRAIN TUMOR. Right now, he is taking blood thinners, and the German doctor who has been of tremendous help, is hoping the tumor can be shrunk as it was caught early. We are adding quite a few prayers with that diagnosis!

Cosmas has been such a good sport, pressing on with the mill and being of help to us whenever he can. His medication is adding \$600 to our monthly budget, and so far, we've been able to buy the medication due to your love and care for him. Please keep him and his family in prayer as we're approaching the new year!

Your support of all the different things we do in Zambia is flat out **AMAZING!** As always, we thank God for each one of you, helping us to bring hope and tangible help to Africa!

You can go to africanshade.org for giving instructions for a **tax-deductible** gift on-line, or send a check to:

African Shade, 318 Gault Street, Apt. 10, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

A non-tax-deductible gift can be sent via **VENMO** (Lena Wikner) or via **SWISH** (Sweden 076-8018317)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We pray that 2025 will be a year filled with love,
health, and peace for you!

See you next year!

Lena for

The African Shade team!

