

## Grace Notes Africa Trip - 2014

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*Daily journal of Pastor Bob Bolender detailing his and Steve Arnold's Grace Notes missionary travels to Kenya, Uganda, & Zambia May 27<sup>th</sup> through June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.*

### Air Travel to Africa

The flights from Austin/Tulsa to Minneapolis were simple. Steve arrived before I did and had time to eat before the flight to Amsterdam. I reached the departure gate just a few minutes before boarding. Eight hours to Amsterdam and then eight hour layover before the final leg to Nairobi. I did well with naps on the flights. Steve, not as well. Stayed awake during the layover in hopes of sleeping again enroute to Nairobi. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is a very nice airport, with many things to see and ways to stay occupied for eight hours. Steve and I observed the Rijksmuseum exhibit and a multilingual Dutch library. We passed on the casino. We enjoyed poffertjes (dutch pancakes) for breakfast. Upstairs was an excellent business center with abundant charging stations and free wi-fi. Steve's charging needs include an iPhone, digital camera, and video camera. My charging needs include my Samsung Galaxy S2 android phone, HP laptop, and Amazon Kindle. Steve's apple charger isn't working properly. We're sharing my android charger. Insert apple joke here ☺

### Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Immigration was simple, as was customs once we had our bags. The longest delay was nearly one hour waiting for our bags to appear on the carousel. Opportunity for petition and then thanksgiving/praise when the bags finally appeared.

We exited the terminal to encounter a highly gregarious welcoming committee. Benny Mbai was immediately recognizable from his facebook photo (although much shorter than facebook revealed). His wife Mary and church members (brother & sister) Richard and Catherine also greeted us. Benny's hired driver Moses was not a Wisdom Palace Church member, but he is a born again brother in Christ. Also greeting us was the friend of Joseph Mutisya, Joshua Mutisya (no relation). I delivered the items from Joseph & Veronica right there in the parking lot. Joshua remained in Nairobi and the rest of us hit the road to Kitengela.

The Leleshwa Inn is nice. Checked in, unpacked, and napped for one hour before driving back to Nairobi. A meeting was scheduled with Moses Otunga and a church group in Nairobi. His normal church location is in the Korogoshi slum and we promised Joy we would not go there. Ended up passing through a different slum while Moses and Benny started praying furiously in the front seat. Steve and I started praying furiously in the back seat! Passed by the Gikoma market where a car bomb had exploded a few weeks ago and got to see the crater in the ground. Finally made it to Ziwani Estate (neighborhood of Nairobi).

The two hour church meeting was interesting. The host church was hidden away behind a poorly marked gate. Moses Otunga was the only person there familiar with Grace Notes. He has completed two courses (lessons?) which he obtained from Benny. He wants to start using Grace Notes in his slum church as well as the host church for this meeting. We agreed to meet with Moses again on Monday. Left there at 4pm to find a bank before 5pm. Exchanged USD for Kenyan Shillings. Our car was stuck in traffic for two hours, but that delay allowed our driver to pick up his wife and spare her a bus ride back to Kitengela. We were back in Kitengela by 9pm. We were served a dubious dinner at "Duke's," the butcher shop in front of the hotel. We weren't sure about the meat and Benny demanded a re-cooking of the meal before we attempted the second dinner they brought us. 11pm returned to Leleshwa Inn. We learned that a construction mishap had left our wing of the hotel without water. We were too tired to care, dropping into bed by midnight.

## Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

We set an alarm for 7am wakeup. Still no water in our wing of the hotel but they permitted us another room in another wing to use its shower. The hotel restaurant served a great breakfast which encouraged us for the long day ahead. We also can find no hotel wi-fi. My T-Mobile service allows data connectivity on the Kenyan phone networks but no tethering to the laptop. Mostly Edge network, occasional 3G for brief stretches.

Between last night's traffic jam and this morning we started to really get a feel for Benny Mbai. He is absolutely driven; go-go-go and never stop. He was up at 5am or something to send his advanced team ahead of us to the Maasai territory. We left by 9am for the two hour drive to Kumpa (sometimes spelled Kumba) village. Kumpa is a centralized location for several Maasai villages. It is near the main highway and provides for a better training center location than Orie, where Benny had previously taught a GN course. A river washes out roads during the rainy season and makes it hard to get to Orie on those occasions.

Met Pastor Paul, an Anglican pastor, and pastor of the church building that hosted today's event. Today was his first exposure to GN and he is very eager for additional training. Tomorrow he will participate in his own graduation from some other seminary, but he views GN as superior content to what he learned in that other program. When we finished the day, Benny received nearly two dozen new GN signups among the Maasai. Benny intends to develop Pastor Paul as his go-to man among the Maasai.

In Kumpa, Steve and I appreciated the pretty hibiscus flowers. The local villagers all hated them and called them weeds ☺.

In Kumpa we got to see Benny's team in action. Richard and Catherine Mutuku were there serving along with their older sister Regina. Regina's 19 year old son, Peter, also provided much assistance as well as a young man in GN training named Gabriel Wambua. This support team was our trail vehicle for the drive back. Some adventure as they ran out of fuel, but we circled back and fetched fuel for them.

Upon return to the Leleshwa Inn we learned that the water line was repaired so we no longer required the other guest room shower. This night it wasn't until 12:30am that we got to bed. Big day coming up tomorrow!

## Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

Earlier start to this day: 5am wakeup. The water line was repaired yesterday, but it is cold water only. The hotel will need today's sun to heat tonight's water. Once again the breakfast was excellent.

Our next experience was a 2 & ½ hour drive on the Mombassa Road. This is the most significant highway in all of Kenya. Thousands of vehicles travel from Mombassa to Nairobi and back every day. Nairobi isn't the only destination. Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi all ship their goods through the port of Mombassa and their trucks are all on this "highway." For the most part it is a two land road.

The Grace Notes graduation took place in Calvary Endtime Church, Sekeleni (a village between Makindu and Kibwezi). What a super day! Benny introduced us to the (woman) Pastor of the church, Magdelene Makosi and Bishop Boniface who would be the Master of Ceremonies. The robes were then provided. Steve and Benny were decked out in Bachelors degree robes. I was adorned as a PhD with the most impressive robe and the pre-eminent hat for all of Africa! Steve thought I looked like a troubadour from the renaissance or some such thing!

Thankfully, they wrapped up all their tongues speaking before we entered the property. Steve & I could hear it going on from outside, but the Bishop halted it all before he announced our arrival. Just like Thursday in Ziواني and Friday in Kumpa, we were not allowed to carry our own Bibles. Pastors are announced before entering the building, and we enter empty handed with attendants carrying our Bibles and backpacks. Strange!

The service itself lasted some six hours. It was a blend of music, dancing, preaching (Steve & I each spoke), and more all rolled into one very long day. The actual calling of the names and photos with certificates went fairly well. 7 students were recognized as Diploma Students (graduates), 9 were Advanced Certificate recipients, and 19 were Certificate recipients. Benny explained that these were his equivalent labels to the GN website labels of "Associate," "Senior" and "Master" Bible Teacher. My best guess is that the real course completions are Unit I, Unit II, and Unit III + possibly Doctrine 400. That's the best I could determine with the various discussions I had related to specific courses and their content.

1am bed. Exhausted, but full church day tomorrow.

## **Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Our 7am wakeup came earlier than we wanted, but at least the hot water woke us up. Steve was taken to Pastor Charles Musyoka's church in Nairobi. Moses was his driver and he was also accompanied by Javan Nyangweso, an Advanced Certificate recipient from yesterday. I remained in Kitengela and preached two morning messages to Wisdom Palace Church. Benny's ministry helpers are all key leaders in this church. His wife, Mary, is the worship pastor (song leader) and was one of the 7 graduates on Saturday. Rufus Wachira was my interpreter on Saturday and Sunday. Super young man. He's Benny's Associate Pastor, and was also one of the 7 graduates on Saturday.

Steve returned from Nairobi in the afternoon and Benny gave us a tour of his church office. Boy, were we impressed! In his previous career, Benny was a graphic designer. He knows adobe, corel draw, and all kinds of other publishing software suites. He knows his printers as well! He has the technical skill to convert his printer from toner cartridges to a continuous feed system. He purchases all his toner in bulk and refills each well as needed in order to keep the continuous feed operational system. The result is that he is able to cut his toner costs down some 80% over the standard toner cartridges! His only deficiency is that his present printer does not duplex the paper and he's limited to single-sided output. There is a larger model, which duplexes and also handles 11x17 paper. He would like to convert that model to a continuous toner feed system as well and then his GN note production will be at maximum efficiency.

Benny also showed us his "My Documents" folder where all the GN Word Documents are filed. He has a parallel folder for Wisdom School of Ministry documents. Essentially, they have the same names as the GN docs, but are formatted for his specific paper size. He has also stripped as much margin space as possible and decreased the font size so as to put as much ink on every page and minimize the number of pages in each GN course. He then prints the entire course with a cover page and page dividers between the 10 or 20 lessons. The quizzes are all combined into a single course exam, which is printed and covered separately. All in all it is a very efficient operation and will be made more so if he is able to duplex the printing and cut his paper expense nearly in half.

The evening service is his regular GN time. Tonight was a bit unusual, considering yesterday's graduation and our attendance. Steve spoke again briefly and I delivered the 3<sup>rd</sup> message for the day. One hour from 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7 that went very well on how to respond to a "no" answer to prayer from the Lord.

Dinner after the evening church service was at Benny and Mary's home, together with their son Joshua and their house-girl. Regina was also there to assist in food preparation. What a Martha! In bed by 11pm, and happy to be in bed so early!

## **Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Originally, this day was going to be in Nairobi, but Steve and I requested a day of rest. Benny agreed and gave us the morning free. We slept until 8am. We spent the morning after that trying to make the hotel wi-fi work. This was not very successful, especially when we determined that the router itself was connected to a 56kbps dialup speed internet connection. Benny arranged for two of our Nairobi appointments to meet us in Kitengela. Moses Otunga visited with us in the hotel garden from 2:30-4pm. This was very productive, mainly in his willingness to accept Benny's help with

printing GN courses. Otunga will supply all the paper he needs and Benny will print all the notes, bearing the toner cost himself. We believe there will be excellent cooperation between Nairobi and Kitengela as a result. Actually, Benny is prepared to make the same paper only arrangement with the Maasai training center, the Makindu training center, and even Mombassa if Michael Daud is interested in availing himself of that provision. Benny's driver connection (Moses) makes at least 3 trips to Mombassa every week in addition to his daily trips into Nairobi. Transport of GN material will not be an issue. On the way to the church, we toured Rehoboth Chicken Supplies (Catherine Mutuku's business) 4-5pm. We spent two hours transferring photos and videos to Benny's computer 5-7pm. Joshua & Agnes Mutisya were driving through to Maasai territory, and stopped off at Wisdom Palace to visit with us. We had met Joshua at the airport but this was our first time to meet Agnes. They took us to tea and porridge, and got us back to the hotel by 9pm.

## **Summary of Kenya**

Benny Mbai is the ideal Grace Notes Training Coordinator. The Lord has given him great assets and skill for printing GN courses. He has tremendous networking in Nairobi, Machaka, and Massai regions. His heart though is to train church leaders in the rural areas. He plans to use these graduates to help him achieve that goal. Uncomparable team members in group service. Catherine, Regina and Richard are like Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Regina's son Peter is a faithful John-Mark. Extensive evidence of course completions and planting numerous GN Training Centers.

Steve reports very favorably regarding Charles Musyoka. Like Benny, Charles is the real deal. He has his own plans to build first his own Sunday School and then a GN training center on the grounds of his church campus. They are already raising their own funds and operating as an indigenous local church.

Moses Otunga is mainly using GN in his own church, but is also working with a mission organization to introduce GN material into their discipleship program.

One of Benny's chief complaints is the hassle he receives from his fellow Kenyans. He asked us repeatedly to make clear everywhere we spoke that we are not funding him. He's constantly being hit up by his fellow Kenyans to share some of the booty he scores from his American money bags. Steve and I both stressed this point to the various churches and groups we visited.

## **Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Wakeup 6am. Pack for Uganda. Morning farewells from Benny, Mary, Catherine & Richard. Airport farewells from those 5 plus Moses the driver. Easy 50 minute flight, difficult customs with a long line for the visa. We had a surprise airport greeting from Hedwig Birungi. Steve knows her from her past visits to Tulsa. Her son Allan Apuuli will be our driver for the entire Uganda segment. We exchanged USD for Ugandan Shillings and then had a 5 hour drive to Mbarara with enjoyable conversation with Allan. We had dinner that night with Allan and his sister/cousin Laura Kemigisa. The Oxford Hotel is also nice, but the room is not so much. Internet access not in our room, but downstairs in the restaurant.

## **Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

Oh my. What a day. The tortuous drive to Kyempene village was not so bad in hindsight. Later drives were worse.

All in all, we were very disappointed. Mbarara, Uganda should have been the greatest celebration of all our GN endeavors. The primary training director in this region is supervising more training centers (10) than any other training director in Kenya, Uganda or Zambia.

Sadly, the Lord made clear to Steve and I that the entire operation is a sham. There are not 10 training centers. There aren't any. No real GN training is taking place. A great show is being put on. Some 200 folks were gathered together in a church structure.

What a blessing to have Allan for our driver. He exposed much of the fraud to us. He nailed some false translations/interpretations we were being given. He unveiled the financial schemes the GN training director was attempting to pull off. He learned much by talking with various people inside and outside the church. They didn't know why they were there. They had been told they should come and receive holy communion. The entire village was gathering around to see what gifts the Americans were giving away. We got out of there as quickly as we could, refusing the lunch they were hoping to charge us for.

By now it was nearly 3pm and we still had a difficult drive to get back to Mbarara. Allan didn't want to do that drive after dark and neither did we. Our host begged us to make one more stop and promised it was on the way. Oh my. We had 1 & ½ hours of dangerous roads. Steve & I are both concerned for damage that may have been done to Allan's car. We arrived at 4:20 and our host promised we would only be there 15 minutes because he promised to get us back to Mbarara by 7pm. It was nearly 8pm when we finally finished the difficult and dark drive back to Mbarara. Our host mentioned his plans for tomorrow, but Steve and I just went to prayer and asked the Lord to guide our thoughts and words for tomorrow morning.

The Oxford Hotel moved us into a much nicer room for the same rate we paid last night. This room even has wi-fi! Steve and I got some important emails sent out to Warren related to the disappointment in Mbarara.

### Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

First order of business today was to sit down with the fraudulent training director. Steve and I explained our observations and reasons for believing that the man was using GN for financial gain and not even conducting any real GN courses. He admitted the deception and begged us for forgiveness. We prayed for him and shook the dust off our feet.

We had something of an open day, so we made an early departure from Mbarara, and found a place to stay in Masaka. After a couple of places were too expensive we found the Mariaflo Hotel. Allan checked it out and reported good rates, free breakfast, and laundry availability. Wi-Fi is only located in the bar.

After checking in we called Mbalire Gerald. He came to visit us and we had a very good visit at the hotel. Mutebi Freddy is not available, because of his work schedule (as a brick layer), but we should see him in the morning. The first thing Gerald wanted us to know was what happened to the money he was supposed to spend on a computer. He was very ashamed to admit that he trusted a man to go to Kampala and return with a new computer. This man was a former fellow student, and one he had trusted before for a different computer purchase. The trusted man absconded with the money and Gerald has no written evidence to present to the police. Gerald has continued to incorporate GN material in his church, but without printed notes and without any courage to ask for any financial help. We made a short trip to Gerald's wife's shop and then to their home. We met their 3 children, Jireh, Shammah, & Shalom. Their back yard is a garden that would produce envy in any American garden. We saw coffee, pumpkins, sugar cane, avocados and more. Gerald demonstrated how to cut down the sugar cane and we sucked some sweet flavor right from the source ☺. Gerald also blessed us with a cannonball sized avocado we took back to the hotel and added to our dinner.

### Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

At 9am this morning we met with Mbalire Gerald and Mutebi Freddy. We discussed their needs for conducting GN classes. Freddy prints his notes at home and then uses photocopies to provide for his students. We drove out to a nearby village to visit Oasis Church (Pr Mutebi) and on the return drive we visited Bethel Church (Pr Mbalire). Both facilities are primitive, but Bethel does have electric lights and powered speakers.

We returned to Mariaflo to pick up our damp laundry. Our "stockings and panties" were still damp. (This per Maggie the laundry girl.). Our socks and underwear dried in the back window of the car on the way to Kampala. Amusing I'm sure to all who observed.



It was on this drive we explained the printing operations of Benny Mbai to Allan Apuuli. When Allan isn't driving Americans around Uganda, he operates a business center in Entebbe. Allan told us how simple it would be (if he had a large printer/copier) to print and bind duplexed GN courses and then ship them by bus all over Uganda. Their fixed-route bus network is used regularly for parcel post at \$4 per shipment USD. If a GN training director needs a dozen sets of a particular course, with some advanced notice, Allan or some other such printer could have those notes printed and shipped as required. Seems like 1 or 2 days turnaround would be sufficient.

Allan wasn't exactly volunteering for this service, but we know he is considering it. First of all, the commercial copier unit is something he would make use of in his business center anyway. Secondly, over the past two days he has become more and more interested in GN. The Lord has been working in his heart to find a ministry of service beyond the infrequent driving duties that only come up three or four times per year. We asked him to pray over the idea as we promised to do as well. He was also very eager to obtain his own wordless book and loves the idea of that gospel ministry to children.

2pm met Martin Wandira in Kampala. We visited at the Sheraton Hotel in a nice outdoor garden area. Martin gave an excellent testimony to Grace Notes and the use of such among his church leaders and others throughout Uganda. He would like to start a ministry in eastern Uganda in the primitive region where he grew up. His formal education never went beyond 7<sup>th</sup> grade yet he is self-taught since that time and quite articulate regarding doctrinal matters. His heart is to train church leaders in the rural villages. When we asked him about his printing capacity he also mentioned the inability to duplex his notes and the expensive cost of toner. When we mentioned Allan's idea to Martin, he felt that it was a marvelous solution and would work with such a system quite easily.

Our day ended with a drive to Entebbe and checking in to the J. Residence Hotel. Nice place. Good food. Actually had wi-fi! Got four pics uploaded into a Dropbox folder in about 30 minutes.

The last thing we did today was to make a tour of Allan's business center. He's in a small rented shop, but there is real potential there for GN printing and distribution. He already offers internet connectivity, copying, scanning, faxing and printing services with his small machines. A larger commercial copier/printer (like ABC has) would do very well for this idea.

## **Summary of Uganda**

Mbalire Gerald was very open about the GN funds that did not purchase a computer and printer. He explained his betrayal by a friend. Steve & I found his explanation very genuine and credible. Mutebi Fred is a real GN trainer around Masaka. Very humble. Martin Wandira in Kampala is also a real GN trainer. He has a complete grace orientation.

Every indication is that a much smaller Uganda operation than we thought we had before would benefit from a central printing source for GN courses and quizzes. There is no Benny Mbai in Uganda with a custom engineered printing solution, but Allan may be the best provision for something comparable from his business center in Entebbe.

We believe Gerald, Freddy and Martin would all be open to a single print-source for GN courses.

## **Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Uganda to Zambia travel day. Entebbe-Nairobi-Lilwenge-Lusaka. 4pm arrival, easy customs, at the curb by 4:25pm. No Gabriel. Texted and called, Gabriel was stuck in traffic. 6:30pm Gabriel, Solomon, Alfadronic, Cedric arrived and picked us up. Stopped to pick up Annie (Gabriel's niece). Did not immediately drive to Kabwe because they had other business at the Mandy Hill Mall. After grocery shopping at Shoprite Grocery store and dinner at Hungry Lion, finally headed northbound for the 2 & ½ hour drive to Kabwe. Very late check-in, around 10:30-11pm.

For the first time in this entire journey, Steve and I have separate bedrooms. The Pilgrim Lodge has a nice two BR “suites.” The common “sitting room” is better described as a cement utility hallway. In any event, there is Wi-fi in the room! Spent an hour doing email and still got to bed by midnight.

### **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Steve and I each delivered a one hour message at Central Baptist Church, Kabwe. Wonderful church family with passionate African music. There was an offering taken, and the grace giving support was tabulated by the Treasurer and reported to the congregation at the end of the service. Giving is designated for general fund, building expenses, and outreach. Gabriel treated us to lunch at Subway, since we still had not exchanged any USD for Kwachas. 3pm afternoon Grace Notes class was very telling. Twenty in attendance, included 12 pastors. Several gave testimonies as to how GN was shaping their ministries. Steve and I were blessed to receive their reports.

### **Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

A very confusing day. We thought we were going to visit Gabriel’s second GN class, but that did not happen until after 3pm.

We spent two hours in the morning going to two banks trying to exchange USD for Kwachas.

We finally had kwacha in hand when a stranger arrived with a car (Jaguar). We thought we were finally going to the GN class. Turns out, we were taken to five other appointments before we reached the GN class. Gabriel asked Steve to put gas in the Jaguar. He then took us to a plot of ground his church has purchased for their new property. It was recently cleared but no foundation has been laid. This land is subject to repossession if no improvement is made within one year. Stop #2 was way out of town at Gabriel’s new home site. Once again, Steve and I found our heads spinning. It’s a nice foundation, certainly. Stop #3 was the Jaguar owner’s new home site. It is less than one mile from Gabriel’s. Stop #4 was a church member’s house. Not sure why we stopped there. Stop #5 was lunch. Steve was expected to pay for our party of five (including the wife of the Jaguar driver, who turned out to be a Zambian Air Force Captain). By 3pm the Jaguar dropped us off in a small village for Gabriel’s 2<sup>nd</sup> GN class. If any of this was ever explained by Gabriel, neither Steve nor I had any clues.

The training center itself was wonderful. More pastors, and their testimonies were highly edifying. GN printouts were in evidence and the knowledge of GN subject matter was very thorough. This blessing was enough to overcome our bewilderment and provide for a pleasant afternoon.

Then we learned that the Jaguar wasn’t coming back. Gabriel called for a taxi (the one he normally uses on Sundays and Mondays to go to this training center). Gabriel asked Steve to pay the taxi fare. Back at the hotel, Gabriel asked for two more taxi fares so he could go home tonight and come back again in the morning. Steve paid two more taxi fares although we weren’t really sure why. Left to our own devices, we walked to the local grocery store and bought some crackers for a cold dinner.

### **Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**

Today’s itinerary was more clear. We expected Gabriel and Solomon to come at our 10am checkout. We expected lunch and printer repair at the Nsofwa house before the long drive to Lusaka. It didn’t exactly work out that way. Gabriel arrived at 10:30am. We were already out of the room with our bags at the curb. We paid for the 3<sup>rd</sup> night as planned, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> night was still unpaid. That was supposed to have been Gabriel’s responsibility before we arrived but he only paid for night #1 and never paid for night #2. At 10:30am he was surprised that we hadn’t paid for night #2 and (with my insistence) he went into the office and did so.

No Solomon, however, just another taxi fare that Gabriel expected Steve to pay. Steve did so, and we went to the Nsofwa house. Pretty modest home for the 11 who live there. More than one hour was spent attempting to install his printer. Not successful, but it appears the issue is with the Lenovo laptop and not the printer itself. A Toshiba laptop at a computer shop in town installed the printer just fine (as per Gabriel). Ruth fixed a great spaghetti dinner which left us in good shape for

the rest of the day. Steve was also able to deliver the CEF material to Ruth and it was graciously received. Joy will arrange for local Zambian CEF people to contact Ruth in the coming weeks.

Solomon did finally arrive with the Land Cruiser. This day we learned that our return to Lusaka was not pre-paid. The \$80 we paid up front was supposed to be round-trip but Gabriel has another definition of round-trip. He requested an additional \$80 for fuel plus an appreciation personally for Solomon. With no other option for returning to Lusaka, Steve paid out another \$100 USD. Not budgeted, but out of our discretionary funds.

We arrived safely at the Baptist Guest House in Lusaka. What a grace provision! After repeated cost overruns in Kabwe, Lusaka was a delightful cost discount. We met Enock Njovu there and instantly liked him. He's a bit older than Steve and very serious about his pastorate and related Baptist ministries. Turns out, he is the vice chairman of the Zambia Baptist Fellowship and has connections with every Baptist church throughout the country. After Gabriel and Solomon departed, Enock took us to the grocery store and we stocked up for the food we would need for the remainder of our stay. The Baptist Guest House was roughly ½ the rate Joy estimated and the groceries allowed our food budget to also do very well. This was a great relief because the Kabwe overages had us praying and concerned about the final three days in country.

Down-side to the Baptist Guesthouse: no internet. My phone has 3G though so the android facebook app will at least connect us to the outside world. Still not permitted to tether the phone to the laptop.

### **Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

What a day. Our eyes were opened to many things. Enock picked us up in the morning and took us to the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia. We heard a great sermon on experiential sanctification. We met many Baptist officials. Steve was asked about returning in 2015 or 2016 to speak at their annual seminary alumni conference concerning Grace Notes. Each year they feature a different speaker and Enock would like GN to be featured in an upcoming alumni conference (most likely 2016).

Called Warren for a brief call. Not the greatest of connections, plus Warren is sick. Couldn't hear very well. After the call, we spent the afternoon with Enock Njovu. Once again, common themes were voiced. His printer ran out of toner. The \$100 USD estimate is roughly one month's wages for Enock. He has completed Doctrine 100 with 60 students, and Doctrine 200 with 30 students, and that has exhausted his toner. Also, the printer is single-sided so the paper expense is double what it could be. Enock had 25 years in government service before his seminary and pastorate. He has many government connections including people in the government printing office. They often outsource their printing equipment and Enock believes he can use that office for GN publications. He will investigate further and report to us the price estimates he receives.

Enock drove us to Trinity Baptist Church. The Valley View neighborhood where it is located is a slum area of Lusaka. Very humble church setting. Observed their GN training area and the chalkboard and bulletin board evidence of GN achievements. Next week is actually a GN conference although Enock is concerned about not having paper notes to put in peoples' hands.

### **Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

10am meeting with Dickson Kasongo. Very pleasant conversation and more insight from him as to relationships among pastors. Dickson asked us to pray that he might reconcile the situation. Steve and I agreed to pray for Dickson in that endeavor.

Dickson voiced toner problems. We mentioned Enock's solution and the idea of central GN printing. Dickson loved the idea immediately. Dickson also spoke highly of the bus network for note delivery. He was excited about it and also knows a Baptist printer who may provide a competing bid in comparison to Enock's printing contact. Dickson and Enock will work that out together and report to us.



Our final tour was Galilea Baptist Church. Enoch Njovu took us out to his 2<sup>nd</sup> GN training center and introduced us to Pastor Samson. He also has a printer friend who will supply a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote for Lusaka printing. Samson also does missionary work in the eastern province of Zambia (rural pastors). Steve and I spoke to a fairly large crowd, given that it was not a normal church night. Many of the folks we met were GN students and very appreciative of the material.

After seeing these to GN centers and speaking with Enoch, Dickson, and Samson, Steve and I were motivated to provide discretionary funds for Lusaka. We designated our remaining Kwacha (about \$85 worth) plus \$50 USD. Enoch was immediately relieved and expects now to have toner and notes in peoples' hands when his GN conference begins on Monday.

### **Summary of Zambia**

Lusaka is geographically and logistically the hub of Zambia. Internet access, reliable electricity, transportation and shipping of GN material can be centered in Lusaka and then benefit GN training directors in Kabwe, Livingstone, and the eastern province.

The idea of a central printing operation does not create a hierarchy among the Zambian GN training directors. It simplifies the logistics of putting paper notes in students hands. Central printing and distribution of notes also provides a tangible testimony to the number of students in each locality. Claims of hundreds of graduations would be hard to imagine with only dozens of GN courses distributed by the central printer.

### **Summary of Africa Journey**

Let the preachers preach and let the printers print. That was Steve's pithy wisdom last night in Zambia. Grace oriented believers could be efficiently utilized in each African country for GN note production.

Individually, every pastor (except Benny) struggles with their printers and the costs to replenish toner. None of them (except Benny with the new machine) can duplex print and reduce paper cost. The Lord opened our eyes in Kenya with Benny's proposal to print centrally and distribute to any GN training director in Kenya. If those men provide the paper, Benny will bear the toner cost and produce whatever GN material they desire. There are no Benny clones in Uganda or Zambia, but the basic concept is viable in those countries as well.

All in all, the boots on the ground vision turned out to be quite fruitful. The Lord created personal connections in ways that email and facebook are not able to do. We feel we have established rapport in many instances which will serve GN well in the coming years.