NEWS FROM...

NYANGOMBE

CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTRE

Elim

GORDON & SYBIL IN ZAMBIA

August to October 2026

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

August is always one of our busiest months at Nyangombe, and this year was no exception, especially with the return of our seasonal Bush Conferences and Camps. The entire Nyangombe leadership team has been fully engaged in teaching at these events, which typically draw gatherings of over 300 adults—and in some villages, more than 1,000 children. These opportunities are incredibly exciting. We are constantly reminded that while some plant and others water, it is God alone who brings the growth. Without prayer and the movement of the Holy Spirit, our physical efforts are empty. But with God, all things are possible, and we have been thrilled to watch Him move hearts toward repentance and a deeper walk with the Lord.



Across many African languages, there is a common proverb: ***"A sapling is easily bent, but a full-grown tree is not."*** Frequently used by those in children's ministry across the continent, this saying perfectly illustrates the vital importance of reaching children early in life and pointing them toward the Savior. Because Africa has a rich oral tradition, children absorb the spoken word remarkably fast. During Bible lessons, they quickly memorize verses tied to the stories, and learning multiple verses often becomes a friendly, highly competitive activity. I truly take my hat off to the dedicated teachers who spend four or five hours straight listening to and marking memory verses, patiently guiding as many as 40 children in a single session!

A bush conference is a true adventure for some, especially when home is a thin grass shelter with a completely open entrance**.** You quickly learn to park your car across the opening just to get a modicum of privacy—though out here, privacy is hardly a priority! At night, you sleep completely open to the stars, listening to the breeze rustle the trees as leaves fall gently around you. The shower shares the same open-air design: three simple walls, with side number four looking straight into the wild bush. As for the toilets? That is best left to your imagination. But what the camp lacks in walls, it makes up for in flavour. The cuisine is superb, featuring traditional village chicken, piping hot nshima, and fresh edible leaves.



Children's Camps

Planning a camp is always unpredictable, as fluctuating attendance makes it difficult to budget accurately for food, sleeping areas, lessons, and activities. Many children arrive from impoverished villages where local churches cannot afford to pay for their meals. To ensure no one is left out, trusted workers monitor the campgrounds and report any shortages to leadership. Thanks to the advance generosity of our supporters, we have the resources ready to step in and cover these gaps. Ultimately, it is a privilege to ensure that every single child who attends is fully cared for.

We continuously pray for the children's safety before and during our camps. To ensure their protection, we enforce a strict rule: no child under 12 years old may go near the Nyangombe River, and staff constantly monitor the children to prevent anyone from straying. However, for the first time in 25 years of running these camps, a six-year-old girl slipped through our supervision to follow her older sister to the river. Attracted by the hot weather and the older girls swimming, she suddenly ran and jumped off the river bank, immediately sinking underwater. We thank the Lord that an older girl saw her jump, quickly grabbed her arm, and pulled her to safety. That evening, all the children joined in giving thanks to God for her safe rescue. This incident served as a powerful reminder of how vital it is to strictly supervise and care for the children within their designated age groups.



Children's ministry is clearly a high priority at Nyangombe. Earlier this year, a survey of over 80 women attending a conference revealed that more than 60% were saved after first hearing the Gospel at a children's camp. This highlights just how vital these camps are to the church, both today and for the future.

Please join us in praying for the children of Africa. We pray that the Lord will raise up a generation strong in their faith, who will in turn serve their own generation.

Grateful thanks for prayer & support! From the Nyangombe Team

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