

CAM INTERNATIONAL

MAY - JUN 2025 ISSUE 1015

CONTACT



Covered!

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CAM International, founded in 1915 by William Burton and James Salter, ministers in DR Congo, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the African diaspora.



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Editor: Paul Stables

CAM International Charity no. 1153577

Address: 355 Blackpool Road, Preston, PR2 3AB

Tel: 01772 717830

Email: admin@caminternational.org.uk

www.caminternational.uk

Operations Manager: Kym Delport

Admin Assistant: Rajan Joseph

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COVER PHOTO

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The completed roof on the new classrooms being built to establish a new primary school at the Baruk Centre (See pages 6-7)

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CHRISTMAS GIFT THANKS

Every year CAM International collects donations to send as Christmas gifts for our missionaries. It may seem as though Christmas was a while ago now, but all our missionaries have written to express their thanks to faithful supporters who make these gifts possible.

Wanderley and Rosaria da Silva

'We would like to thank CAM's supporters who, with love and affection, have sent us a Christmas gift every year. This annual gift has helped us in many ways. For example, this year it helped us with our expenses when we had to go to France to support our daughter when she had surgery and we needed to stay a little longer than we had planned.

It also helped us when we had some unexpected expenses, such as when it was necessary to go to a private doctor to get an extra prescription to buy the medicine we needed. We want to thank you for this gesture of such great affection to us and to all the CAM missionaries. May God continue to bless you powerfully.'



▲ Wanderley and Rosaria celebrating with their daughter

Daniel Habtey

'Every year, when I reflect on the mission that I am part of, I give thanks to God for his salvation, divine call and anointing through Jesus Christ. However, without faithful supporters, who support me both financially and in prayer, I could never be part of this work in which I am so involved. So, my family and I would like to thank you for the Christmas gifts, weekly prayers, encouragement, and your sacrificial commitment to the mission.

As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 1:2, "We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers".

And in 2 Corinthians 9:8, "... and God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work".'



Daniel with his family ▲



▲ Chris and Robin enjoying US Christmas decorations

Chris and Robin Kretschman



'Thank you to everyone who has helped to support us this year! God has been so generous through you. The Christmas offering is especially meaningful, as it reminds us of why we're on the mission field. After spending a year between furloughs, we look back with awe at the impact God has made.

Our journey back to the United States began on 21 December with a road trip, errands in Lusaka, and beginning to adjust our sleep pattern to the 7-hour time change before preparing for 20 hours of flight. Leading up to Christmas, we spent time networking with other missionaries at a mission flight service guest house. Christmas Eve was a quiet time of reflection, and on Christmas Day, we flew to Doha, spending the night in a terminal hotel. It was a unique experience to spend Christmas in a predominantly Muslim country,

where the only sign of the season was a miniature candy cane served with our dinner.

Since arriving in the US, we've enjoyed time with our children, grandchildren, and extended family, celebrating the hope of Jesus' birth. Our son led us in worship at his church, and we were able to enjoy the Christmas decorations left up by our children. For Robin, who often worked during holidays as a nurse, Christmas has always felt like a season of togetherness rather than a single holiday. Adjusting to both the time change and the shift from Zambia's summer to the United States' winter took some time, but we've enjoyed visiting family, friends, mission partners, and sponsoring churches. We are truly blessed to partner with such committed Christians in fulfilling the Great Commission. Thank you for being a part of this journey!'



Gordon and Sybil McKillop



'Christmas among Christians in Africa is a profoundly significant celebration marking the birth of Jesus Christ. As missionaries in Zambia, we would like to express our sincere thanks to those who send Christmas gifts, all of which are used towards our Christmas programme at Nyangombe.

Christmas Eve begins with over 100 children carrying candles and singing a Christmas song. Later, a party involving parents, youth and children is held, with simple games like musical chairs or pass the parcel, which are played with great enthusiasm. Near the end of the party, a short Gospel message related to Christmas is shared. At the end of the evening, usually around 10pm, everyone lines up to receive 'banger' type fireworks, which they keep until midnight, when hundreds of bangs can be heard throughout the village. Christmas day is usually celebrated in church with a three-hour-long morning meeting, followed by a meal for everyone. This is also an occasion when widows and other poorer people are treated by the church to a full sit-down meal where over 300 are served. Through this programme, many who do not know Christ are blessed with a meal and a brief message about the true meaning of Christmas.



▲ Gordon and Sybil

Christmas in Africa is intended to show God's immense love for humanity, demonstrated through the arrival of Jesus to offer salvation and reconciliation. Christmas is a time for Christians to reflect on this divine love, to contemplate the humility and sacrifice inherent in Christ's birth, and to reaffirm their commitment to follow His teaching on love, compassion, and forgiveness. Our programme is made possible, in part, through the Christmas gifts we receive. Thank you to all those who contribute.'



▲ Christmas celebration at Nyangombe

EDUCATION FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

by Wanderley and Rosaria da Silva

Wanderley with the Bible school students ▲

With great joy and deep gratitude to God, we began 2025 with a significant milestone for our community in Chimoio. Through much prayer and awareness of the needs of the children in the local community, we began offering primary education. This initiative was born out of the need to provide quality education for the children in the region, to help give them a better future through learning.

Our teaching is founded on Christian principles, providing not only academic knowledge, but also a moral and spiritual foundation. The children learn about God and how to apply values such as love, respect, responsibility, and teamwork in their

lives. We believe that education should be holistic, shaping character and preparing each pupil to serve and positively impact society.

Construction and infrastructure

The growth of our school comes with great challenges; one we are facing now is building new classrooms. The main construction is complete, and we are now getting the buildings ready for use, which involves internal and external plastering of the classrooms, flooring installation, installation of doors and windows, electricity and construction of toilets for teachers and children. Each stage of this project is essential in providing a suitable and safe environment for pupils and teachers, ensuring a space conducive to learning and development.

Facing challenges

We are currently operating two schools, a primary and a pre-school, which requires great dedication and effort. We now have 220 children between both schools, which has significantly increased our workload and the resources we need. Our commitment to education goes beyond just children. In the afternoon, we continue our literacy programme for young people and adults, providing opportunities for those who could not study at the regular school age.



▲ Surrounded by pupils



▲ The new classroom structure



▲ Fitting the windows

The demand for construction materials, the need for more qualified teachers, and the challenge of maintaining a structured environment for all classes are some of the obstacles we face daily. However, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide quality education for our community.

A dream come true

This project is only possible thanks to the dedication of the team, the support of the community, and the donations that make construction a reality. We remain committed to providing quality education and a proper environment for all students, from pre-schoolers to adult learners.

We also operate a Bible school, which runs on Saturday mornings. This year, we have 22 students.

It has been a great joy to witness their sincere desire to deepen their knowledge of God's Word. Seeing their spiritual growth and dedication has been truly edifying.

Thank you!

First and foremost, we thank God, who has sustained and guided us on this journey. We are also grateful to CAM, which has walked with us and provided essential resources to make this dream a reality. We are also immensely grateful to all those who, in any way, have been partners—through donations, prayers, or direct support. Together, we are transforming lives and building a better future for our community! May our God be known, exalted, and glorified in us and through us in this nation.



▲ The existing school facilities

'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'

Proverbs 22:6



by Robin Kretschman



▲ Welcome home!

Our furlough in the US has ended, and we're thrilled to be back home at Nyangombe in Zambia. In the two-and-a-half months away, we travelled 17,000 miles by air and 3,500 miles by car.

From every nation and tongue

The time spent with family, friends, churches, and fellow missionaries was incredible. But what truly renewed our souls was the worship we experienced - an international kaleidoscope of believers glorifying God, a little glimpse of heaven. We were reminded of Psalm 86:9—

'All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.'

Psalm 86:9

Hearing stories of lives transformed by Christ, and witnessing baptisms, filled us with awe. At a Global Mission conference, where we were invited guests, it was inspiring to hear about completed scripture translations for communities that had never had the Bible in their own language. In a video testimony, one man, receiving the first Bible in his language, held it up proudly, declaring,

'God speaks our language' as his village erupted in cheers.

Unified in worship

A song we sang, repeated at many different churches throughout our travels, captured our feelings:

*'All my life You have been faithful,
And all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God'*

(Jenn Johnson, Bethel Music)



▲ Singing of the goodness of God!



▲ Worship at a US church



▲ An American church choir

The worship we encountered, from Zambia to the US, spanned many styles of music—from modern to traditional, acapella to drums, solos to choirs—but it was all the same in essence: voices lifting praise and glorifying God. Across both nations, people from diverse tribes and languages were worshipping Jesus, echoing the scene described by the apostle John in Revelation 7:9-10, where a great multitude from every nation, tribe, and language stands before the throne, crying out, *‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’*

A glimpse of heaven

This little glimpse of heaven is a powerful reminder of our calling in Matthew 28:18-20, the great commission from our Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations, baptising them and teaching them to obey everything He commanded.

We are now home, where God has called us to be. Please pray with us that lives will be transformed daily, and that we will all continue to sing of His goodness in one united voice.



▲ Worshipping in Zambia



▲ A women's choir in Zambia

TRAINING & GRADUATION AT ISTE LU BIBLE SCHOOL

by Kym Delport

The Higher Institute of Evangelical Theology of Lubumbashi (ISTELU) was founded by Dave Garrard in 1986, and has been the source of Biblical training for 39 years for students from many parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Graduates have gone on to start or join churches, working as pastors, and have taken what they learned in Lubumbashi further afield in Congo, and to other parts of the world.

Fruitful ministry

Mbulu Lowo was among the first group of over 35 students who started at ISTE LU. He came from Kananga in the West Kasai region of DRC. After completing three years of study, Mbulu returned to Kananga. The church he pastored grew quickly, and he began to plant churches in the surrounding towns and villages. After further studies, he was put in charge of another higher level Bible College that was launched in Kananga. There are now over 127 churches in the Kasai and seven in other areas which all come under Mbulu's oversight. In 2024, he was part of the team which worked with Christ for all Nations, holding meetings in Kananga to evangelise the area.

We could tell you stories of many more students who have passed through the Institute, now out there pastoring and evangelising in DRC and beyond.

Persevering through the years

The work continues, and ISTE LU is still taking students through to degree level. On 7 December 2024, they held a graduation ceremony for 35 who had attained their degrees during the academic year 2023-2024. We praise the Lord for those who graduated, and pray that they will put their studies to good use in teaching God's Word and reaping a harvest of souls for His Kingdom.



▲ The graduates receiving their awards



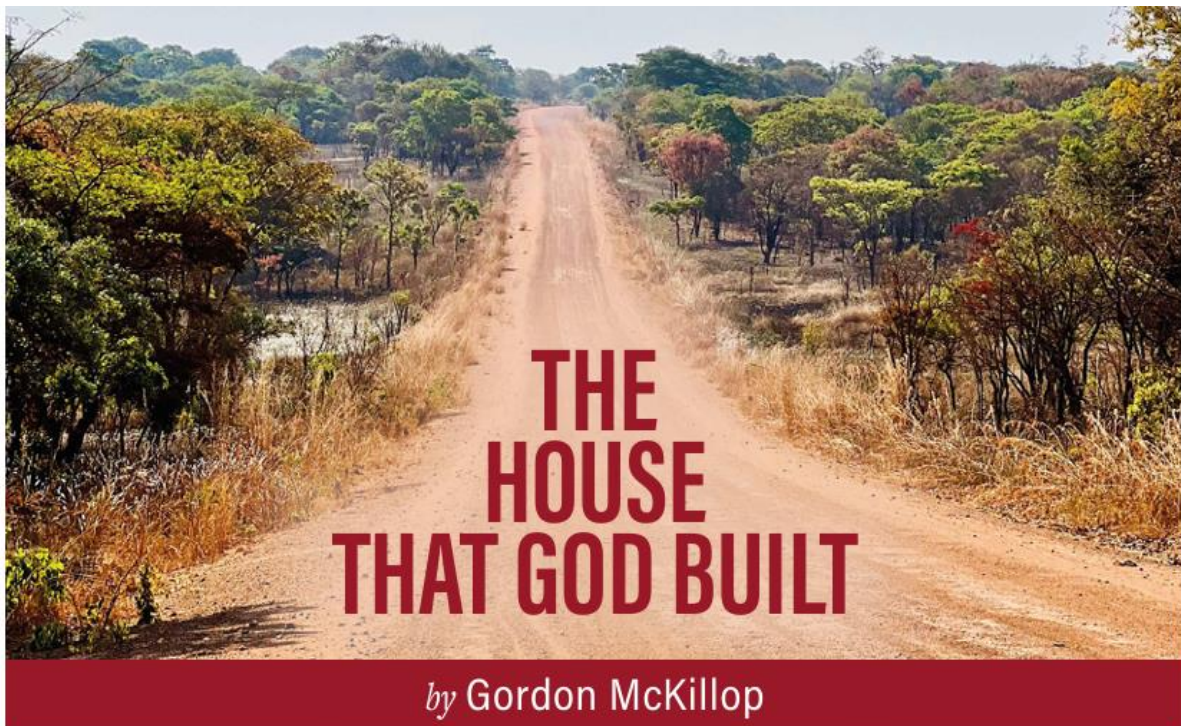
▲ Mbulu (2nd from left) working with Cfan to mobilise pastors & churches in Kananga



▲ ISTE LU professors and staff – Director Mwamba far left

The new academic year began on Monday, 6 January 2025, with a total of 53 students. Please pray for these students, who often must find paid work to cover their living costs as well as the school fees. When they struggle to pay, there is a knock-on effect for the efficient running of the Bible School.

Over the years, CAM has helped to support Bible School training, and has a fund to continue to do so if you have a heart for this work.



A Zambian road – quite different to what UK drivers are used to! ▲

Following an exceptionally receptive and encouraging missionary meeting in Coalville, Leicestershire, I travelled towards Northampton, only to find that my promised lodging for the night was already filled. By 11pm, I had located another place to stay, where about twenty truck drivers were lodging. They were all sitting around a TV in the lounge and I sat with them. One asked who I worked for, and what type of truck I drove. I told them that I was a missionary to Zambia, which unintentionally sparked an animated discussion which went on until after midnight. If I am honest, it was initially a bit of a let-down following my meeting with folks at Coalville, who knew all about CAM and their missionaries down through the years, and had followed the work of CAM closely since W.F.P. Burton had visited Coalville.

Freedom from fear

I learned from some of the drivers that missionary work was viewed with suspicion, sometimes associated with colonialism, cultural imposition, and the forceful conversion of people to a 'Western' religion. One intelligent driver said that he was against missionaries forcing their cultural practices and values on communities in Africa, thereby undermining indigenous traditions, ways of life and existing religious practices and beliefs. It was an excellent opportunity to explain how the Church had expanded across Africa, as men, women, boys and girls chose to believe in Jesus, who in turn liberated them from the fear which was part of the fabric of African culture.

Radical transformation

One of our much-loved CAM missionaries who died a few years ago was David Womersley. David wrote a book entitled *'The House that God Built'*, which details the work of the Holy Spirit building His church in Congo. David highlights the concept of God working through both indigenous people and missionaries to help build His church, which has now spread widely across Africa.

One of the results of a growing church in Africa is the marked cultural and behavioural changes which Christianity and people turning to Christ



▲ Furtherance of the gospel



▲ African Christians gathering

have brought into the continent. This is not only noticed by missionaries and indigenous people but also shared by some who have no faith at all. Was it coincidence that I had in my shirt pocket a folded sheet of paper with a copy of an old newspaper article on it, which I had read earlier in the day? I read to my driver friends some of what Matthew Parris (a journalist who grew up in Africa, with a love and respect for the continent and the people) wrote in the Times Newspaper on 8 January 2009:

'Now a confirmed atheist, I've become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa, Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good.'

Anxiety - fear of evil spirits, of ancestors, of nature and the wild, of a tribal hierarchy, of quite everyday things - strikes deep into the whole structure of rural African thought. Every man has his place and, call

it fear or respect, a great weight grinds down the individual spirit, stunting curiosity. People won't take the initiative, won't take things into their own hands or on their own shoulders.

Those who want Africa to walk tall amid 21st-century global competition must not kid themselves that providing the material means or even the know-how that accompanies what we call development will make the change. A whole belief system must first be supplanted. And I'm afraid it has to be supplanted by another. Removing Christian evangelism from the African equation may leave the continent at the mercy of a malign fusion of Nike, the witch doctor, the mobile phone and the machete.'

Building real change

Today, as the Apostle Paul wrote – 'Forgetting what lies behind... I press on' – to work unashamedly for the furtherance of the Gospel, working together with our African brothers and sisters to make Christ known at every opportunity, and watching with amazement the Lord building His church in Africa.



▲ Church leaders attending Bible school



▲ The beauty of Africa



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JOB VACANCY



Administrative Assistant (Part-Time) - Preston

CAM International, based in Preston, is seeking a Christian Administrative Assistant to join our UK-based team, in Preston. This part-time role (20 hours per week) is ideally spread over five days, though we are open to discussion. As an essential part of our team, you will be responsible for day-to-day administrative tasks that keep our Preston office running smoothly.

Your duties will include:

- Managing communications and correspondence
- Handling routine bookkeeping
- Overseeing various office tasks to ensure efficiency
- Engaging with individuals who contact our mission.

What we offer:

- Opportunities for professional development and training.
- A competitive salary of approximately £13 per hour, based on skills and experience.
- A comprehensive benefits package, including pension contributions and annual leave.

This is a vital role that provides essential support to our work, allowing us to focus on our mission.

Join us in making a lasting impact!

For full details and to apply: info@caminternational.org.uk



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