

BURN AWAY THE WEEDS



September & October 2008

PREPARING FIELDS PREPARING HEARTS

This is our driest time in Zambia. It hasn't rained for five months and there's no chance of rain until November. The grass is brown and leaves on trees have shriveled.

It is also the time for people to burn their fields. The fire clears away weeds and underbrush to make it easier to plant crops when the rains do come.

With all the burning, the smoke fills the air. At times white ashes fall down like snow, and in other places large areas of land are covered with black ash.

Preparing the fields reminds us of the

Parable of the Sower which Jesus said was one of the most important lessons he taught. In Mark 4:7-8 it says,

The seed fell among thorns that choked the plants and made them unfruitful... but the seed that fell on good soil produced a crop.."

I wonder what thorns and weeds there are in my heart that make my life unfruitful for God. What does God need to 'burn away' to prepare good soil where the seed of his Word can grow?



Fire rages across the African plain



ARRIVAL BACK IN AFRICA

At 5:30 PM, during the first night in our new home, we began to cook dinner. At 6 PM the electricity went off and we were told it would be off till after 8 PM.

Welcome to Africa! —where power outages are common and life is not as easy as other places. There was nothing to do but ...

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Something to do

In the parable of the sower, Mark 4, Jesus told about four kinds of soil. Can you name them?

Circle the type of soil that best describes your walk with the Lord right now? Can the 'soil of our hearts' be improved? If so, how?



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... cook the rest of the meal on locally made charcoal.

We're used to the power outages now and can do many things without electricity. We often 'dine by candlelight', or use candles to see when bathing and reading. The batteries on our computer even allows us to work on the computer by candlelight.

Elisabeth and Isaac help cook on charcoal our first night back.



GETTING USED TO LIFE IN AFRICA AGAIN

Here are some things we're readjusting to:



Produce is bought at outdoor markets

- Power outages are common and can occur at any time, but usually happen in the evening when you need it the most.
- Gasoline is \$9.50 a gallon.
- Cars drive on the opposite side of the road than in the USA.
- We sleep under mosquito nets to protect against malaria.
- The unit of currency is the Kwacha. There are about 3400 Kwacha to one dollar.
- Tap water must be boiled and filtered before it is safe to drink.
- Zambia has 42 languages, and we're learning one of them, Bemba.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN CHARCOAL


Charcoal is made in the villages by chopping down large trees, setting them ablaze and then covering the burning logs with soil. This keeps the fire smoldering but without oxygen.

After several days the soil can be removed and the wood has turned

to charcoal. A bag of charcoal, like the one next to Sarah, in this photo, costs about ten dollars.

Maybe you don't need to make your own charcoal, but for many people across Africa its the only source of income, or the only way to cook their meals.



Financial Gifts and Support	Personal Correspondence	
 <p>The Word for the World Bible Translators PO Box 26363 Colorado Springs CO 80936-6363</p> <p>Partnership gifts sent to our office in Colorado are the safest and best way to send support.</p> <p>Make checks payable to The Word for the World Bible Translators and include a note saying "For Ken & Sue Sawka"</p>	<p>Ken & Sue Sawka Postnet Box 373 P/Bag E891 Manda Hill Lusaka, Zambia</p> <p>Visit our website www.KenAndSue.org</p>	<p>Phone: 011-260-1-292-973 Cell: 011-260-979-77-22-43</p> <hr/> <p>Email ksawka@twftw.org</p>

Rejoice in what God has done!

- ☺ We arrived safely in Zambia and have already been able to teach about Bible translation and meet with one language group that wants to start translation.
- ☺ Our Work Permit, which is the required permission from the Zambian Immigration Department that allows us to stay in the country, has been approved!
- ☺ We're thankful for the home we are renting until the end of December.



Praying for a harvest

- ✝ That we would recognize the thorns and weeds in our lives that make us unfruitful and have the courage to allow God to change our hearts into good soil.
- ✝ For the sale of our van that we left in New Jersey and additional funds so that we can purchase a good reliable, four-wheel drive vehicle to reach remote areas that need Bible translation.
- ✝ That the Lord would help Sarah, our oldest daughter, as she adjusts to life in a missionary boarding school, Rift Valley Academy, in Kenya. And for us, as well, because we will greatly miss her.

*Lord burn in us,
Ken, Sue, Sarah,
Elisabeth + Isaac*

*God's Word for all people in their
heart language*

SARAH TO MISSIONARY BOARDING SCHOOL

Sarah, age 16, starts school in September at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. She will be two countries away from us and over 1,100 miles.

She has two years of high school left and wants to complete her next two years of schooling at a missionary boarding school. Thankfully, God has provided for Sarah's first year of boarding school through a gift given by a special family. If you'd like to write Sarah, here's her contact information:



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