

Mazereeuws in Zambia

August 2015

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings from Zambia. It has been a busy month since we left home. Our arrival in Mwandu, Zambia on July 12th seems far removed as we immediately dove right into our orientation of the community and the work set before us. The effects of last year's drought is very apparent especially in the most rural areas, as the soil is very sandy and requires a consistent supply of rain, during the rainy season (November – April), to sustain any growth.

In response to this drought, we are working with World Renew to provide food for 2,500 households (about 15,000 people) each month for eight months, plus a breakfast program in nine schools. Each household will also receive seeds, maize, cowpeas, and groundnuts for planting a one half acre plot per family.

Another part of our project is to drill eight boreholes at the schools so the students can grow a garden, with their parents help. The goal is that the schools will be able to grow their own food to feed the children once the project is completed. We are very thankful to have Bevan Hancock from Australia working with us to manage the school programs and water project.

Our work in Zambia started with numerous meetings with the United Church of Zambia personnel, the local church officials in Mwandu, and the people from the targeted villages. We also had our first taste of traditional Zambian food – nshima (cooked corn meal), greens, and fish.

Rients is busy in Mwandu preparing the main warehouse to receive the commodities, and arranging for repair of the sandy roads to



Margaret meeting with committee members in a rural village.



Meeting with the committee chairpersons at the UCZ church.

accommodate the 30 metric ton loads of maize meal, beans, oil and salt.

I have been traveling into the rural sites with the Rev. and Deaconess to teach the committee members how to select the appropriate beneficiaries and to inform them about the distribution process. Our goal is to complete our first distributions the first week of every month starting in September.

Please pray for a smooth operation of the distribution so that the most vulnerable people can receive nutritious food. Some are only eating every other day and others have resorted to eating wild plants.

Christian greetings,

Margaret and Rients Mazereeuw



Starting the road repair work.



The warehouse.



In thankfulness for the project, one village prepared for us a meal of nshima (cooked cornmeal), greens and chicken.

