

the TSOUKALAS FAMILY

Missionaries to the Deaf in Zambia



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And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee. (Jeremiah 1:19)

This month has been difficult for us, but we have seen God work in wonderful ways!! A young woman in our church informed us she was raped by a man who had visited our church. We took this very seriously. We spoke with her and her parents, since they do not know sign language, and they wanted to report it to the police.

So we helped them do so. (Which was a very involved process.) Other Deaf people from the community have come against us, and have said they will make a case against us because the young man was put in jail, but he is innocent.

They have bullied our friend Sonny, trying to make him afraid because he made a statement to the police, they have threatened us, and have worked to see this case dismissed and us punished instead. The father has even agreed to now drop the case, and told us the daughter changed her story. We do not know if that part is true.

What we do know is that by mercy and truth iniquity is purged (Prov. 16:6). We know this is spiritual warfare, as they are all from the former church, or had been previously disciplined by me, but I parted ways because of doctrinal disagreements and continuing sin.

Praise God that today after court the man who was leading the charge against us sent me several messages asking for forgiveness. In humility he wrote and said how he had seen true Christian love from me. It is by God's grace and work this happened! We were determined to stand for truth, and to show the love of Christ, and He has given us victory! We are still praying for all involved, that God would have ultimate victory through the whole situation. Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Praises

1. Sonny has made a strong stand for Christ! His boss offered him a free house that is bigger and nicer than the small rooms he is renting now, but he would have to denounce his faith in Christ and work at the mosque. He told his boss he would never do that. We are so blessed to see God growing Sonny's faith and the way he is leading his family.

2. Julie has started two Bible studies with the ladies of the Deaf ministry. She meets on one side of town on Tuesday mornings, and Fridays she meets with Kalubi and Sarah. It has been a real blessing and encouragement to see them excited about learning the Word of God, and work on memorizing Scripture.

3. It has been almost one year since we started the new ministry at CCBC. We have been so blessed to see growth, and have the support of the hearing church there. We are planning a celebration next month.

4. Paul's wife had a baby girl, they named her Divine, and she is doing well. We praise God for a safe delivery and healthy baby!

5. Some of the Deaf Magwero students have worked hard and memorized many of the verses I have listed for them. We are praising God that they are hiding His Word in their hearts!



Left: Julie and Bible study ladies; Right: Baby Divine Muyanda

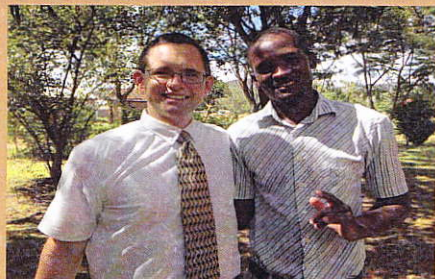
Prayer Requests

1. Brother Paul is here this week looking for housing for his family so they can join us in the ministry soon. We are praying for safe housing, and for all details of their move to go smoothly.

2. Please pray for my mother. Her tenant of 25 years moved out due to illness that made him unable to climb the stairs any longer. We are praying for her to find a good tenant, and also for the remodeling she is doing. Of course we always covet prayers for her salvation and her health.

3. For our church to continue to grow in the Lord, despite the persecution from others in the Deaf community. We have seen a decline in attendance since the court issue. We pray God will strengthen the hearts of those faithful to His Word, and they can come without fear of what man will do to them.

4. Pray for outreach opportunities among the Deaf, and for those in Chipata we encounter who do not know Christ. We want to be a light in the darkness that surround us!



Top Left: Sonny and I after church one Sunday. Right: Paul preaching
Bottom Left: Two of the ladies in Julie's Bible study

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