

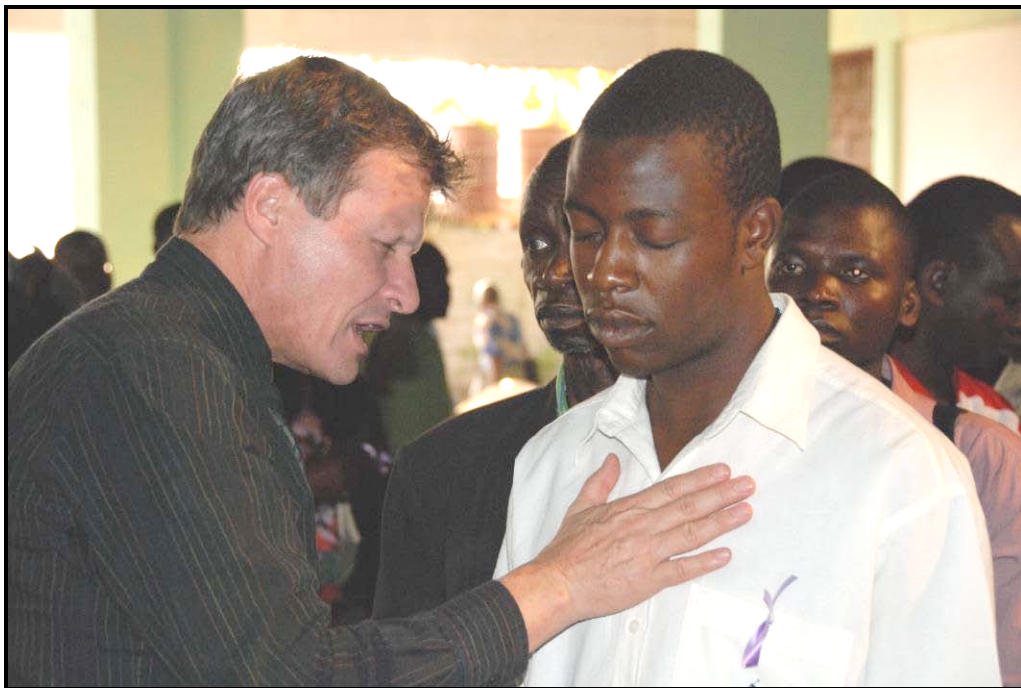
Africa Update  
03 September 07



Dear All,

Welcome to the month of September!

I have now said good-bye to the two teams that recently visited from Australia, the two men from Liberty Christian Church that came to speak at four conferences and the two doctors also from Liberty who visited for a combination of mission and holiday activities. Both teams kept me busy and we had very successful times. We held two "Stand Strong" conferences in Kitwe, one being a two day conference for church leaders, the other being a one day conference for men. This program was then repeated in Lusaka.



*Men receiving prayer from Team Leader Ps. Richard  
Kerridge  
at the July "Stand Strong" men's conference in Kitwe*

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Once the doctors arrived in early August, I was well and truly ready for some recreation and to begin looking at what needed doing to my house. This included just about everything! The house was dirty, had not been maintained properly by the previous owners and I had to start from scratch in buying furniture, appliances etc. The doctors helped me to make a start on this with some initial cleaning and preliminary interior design consultation.

Operation flea control moved to another level after flea bombs failed to deal with the problem. The new approach involved spraying all the outside area around the house with a very strong insecticide. The first spraying only kept me flea free for about four days but since a repeat spraying, I have been fairly flea free for over two weeks now. This is just as well because I now have two puppies, Travis and Tina. Unfortunately, both came with fleas but I quickly bathed and sprayed the pups and we seem to have managed to avoid any further flea infestations. Flea collars are now installed on both pups.



## *Operation Flea Control*

As mentioned, Travis and Tina arrived two weeks ago. Not being used to pups, I was a little alarmed by their initial behaviour. I locked them in the back porch area. Immediately Travis escaped through a small gap in the gate followed by Tina. Calling after them was of no use as they were fleeing from their new, strange owner. I followed them around the back of the house to find that they had

found a poisoned rat and were trying to eat it. This was quickly confiscated because of the poison and I then realized the pups were hungry. Africans often feed their dogs very little and I had been given the pups by an African family through the church network here. I enticed the pups back into the porch with some wet dog food. I worked out that Travis was top dog when he refused to let Tina share the food. I opened another sachet for Tina but Travis ate this one too. I had a lot to learn. Travis ate like he had never eaten before and neither pups had probably ever eaten meat before, only mealy maize with vegetables. I separated them so that Tina could eat. They ate all the dog food I had like ravenous little wolves. It was now 4.30 pm on Saturday, so I quickly blocked the gap in the gate, locked the pups in the porch and drove quickly into town to buy more dog food before 5.00 pm when the supermarket closed. At this stage I was unsure whether the supermarket would be open on Sunday.

I arrived back home with more dog food to find the pups fortunately still locked in the back porch area. This time the pups greeted me with lots of yelping and crying and I thought something might be wrong with them. They were scratching all over which was when I saw all the fleas. Taking the pups inside the house and bathing them in the bathtub was my next little ordeal. This accomplished, I could still see a few fleas, so I sprayed them with my own personal insect repellent. This did the job and they were flea less. They were still crying even after this so I decided this was the reality of new pups going to a new home and I left them in the porch area for the night. To my relief, they stayed quiet all night and were still there in the morning. Since feeding them the first time, they have become my loyal little friends and it has stayed this way ever since. Now we walk almost every morning and evening. My challenge now is to keep them out of the house as they seem to have worked out that the food comes from inside and they want to follow me everywhere including inside. I am determined though to keep them as outdoor dogs. So far, I am winning on this front.





*Travis & Tina*

*Fast becoming muzungu pups!*

I am having tradesmen come to the house this month to begin some renovations. This week the electricians are coming to rewire the house and install new electrical fittings throughout. An initial assessment showed a history of very haphazard and unsound electrical work and also some exposed live cables in parts of the house. The electrical work will be followed by plumbing, carpentry and painting. I have already begun buying furniture, appliances etc and this shall continue for the next month or so. I am looking to begin a 3 month bible course at the start of October both here in Kitwe and in Chingola. The course will run a couple of hours a week in each place. Hopefully, I will have the course completed by Christmas.

I am also busy at the moment researching processes and strategies that will assist in developing the Garneton project. This involves meetings with knowledgeable, experienced people to consult on the best way forward from here. This experience is a very large learning curve for me as I have never been involved in developing a project of this size before, let alone in a foreign environment where administrative processes are often so different to those in Australia.



## *Meeting Dominic*

Visiting Chimfunshi Chimpanzee Orphanage was one of the interesting things I did with the two doctors on their recent visit. The orphanage is home to about 190 chimps who have been rescued from perilous and often cruel situations from places all over the world. Co-founder, Sheila Siddle, has her hands full raising Dominic, the baby chimp. You can visit this project at [www.chimfunshi.org.za](http://www.chimfunshi.org.za)

That's it for now. Stay well,  
Mike