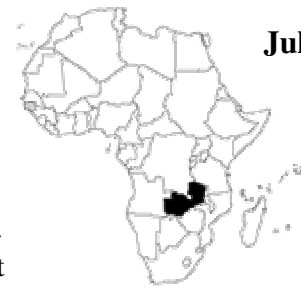




Ashley Smith
Serving in Ndola, Zambia
October 2009-2010



July 2010

Rights and Expectations

One of the first things you are exposed to when deciding to become a missionary is the issue of rights and expectations. Experienced missionaries will ask you what rights you think you have as a Christian, as an American, as a visiting white person and what expectations you have about the work you will be doing and the place where you will be living. As I prepared to come to Zambia, this was again a serious conversation I needed to have with myself and think through. What did I think my work here would look like? What did I expect of the church here? What was the church expecting of me? What did I think my living conditions would be like? What did I expect to have because that was what I had in America? Did I think I had the right to privacy? Did I think I would have the right to say no to certain things? Was I expecting to eat new food and enjoy it?

Needless to say, no matter how much you prepare and think through these many questions, you are never prepared for what you will find once you reach your destination. We think we have thought through these questions and are prepared to sacrifice and give up certain things, but that is always easier said than done. A life of flexibility is demanded while living cross-culturally, allowing you to work through your different rights and expectations.

While life here has been extremely different than what I expected, it has been absolutely wonderful. As I think through how life has been this past year, I think about how wonderful it is that God does different things than what we expected. How boring life would be if we knew everything that was going to happen!! I think through the time I've spent here and marvel at the wonderful experiences I've had that are different than what I expected. I acknowledge that the Lord definitely knows what He is doing! I can see how much He has done in my life because He has gone outside my expectations. I can see how my relationship with Him has been strengthened because He is bigger than a box I can put Him in.

So I leave you with this challenge: What rights and expectations do you have? We all have them, regardless if we are living in America or another country. What rights and expectations are you putting on God, on your friends, on your family? Are they things that God would appreciate or does He want you to relax and let go of them a bit and allow Him to do amazing things in your life? I can promise you that when you let go of your rights and expectations, life becomes much more fulfilling as we let God have control.

Praise God!!

- Praise God for the fantastic holiday that I had in Cape Town and Victoria Falls. Praise Him for safe travels and for just a refreshing time seeing His majestic creation.
- Praise God for the SIM Spiritual Life Conference (SLC) I was able to attend and for the encouraging and motivating things that were shared.
- Praise God for unending laughter that I have had with friends as we are walking and hanging out together.
- Praise God for deep and meaningful relationships I have developed with friends here. Praise Him that we can study the scripture together as well as laugh and play.



Photos: Left: A fellow SIM worker, Allie Smith, visiting Victoria Falls. Center: Three very special little friends, celebrating birthdays. Right: An amazing sunset on the beach in Cape Town.

New English Phrases

“My mother refused me to play with them”

“Pronunciation is difficult, but we will meet when spelling.”

BUSY = Being Under Satan’s Yoke

Free Perfume = Smoke. It’s now burning season, so there is smoke everywhere as you are out and about.



Far left, top left and top center: Games played at youth, involving chocolate and marshmallows. Top right, bottom right, and bottom center: A half-birthday celebration, with cake, breaking out in song and dance, and eating by candlelight due to load-shedding. Bottom left: A group photo of those that participated in visiting an orphanage.



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for follow through with the words that were shared at SLC and that I would be able to put some of them into action here in my own ministry.
- Please be praying as my time is winding up here. Please pray that I would have good closure and meaningful conversations and time with people in my last few months here.
- Please be praying for my future as I am considering what the Lord has in store for me next, whether staying in the States or returning to Zambia.

ashley.smith@sim.org
ashleyraesmith@hotmail.com
www.ashleyraesmith.com
sta#:022305

Ndola ECZ Guesthouse
12 Anoya Zulu Lane
Box #250147
Kansenshi, Ndola
ZAMBIA