

Thoughts From Dave: “What a great life I’ve had and I wouldn’t change a thing.” That was my sentiment on Tuesday as I celebrated my sixth-sixth birthday. Of course, a few tweaks here and there could have made things easier, but over all the years I am so thankful for God’s work in my life. Now, Joyce and I have the distinct privilege of partnering with you and global partners in order to encourage and strengthen pastors and church leaders.

Recently, someone asked me if I ever thought I would be doing this type of ministry fifteen years ago. Actually, I did. In 2000, our Russian missionary friend Chuck Schwarz invited me to join him in Moscow to teach a course on Small Groups at the Moscow Theological Institute. After I returned to Ithaca I remember saying something like, “When I grow up I’d like to do this full-time.” I guess it takes some people longer to grow up, but in the meantime the privilege of pastoring at Bethel Grove Bible Church better prepared me for what God has for me today.

When Joyce and I started this adventure in June of 2014, we committed to three years of ministry and then evaluate our next steps. Into our third year, we are seeing God open more doors for ministry. Should God give us good health, we are envisioning *at least two more years* of serving the Lord in this way. We look forward to communicating our thoughts and prayer requests for the future. Thanks for your prayers and support. We are grateful!

Zambia Trip Update

These comments are taken from the Choshen Farm’s latest update as it described the recent Conference in Fimpulu, Zambia. “Christ in the Old Testament” was the theme for our study of several prophetic books. Visit www.choshenfarm.org for info on our partner.

“Another great reminder of the cloud of witnesses came through our hosting a pastoral training conference at the end of September. Over one hundred pastors, elders and church leaders gathered for a three day intensive focusing on several OT books including Jeremiah, Nahum, Daniel and more. The pastors from across the region have repeatedly commented on the similarities between the OT cultures and the modern day Bemba culture regarding struggles with idolatry, sorcery and adherence to “custom over Christ.” One pastor provided the feedback, “*We never taught these books because they are hard to understand, but now that we’ve had this kind of teaching? EASY!*” We are thankful for our partnership with Dr. Dave Jones who will complete his five seminar series next April.”

Keep Choshen Farm in your prayers and continue to pray for us as we attempt to develop an Old Testament resource capturing the big picture of Christ in the Old Testament.



Conference Participants



People from Fimpulu village, as well as Mansa town, traveled to Choshen Farm for the sessions. One challenge was to make the prophetic books of Nahum and Zephaniah come alive with a message for 21st century Zambia. God’s Word never disappoints. It speaks to current issues of the day. Read these great books and hear God’s voice for yourself.

Zambia Pictures



Prayer Requests

Pray for Dave as he travels to West Church in Peabody, MA to speak at their Mission Conference. If you are in the Boston area, join him on Sunday, October 16, at 10:30 am and/or at 7 pm as he speaks on the theme "Prayer is the Key". On Tuesday, October 18, Dave speaks at a Men's Dinner.

Pray for the "Partnerships" Advisory Group's meeting on Monday, October 24th as we consider budget and plans for the upcoming years.

Give thanks for the Zambia training and for Choshen Farm; our partnering ministry.

Give thanks for the results of the Masaka planning retreat on October 3-5. More information about our vision for ministry through January of 2019 will be provided in the next update.

Pray for the development of fiscal resources to continue ministry into upcoming years. Pray for Dave as he contacts our faithful supporters as well as begins to establish new ministry partners.

Pray for Joyce and me as we look toward several major decisions that will provide direction for the future.



Mansa Pastors Fellowship

A wonderful benefit, from the Zambia training sessions, is the connection with the Mansa Pastors. Over these four teaching visits, a growing relationship is being forged by the Holy Spirit. I look forward to the 2017 April & May visit when I can join them in their weekly meeting and worship with them during a Sunday service. It is my prayer that a few Ithaca pastors will join me on the trip as we complete the five-part series on *Christ in the Old Testament*.

Visit www.partnershipsfortraining.org for updates on the "Partnerships" Ministry

Our vision is to encourage and equip less-resourced Majority World pastors through biblical teaching and resources. Beginning in Uganda, we will assist national church leaders and mission partners as they nurture pastors and develop emerging leaders to the glory of God.