

GREATER GRACE CHURCH OF ZAMBIA

One Church. One Family.

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| THE END CAN BE BETTER THAN THE BEGINNING

In Psalm 14:1, the Bible tells us that it is the fool who says there is no God, and quite often, at the end of someone's life the void of God becomes painfully real. No one cheats death and we all need God. During the six years we have served in Zambia, I have buried approximately 40 people ranging from as young as 12 to as mature as 67. Twice, I have buried three in one week.

I have noticed the unique difference between how Christians and non-Christians respond to death. Recently, I buried a member of our church, Mr. Malata, who died at the age of 55 from Tuberculosis. During our burial ceremony, other burials were taking place at the same time. One ceremony, in particular, caught my attention. It consisted of two men carrying a wooden box, two women moaning, and one older man singing one of the most morose melodies I have ever heard in my life. The song was in a local language, so I asked what he was singing and when I found out, it chilled me to the bone. The song was a cry from the deceased, loosely translated, "If there is anybody within the sound of my voice, tell them to pray for me. If there is some one within the sound of my voice who can, please pray for me. All alone, no friends to pray for me. If there is anybody within the sound of my voice, please come and pray for me".



When the five-person strong burial team arrived to their designated hole, there were no prayers, no spiritual songs, no man of God, and no hope, just dust returning to dust no different than it began. We went over and said a few words and spoke the gospel as they deposited the body into the brown, sandy soil and left. As I watched them leave, I thought, this is life and death without God; empty, quiet, hopeless and cold. The man who died knew not Christ and none of his burial team accepted Christ. I wondered about how he thought his life would end. I wondered if he knew his end

For we walk by faith, not by sight...

~ 2 Corinthians 5:7

would be like his beginning. I wondered if he knew his end didn't have to be like his beginning. I wondered if his friends knew that his ending didn't have to be come theirs. I just kept hearing that sad, sad, song. Indeed, it is the fool who says there is no God.

Separately, I witnessed the joy and the rejoicing of Mr. Malata's going home service and the excitement we had for his face to face meeting with his loving Savior. There was no more pain, no more sorrow, and no more weakness. Now, there was only rest in the arms of a loving God. The contrast on that windy day was eternal.

It is only through a personal relationship by faith in Jesus Christ, that makes our end, in Ecclesiastes 7:8, truly become better than our beginning. This is our gospel, this our message and this is our hope. As I return home to bury another member of God's family, my father, I carry these thoughts, and I carry this hope. For Christ has not called us to be foolish but free. Thank you for your prayers and love toward my family as we watch God yet again receive another son home.



*The fool hath said in his heart,
There is no God.*

Psalm 14:1

PRAYER REQUESTS

- BIBLE COLLEGE SEMESTER
- NEW CHURCH IN THE CITY OF LUMBUBASHI, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- THE BROWN FAMILY
- MISSIONS TRIP TO ZIMBABWE
- CHURCH REGISTRATION FOR BOTSWANA
- VISIT TO MALAWI

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

(Tax-Deductible)

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AFFILIATED WITH:

 GREATER GRACE
WORLD OUTREACH
... A WORLD WIDE LOCAL CHURCH