

Hello from Zambia! We can't believe it's already been 3 months with our new addition and we are only just now getting an official update to you all. We also can't believe it's already October. Seriously. Where has this year gone?? The past few months were a blur of newborn bliss and LOTS of visitors and we are just now getting back into a "new normal." Here is what's been going on with Team Zimba since we last updated you all.



Jesse Kondwani (or Jesse Bear as we like to call him) joined Team Zimba on July 1 with quite the grand entrance. Most of the labor happened at home and he came only 25 minutes after we arrived at the hospital! He has brought so much joy to our family and his older siblings are obsessed with him. They have been SUCH amazing helpers and the transition has truly been an answer to prayer so far. God is really so good.



Jesse was born while a small team from Florida was here and we literally had visitors every day from then up until the end of August. We had the Florida team of 4 men, followed by a team of dear friends and students from State College, and then our HOB director Brian came and we dropped him at the airport an hour before picking up my mom who got to stay with us for four weeks! It was a

whirlwind, but SO much fun. Since then, we've been getting back into a "new" rhythm for family and ministry.



The teams were such an encouragement, as always. And it's always such a full-circle moment for me when we have teams of young people (particularly when they're from State College) since my whole Zambia journey started on a short-term trip just like that. Many of the teens were here with us last year and it was such a joy to watch them dive in again and love on the boys and girls they met.



Our time with Brian was also such a blessing. We had a few meetings with our missionary and director team and it was a great time to connect, share our hearts and make sure we are all on the same page moving forward. We are so grateful for a leader who pours into us the way he does.



Having 4 weeks with my mom here was such a sweet and special gift. The kids had so much fun and spent all day every day cuddled up with grandma asking her to read book after book. We were so glad she got to meet Jesse and just experience our “normal” life with us.



Another exciting thing that happened recently is Judah and I officially embarked on our homeschool journey! I can't believe our baby is already 5, but here we are. It has been so fun to have some carved-out time for just the two of us each day (although Zizi does like to join some days). He has done really well so far and is experiencing the joy of learning to read and write his letters. I'm so thankful that my maternity leave allowed us to figure out a routine that works for us now that I'm easing my way back into working part-time again. I'm still focusing on just admin and finances, which allows me to mostly work from home, which is such a blessing.



One really exciting update from ministry is that one of our residents, Stanley, recently got a job! Last year he was enrolled in a trade school where he studied food production and this year he has been diligently passing out job applications and attending a few interviews. We are so grateful that he was offered a job at a local fast food restaurant called After Ten. One of the coolest things about the story is that this restaurant (and this particular location) is where we used to take boys when they earned pies (meat pies, that is) through their attendance at the Learning Center. Years ago, when Stanley was in the streets, we would take him there and sit with him at the booth and encourage him to continue coming to the Learning Center. We would try our best to help him have a different vision for his life. The last time we sat there with Stanley was in 2021, right before he was given a chance to come into our residential program. Now, 4 years later he is back in that restaurant, a completely changed young man. I have no doubt that boys who are still in the streets will walk into that restaurant and see Stanley there. Some of them will remember him from their time together in town. What a testimony he will be of the miracles God can do in someone's life when they let Him do His work!

Another thing that has taken up a lot of our mental headspace lately is some recent changes regarding visitor visas for Zambians wishing to visit the US. LONG story short, Zambia is one of only two countries in the world that were recently put into a pilot program requiring anyone applying for a visitor visa to pay a \$10,000 bond to prove they will return to their country. It also cuts the visa validity from 3 years to 3 months and only allows the person to enter the country for 30 days versus the 6 months normally given for B1/B2 visas. We are scheduled to visit the States next fall, so the program MIGHT not affect us, but there's really no way to know for sure. We've asked a lot of questions as we try to figure it all out, but it's hard to know for sure. We would really appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we try to maneuver through all these new systems.

We could go on and on, but since this is quite long already, we'll end here for now. We are sorry again for how long it has taken us to get an update to you all, and we promise to send another one soon.

Thank you so much for your continued support and encouragement. We love and appreciate you all. -Team Zimba

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