

“Not Return Empty” (Isaiah 55:11)



News from the Plugers' work in Bible Translation

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“Lasts” and “Firsts”

During our final weeks in the US, we did a lot of “one lasts.” One last trip to our favorite restaurant. One last swim in grandma’s pool. One last worship service at our home congregation. Then all of a sudden it was one last day in the States, one last goodbye, one last hug.

Now we find ourselves doing a lot of “firsts.” Our first glimpse of Africa. Our first time driving on the left side of the road. Our first taste of *nshima*. Our first Nsenga language lesson. Our first trip to Petauke, our new hometown. Our first night under a mosquito net. Our first cultural mistake. Our first African friends.

There is a big difference between a “last” and a “first.” The lasts are nostalgic and bittersweet. They are done with deliberate solemnity, thinking, “I better enjoy this, because I may never get to do it again.” The firsts are different. The firsts are excitement, mixed with a bit of trepidation. They are eyes-wide-open, I-wonder-what-comes-next, I-can’t-believe-we’re-doing-this. There is hesitation, confusion, and maybe even fear. But there is also wonderment and joy.

It helps to remember in the sadness of a last goodbye that there is the joy of a first meeting around the corner. For every old favorite we left behind, there is a new experience to discover.

Jesus reminds us that “many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first” (Mt. 19:30). He also paradoxically says that “whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it” (Mk. 8:35).

When we try to hang on to this life, we end up losing everything. But when we accept our position as “last” in this world, and accept the costs that come from following Jesus, we enter the Joy of a new “first” that will never end.

Serving the Savior with you,

Chris, Janine, and Sean



The Zulu family is helping us learn Nsenga.



We will be in the Guest House in Lusaka for about a month.

How much does it cost?

One of the many adjustments that we need to make in our new country is shopping. We can get a lot of the things you have in the US, but many brands are different. There are many “new” products we’ve never seen before. There are also things we can’t find at all.

The other big adjustment is the currency - there are about 4900 Zambian Kwacha in a dollar. This, plus the English-to-metric conversion, makes the calculations at the supermarket a bit tricky sometimes. We’re supposed to be here for language, not math!

Below are some of the products we bought during our first few weeks in Zambia. Compare them to the things you buy, and then check out the price tags!

1L Milk	ZK 8150 (\$1.70)
7 eggs (yes, seven!)	ZK 7980 (\$1.66)
7Kg Potatoes	ZK 28980 (\$6.03)
1L Fruit juice	ZK 11480 (\$2.40)
4L Water	ZK 7280 (\$1.51)
75g Gummy bears	ZK 3780 (\$0.74)
.34Kg Cheddar cheese	ZK 30410 (\$6.35)
500g Yogurt	ZK 10980 (\$2.28)
1Kg Sugar	ZK 6680 (\$1.40)
1Kg Green beans	ZK 9980 (\$2.07)
350 g Pasta sauce	ZK 8980 (\$1.87)
5 small onions	ZK 11980 (\$2.49)
1 small apple	ZK 2480 (\$0.51)
750g granola	ZK 19980 (\$4.16)
250g coffee	ZK 15780 (\$3.29)
1 small pineapple	ZK 9980 (\$2.08)
2.5Kg Flour	ZK 20980 (\$4.37)
500g Cornflakes	ZK 17500 (\$3.65)
.44Kg ground beef	ZK 16258 (\$3.39)
250g peanut butter	ZK 11150 (\$2.32)
330ml Fanta	ZK 5000 (\$1.04)
170g canned tuna	ZK 9480 (\$1.98)
25 tea bags	ZK 2480 (\$0.52)
4 pack toilet paper	ZK 6450 (\$1.34)
6 pack candles	ZK 10350 (\$2.16)
10 pack garbage bags	ZK 12050 (\$2.51)
1Kg Laundry detergent	ZK 24480 (\$5.10)
3 pack bug killing spray	ZK 26980 (\$5.62)

Communication

Even though we are thousands of miles away, we are not out of touch. You can send us email at theplugers@lbt.org. We have a weblog at <http://theplugers.wordpress.com> (click on the “Blog” link at the top of the page). We are also on Facebook.

Our internet seems generally reliable, but there might be days (or weeks) when we don’t have access. Don’t worry if you don’t hear from us.

We also have a mailing address in Petauke. Let the mail start rolling in! We would love to hear from you.

The Plugers
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Partnerships

We are only able to be in Zambia because of the many people in the United States who are generously supporting our work. A HUGE thank-you to everyone who has helped us get this far.

If you would like to be a financial supporter of our work to bring the Bible to the heart language of the Nsenga people, you can visit our website <http://theplugers.wordpress.com> and click on the orange “Donate Now” button. You can also write to:

Lutheran Bible Translators
Box 2050
Aurora IL 60507



(please indicate “Pluger ministry” on your check)



The Arcades shopping center in Lusaka