



# THE RIDDICK FAMILY

Your missionaries to Zambia  
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## Merry Christmas from the Riddicks Your Missionaries in Zambia!

Wow, December is here already! It feels like forever since our last letter and that's probably because it has been. The past few months have been wild and full of challenges, and we hardly know where to begin.

A few months ago, my wife, Eileen, began feeling very sick, and her condition quickly worsened. In September, we traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, for a training course where I learned techniques to teach our national men at Lake Tanganyika about safe boating.

These skills are crucial, as the lakes unpredictable weather can make boating dangerous, even life-threatening.

We had hoped this trip would also be an opportunity to spend some quality time together, but things took a different turn.

Eileen ended up hospitalized in Port Elizabeth, and her health never seemed to improve.

Once she was stable enough to travel, we returned to Zambia. I then packed my bags for a

Two day drive to the lake, where I managed to do some teaching and ministry work.

However, upon my return to the Copperbelt, Eileen was admitted to a local hospital an experience that's far from ideal in our part of Zambia. Faced with no better options, we made the difficult decision for her to travel back to the U.S. for medical treatment. It's been over a month now, and while we're starting to get some answers, there's still a long way to go. Among other things, doctors discovered large gallstones, which led to her gallbladder being removed. We're awaiting additional test results and praying she can return to us in Zambia soon. Being both Dad and Mom has been a steep learning curve, but I'm doing my best.

Like many other missionaries, we don't have health insurance and put 100% of what God provides directly into the ministry. When unexpected expenses like medical care and plane tickets arise, it adds a new layer of stress.

But in my 17 years of knowing Christ, I've never seen Him fail us. I'm so grateful for the incredible team of national men and women who've supported me during this time. My brothers in Christ, Obson and Pastor Ackim, have truly been my Aaron and Hur holding me up when things felt overwhelming. Even amidst the challenges, the Lord has blessed our ministry.



While Eileen has been away, we hosted a group of 26 visitors from the U.S. It was no small task ensuring everyone was fed, housed, and organized, but by God's grace, we managed it. During their two-week visit, the team conducted four large medical clinics in remote parts of the Zambian bush, built a roof for a new church building, and even completed a house for the pastor and his family.

Their visit was a tremendous blessing, but I must admit it was also a relief to watch them walk back into the airport. During my time at Lake Tanganyika, we secured a beautiful piece of property overlooking a large village full of kids and the lake. The land was affordable because transporting building materials to the area is quite challenging. If you follow us on Facebook, you've probably seen the video where we shared our vision for this location. We hope to build a small ministry cabin there, making it feasible for my family and me to spend 1-2 months at a time working with the national pastors in the area. Our goal is to expand the feeding program we've established here in the Copperbelt to reach communities at the lake.

This project is estimated to cost \$25,000, primarily due to transportation expenses. If you're interested in learning more or seeing the plans, please don't hesitate to reach out—we'd love to share!

Meanwhile, most of our time is still spent here at the base. Eileen has been teaching Sunday school and children's church, and it's been exciting to see both the students' biblical knowledge and class size grow.

Currently, they meet in an unfinished classroom that's perfectly sized but needs work to become a secure, permanent space we are praying to be in a position to make this upgrade in the near future.

We want to share a very special prayer request regarding Anna and Innocent, our two Zambian children.

They've been living with us for over 18 months after tragically losing both parents within a year apart.

Although we've taken on the role of their parents, completing the adoption process will cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000 a sum far beyond our means.

But we trust that the same God who brought us together, will make a way.

As we approach Christmas, we are reminded that this is often a season when missions giving is at its lowest, yet the needs on the field remain great.

We're deeply grateful for your prayers and support over the years they mean more than we can express.

Your prayers have been a lifeline for us, and we ask you to continue lifting us up before the Lord.

Lastly, we want to encourage you to build relationships with your missionaries. A simple message or word of encouragement can make all the difference.

If you're a young adult over 18 and feel called to missions but don't know where to start, we'd love to host you here in Zambia for up to three months. All you need is the cost of a plane ticket. If you're interested, feel free to contact us via email or WhatsApp.

Thank you, we love you, and we pray you have a very blessed and wonderful Christmas!

With love.

The Riddicks