



# *KERRENTEVENTS*

*"Not Again!"*

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Dear Friends: *"Not again!"*

We just received word from the government in Zambia that we are in "soft lockdown"... *again!* Yes, we are "red listed" because of the *omicron* variant that is spreading in Southern Africa — even though there are very few traces of the variant here in Zambia. "*Precautionary measures,*" we are told -- because only about 3% of the country is vaccinated.

What does this mean? Renewed masking and social distance *protocols*, for sure. Gatherings limited to *50 people* for only an hour— a big challenge for most churches. And for us at Trans-Africa? We may be restricted to *online learning* again!

Add to this that *inflation* has risen sharply this year, causing a lot of increased hardships. Most commodities have doubled in the past year!

Then we have an extended '*dry spell*' which is getting close to a 'drought' situation! The normal November rainfall was absent, and so far things are not looking much better for December. Many of the crops which have been recently planted are not going to survive.

During these tough times we are receiving so many SOS calls from church-planters and former students all over the country:

\* Elimon who *supports orphans*, can't feed them — and is facing eviction.

\* Martin's growing church is stuck with a *half-finished roof* — with the hoped-for rainy season

“just around the corner!”

- \* Local sponsors for some students are unable to come through with *pledges of support*;
- \* The walls of a branch church in Mansa collapsed at roof level in bad weather — “too much sand in the mix!”
- \* Churches are lagging in their *contributions to the college* budget;
- \* Gondwe has been evicted from his *classroom/church* because of the virus.



- \* Our Barnabas Youth Centre was vandalised — and lost all its wiring and fixtures. To top it off, James our campus electrician, needs his back pay for *lobola* money -- so he can get married!



Your help is so vital at this Christmas Season! Our priorities are to:

- \* Raise sponsorships to cover 50% of student tuition for needy students — \$600 per student x 30
- \* Aid struggling pastors and others — any amount
- \* Help churches to put on a roof or secure a venue — \$700
- \* Barnabas Youth Ministry Centre repairs — \$500

*Thank you* in advance for helping us reach out to our friends! *Thank you* for every student sponsored, and for helping us keep our vehicles moving! *Thank you* for making this Christmas a unique and special season!

And especially, we thank you for remembering to pray for our ministry in Zambia.

- \* Pray that the omicron virus will not take hold in Zambia;
- \* Pray that funding will flow for every needy family and ministry;
- \* Pray that the Christ of Christmas might shine like “the morning star.”

One in Him,

**John & Ruth**