



Love. It has been a reoccurring theme in my life this year. It's the one thing, in my opinion, that has power over much and motivates us to do amazing things. So imagine a place where the love of Jesus Christ is not only the foundation, but the daily reality. Imagine a place where people come to know the Lord not only by hearing about Him in churches, but by experiencing His love through compassionate care that serves all of their needs. Imagine a place that desires to be a home of love where the rejected are accepted, the orphaned and widowed are embraced as family and the poor are made rich in Christ's love. I found this very place two years ago as I experienced my first mission trip to Zambia, Africa. And now I am both blessed and honored to have the chance this holiday season to be returning to this very place of love and hope.

Over the past year alone, I have experienced so much of God's love. There is nothing that I have asked for that He hasn't provided. The amount of love He has shown humbles me in a way that leaves me wanting nothing more than to serve Him and His people. I have seen Him perform miracles within my own family and with loved ones around me. I'm always saying that my cup is overflowing, that I have more than I deserve and anything else given is a blessing on top of a blessing. Love. It's the one word that I have chosen to get branded on the inside of my left wrist, to serve as a continuous reminder of God's love and the love He has asked us to give to others. So it only feels right to give back to the Lord in such a small way. It is love that motivates me and love that compels me to share with others the same blessings I have received.

What makes this trip so special for me this second time around is now I will be led by my own flesh and blood, my brother, Father Abraham who is currently serving over in Zambia as a priest at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in Lusaka, Zambia. I will be working side by side with him, a person who was greatly compelled by the love of Christ. He forsook it all; his job, his home, his family and his church back here in D.C. and is now living the fullest life, knowing that he's doing what God has called him to do. What makes this trip even more special is that I will be traveling with both my sister Heidi, and other brother Eddie. Together, with Father Abraham, all of my siblings will be in one of the poorest parts of the world during this holiday season, but happily spreading the riches of our Lord.

Some of the things my siblings and I will be doing while in Zambia is working in the three main areas of service; the church, the Coptic Hope Hospital and the Christian Community School for the orphaned children. We will visit four surrounding churches and outreach to the lost and new members of the congregation, spreading love and joy. We will be visiting patients in the HIV hospital while praying and encouraging them. Eddie, Heidi, and I are more than overjoyed to be spending the holidays with our brother, Father Abraham, our one true living example of one who knows what it means to love Christ and serve Him wholeheartedly.

This mission trip requires lots of prayer as well as funding for supplies, food, clothing, accommodations and travel expenses. I need your help in raising \$2,500. It is not an easy thing to ask people for money especially during a terrible economic crisis. But I truly feel passionate about what I am doing and am being courageous enough to ask for this monetary donation. If you would like to be a part of this mission through your financial support, checks can be made out to **Mission Life Center** and are tax deductible. You can mail a check to 3906 Bay Hill Court, Fairfax, VA 22033. A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated.

While money is important, it comes at a distant second to my need for your prayer support. Prayer is such an important part to the success of this mission. Please pray daily for me and my siblings and for the mission as a whole in Africa. For more information, you can visit [www.missionlifecenter.org](http://www.missionlifecenter.org).

Even though there is no place like home during the holidays, there really is no place I'd rather be this holiday season than with my two brothers and sister, spreading the love of Christ with the most loving people in the world. I remember all the beautiful and peaceful faces of the Zambian people that I left two years ago. I can't wait to get off that plane and spend 12 amazing days with the people that taught me so much about living for the simple purpose of loving our God.

Sincerely,

Monica A. Fam

"Let all that you do be done with love." - 1 Corinthians 1:14