

HeartBeats

Service From the Heart since 1984!



From the Director

If you've been receiving our newsletter for a few years, you know that I've been dealing with an injury sustained in an accident last January. I'd appreciate your continued prayer for my recovery. I'm having to use a cane to walk now, since my leg doesn't seem to want to keep me upright when I encounter something in my path - like, say, a seed pod from a liquid amber tree. Every fall I take compounds the injury - and requires more time just to get back to my new "normal."

Enough about me and my aches and pains! We had our Director from Zambia here in early June, and as always, it was a BLESSING to visit with her and catch up with what's happening in Africa! Barbra had waited until she was here to tell me that they've been training people to start pregnancy care centers all over Zambia - so far there are twenty new centers as a result of her labor! That's amazing, especially when you consider that none of these centers are receiving support from us. They've counted the cost - and are willing to do whatever it takes to save unborn life in their country.

Barbra also filled us in on the details of the adoption of her daughter, Mulenga. Mulenga was abandoned in the bush - on an ant hill - and left to die. A farmer who was going to his fields early in the morning heard a baby crying, discovered Mulenga, and took her to the local hospital for care. Praise God, she was healthy!

Barbra and Edward have suffered through the losses of four babies at birth - the last baby they lost was a little girl they named Sara Rose. In the past year Barbra opened her heart to the possibility of adopting an orphaned baby - a girl - a "bush baby." Babies born in the bush and left to die are common - and if the mother ever steps forward to claim her child, she is sent to prison. Adopting a "bush baby" assured Barbra and Edward that once the paperwork for the adoption was completed, no one would ever be able to take her away from them.

Adoption is not a common practice in Zambia. There are many social and cultural issues that keep most Zambians from adopting orphaned children. They are often treated poorly by other family members, and may not be accepted by the extended family. Barbra and Edward are hoping to be role models - and that many children who are now living in orphanages will have the opportunity to live with a "forever family." Another worker at their orphanage has also adopted a little girl. With so many children needing homes - and so many childless couples - adoption is a "win-win" solution!



Mulenga Mwansa

(Mulenga means "Creator" in Bemba - one of Zambia's many native languages.)

"Ella" - the New Abortion Drug

According to the New York Times News Service, a federal advisory panel voted unanimously that federal drug regulators should approve a medicine that could help "prevent" pregnancy if taken as late as five days after unprotected sex.

The pill, called Ella, sprang from government labs and appears to be more effective than Plan B, a morning-after pill now available over the counter to women 18 and older that gradually loses efficacy after intercourse and can be taken at latest three days after sex. Ella, by contrast, works just as well on the fifth day as the first after sex.

Ella blocks the effects of progesterone, a female hormone that spurs ovulation. It is a chemical relative to RU-486, the abortion pill, and some mystery remains over exactly how it works. That mystery spurred a fierce debate outside of the committee over whether it should be considered an abortion drug.

So - our government is now in the business of finding new - "better" - ways to inflict harm on the female reproductive system - and possibly end the lives of tiny pre-born children. If there's any mystery over how it works - or how it might affect a woman's health in the long-run, then why would the FDA approve it? Historically the FDA usually follows the advice of its advisory panels - but not always. We can only hope and pray that this drug doesn't make it to market unless - or until - we know that it's safe for women and unborn children.

And - it's time for women to stop being guinea pigs for pharmaceutical companies.

