



COMMUNITY  
BIBLE STUDY

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where transformation happens

## But God Had Other Plans

“But, God ...”

When you hear, “but, God ...,” you know the story is about to get exciting.

CBSI’s Zambia start-up team had no plans for adult ministry when they made their first trip in 2013. Their whole focus was Children & Youth.

“We are equipped to train leaders to work with children and youth but that’s all,” David and Patti Henderson told us. “We don’t feel equipped to start a CBSI ministry for adults in Zambia.”

**But God** had other plans.

Revelation 3:8 says, “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”

God could equip, empower, and open doors. The first door He opened was a joint ministry opportunity with an organization caring for orphans. Today, nearly 4,000 children are studying God’s Word in six orphanage schools.

**But God** had many, many more priceless souls in mind.

After their first trip, the Hendersons were encouraged to investigate what denominations in Zambia might be excited about starting an adult Bible study ministry. At first they were overwhelmed: Which denomination? How do we get connected? Should the CBSI ministry be presented to several denominational pastors at an upcoming local pastors’ breakfast?



*CBS Zambia all began with Children & Youth.*



*United Church of Zambia leaders trained to take CBSI to the entire country.*

They were advised to pray and to investigate what denomination was solid in doctrine and effective in doing the work of the ministry in Zambia. “OK, we’ll ask God for direction,” they agreed.

**Then God** opened the door for the Hendersons to present CBSI to the Synod Bishop of the United Church of Zambia (UCZ).

At the UCZ annual conference in June 2014, the denomination

leaders gave permission for CBSI to train leaders in all 10 Presbyteries in Zambia! No easy task; Zambia is larger than the state of Texas with thousands of miles of dirt roads.

This would be the first country-wide roll out of CBSI Bible studies. Previously CBSI has started in one region of a country and expanded from there region by region.

Again the Hendersons said they were not equipped to handle a national roll out.

**But God** had other ideas.

In a God-ordained meeting with the UCZ General Secretary and the Synod Bishop, the Hendersons received permission to train a national coordinator and 10 area trainers in each Presbytery. This national structure is critical in successfully supporting Bible studies throughout the country.

The Hendersons began leadership trainings in July 2015, followed by three more training trips. Today they have trained 1,284 leaders, all 10 Presbytery trainers, and the Rev. Lydia M., the National Coordinator.

The result? More than 120,000 Zambians now are engaging with God and His Word on a weekly basis in just one year! And it's still growing!

God took two people who said they were not equipped and used their obedience to grow CBS Zambia into the largest Community Bible Study ministry in the world.

**Only God** could do that! Thank you for your prayer support. And would you pray about making a generous gift, so we can say yes when God opens new doors in Zambia, in Africa, and around the world?

Thank you!



*God uses ordinary people like David and Patti Henderson to do His extraordinary work in Zambia.*



Grateful for you,

Keith Sparzak  
International Director

