

# One Church.

*In Dialogue with the Bride of Christ*

## Week 10: BIC in Zambia (with Christa Hesselink)

### COMMUNITY IN UNITY – Shared Ethos and Issues

Galatians 1:1-2

### BIC in Zambia – Embracing the Gift of Suffering

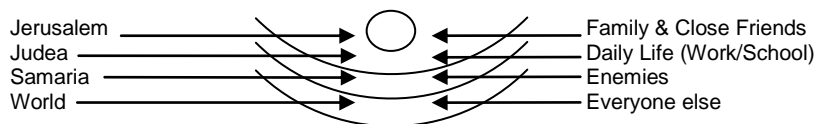
Zambia	182 churches	60,000 people
United States	263 churches	27,000 people
Canada	38 churches	9,000 people

- The Brethren in Christ is located in 23 countries.
- The BIC in Zambia is 105 years old. It started in 1906.
- In 1990, BIC International membership had reached 20,000 people.
- By 2010, our international family had grown to over 120,000.
- Today the BIC family has three international congregations for every one congregation in North America.

### LOOK TO THE BOOK – Acts 8:1-4

*Introducing Reverend Levinson Soko and Chilenje BIC!*

Acts 1:8...



*What are you doing to tell others about Jesus, even if it's difficult?*

### TAKE OUT – Lessons From Our African Family

1. Unwavering hope, deep faith, and trust in God is found when we get to the end of ourselves.
2. There's power in proximity! The "local" church is the way tangible needs can be met and Christ's love shared with others.
3. "I need Africa, and Africa needs me." The global body of Christ is designed to fit together, to help each other grow so that we are made complete. We need each other.

Ephesians 4:15-16

#### Additional Resources:

- The Africa Blog: [africa.themeetinghouse.ca](http://africa.themeetinghouse.ca)
- Brethren in Christ World Missions: [bic-church.org/wm](http://bic-church.org/wm)
- Mennonite Central Committee: [mcc.org](http://mcc.org)

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email [ask@themeetinghouse.ca](mailto:ask@themeetinghouse.ca).

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

#### Warming Up...

1. After catching a snapshot from the BIC church in Zambia, what strikes you the most about: the differences between our two contexts; the similarities; what can you learn from our brothers and sisters there?

#### Look to the Book...

2. Read **Acts 7:51-8:8**. A) What idea or verse stands out to you the most from this passage? B) How is the idea of "irresistible grace" challenged by **7:51**? C) The Greek word, *homothumadon* (meaning to rush together in passionate unity and usually used in Acts to refer to the unity of the church) is used twice in this passage to refer to deadly group rage in **7:57** and life-giving group interest in hearing the gospel in **8:6**. On a scale of 1-10, how is your *homothumadon* (your intense passion for your church unity)? Has this series affected your *homothumadon* in any way? D) How, if at all, does Saul's example (from church persecutor to church leader) encourage you? E) It took the persecution of **Acts 8:1** to accomplish the promise of **Acts 1:8**. In what ways is suffering an appropriate experience to accompany sharing the gospel? F) Rev. Soko's teaching from Acts 8 focused on the sacrifice needed to share the good news of who Jesus is with others. What have you sacrificed to share Jesus with others? Talk about what was challenging, exhilarating, and/or confusing about your experience.

#### So What?...

3. What are some practical ways that you (and your Home Church) can grow your relationship with our brothers and sisters in Africa? (Think through things like prayer, financial support, personal learning, Africa Learning Teams, serving overseas, etc.)
4. What are some practical ways that you (and your Home Church) can grow your relationship with brothers and sisters in other local churches in your area?
5. What one lesson most stands out to you now that we've reached the end of this *One Church* series? Pray for each other in light of these things.
6. **Summer Splash question** -- In what ways are our attitudes toward our possessions indicative of our heart condition and our tenderness toward God and people? Visit [themeetinghouse.ca/splash](http://themeetinghouse.ca/splash) to learn more.

The Meeting House | Sunday, August 14 / 21, 2011 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at [themeetinghouse.ca/teaching](http://themeetinghouse.ca/teaching)