

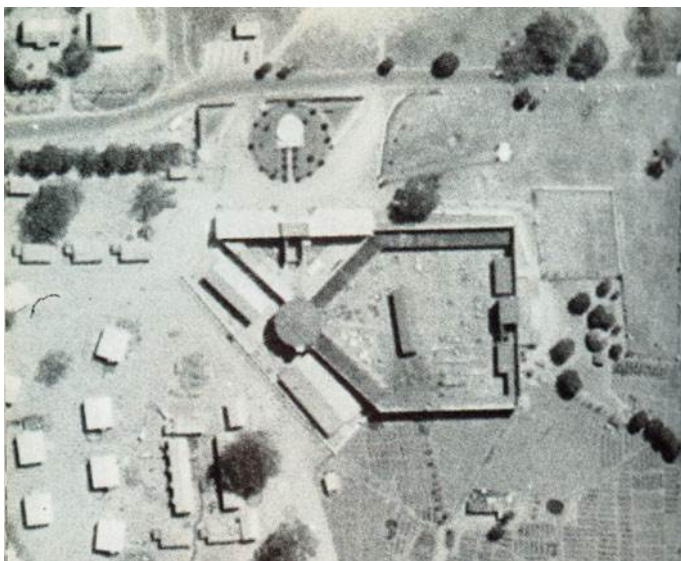


Transformation

The dramatic changes in Zambia over the last 20 years could hardly have been more acute. The contrast with my first visit to Lusaka Central Police Station and this latest one was extreme. As I was being received by the Commissioner of Police and ushered into their Boardroom for a special Chaplains service, my mind went back to that first time I had seen Lusaka Central Police Station.

Incarcerated

The Frontline mission team I was leading had been arrested at Kazangulu after refusing to bribe Zambian officials. We had spent an excruciating day and night of abuse at the hands of the Zambian security forces, and thrown into filthy cells where the overpowering stench was nauseating. After a night of being attacked by swarms of mosquitos, my skin had been turned into relief maps of angry red bumps and bites.



To Lusaka in Chains

We were escorted, blindfolded and handcuffed by air from Livingstone to Lusaka. Every attempt

to speak was quickly silenced with rifle butts or bayonets. After hours in silence and darkness, our blindfolds were finally untied. As I blinked in the sunlight I saw Lusaka Central Police Station. The next thing I noticed was that our handcuffs declared "Made in Great Britain!"

Interrogations

Over the next 16 days of incarceration in the overcrowded Lusaka Central Prison I was brought through to Lusaka Central Police Station six times for interrogations by Special Branch. Sometimes the intense interrogation sessions could last up to 6 hours. On one occasion I requested my Bible, which I could see on the table of the interrogator. The SB man lifted a red book out of his desk drawer and said "this is my bible!" As I looked through it, I saw it was Mao's little red book. I handed the book back to the policeman commenting, "Mao Tse Tung cannot forgive your sins. Vladimir Lenin didn't rise from the dead. There is no Salvation in communism."

Contrast

This visit to Lusaka Central Police Station highlighted the dramatic changes in Zambia over the last 20 years. Now there are police chaplains who are enthusiastic to receive Bible teaching and Discipleship materials. Great appreciation for the ministry of Frontline Fellowship was expressed by all the police officers, and especially from the Commissioner.

Socialist Humanism

Many of the Zambians whom I enjoyed fellowship with, related some of their experiences during the dark days of Kenneth



Kaunda's dictatorship, when the official government policy was socialist humanism. Humanism was a subject taught at school. "Scientific socialism" was promoted throughout society.

Exporting Revolution

Zambia hosted a variety of Marxist Revolutionary groups including: the MPLA who were waging terrorist attacks on Portuguese West Africa (Angola), Frelimo which was attacking Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique); ZANU and ZAPU who were taking landmines across the border into Rhodesia, and Soviet Red Eye missiles to shoot down civilian airliners. The SWAPO terrorists who killed over 10,000 civilians in South West Africa also had their base of operations in Zambia, even the ANC and the PAC terrorists were based in Zambia.

A Trail of Terror

Nobody has calculated how many tens-of-thousands of innocent civilians died as a result of the landmines, limpet mines, rocket launches, AK47s and other tools of terror channeled through Zambia and taken by these Marxist Revolutionary groups into neighbouring countries and further afield. It was the height of the Cold War in the 70s and 80s. Marxist propaganda was broadcast from the radio and Zambia was recognised as the frontline state of the Soviet offensive on Southern Africa. Pastors and teachers described some of the terror that the Zambian people lived under during this time. "These freedom fighters were a law unto themselves. Our police and army were afraid of them. They had the support of President Kenneth Kaunda. They



would loot, rape, steal and murder at will. At night we were too afraid to go onto the streets. These cadres would walk around with their AK47s and take what they wanted and threaten ordinary Zambians."

Malice Against Missionaries

Missionaries told of when ANC cadres from a nearby military base came onto their Bible College campus and tied up South African lecturers with wire, kicking and beating them savagely. Most Zambians would rather forget those dark and terrifying days.

Communism to Capitalism

But today Zambia is another country. Socialism is discredited, the signs of capitalism, economic growth, ingenuity and dynamic growth are everywhere. Huge bill boards and advertisements line the roads, new shopping centers are springing up, and Zambia has even started exporting food.

From Humanism to Christianity

Communism and humanism are thoroughly discredited. Zambia is officially, constitutionally committed to becoming a Christian nation. Abortion is illegal. Pornography is banned. Homosexuality is illegal. The Bible and prayer are in school and parliament. The enthusiasm for Reformation in Zambia was seen by the tremendous response to our Reformation and Revival Conferences.

Reformation Studies

I had been invited to lecture on Reformation History at the Justo Mwale Theological University College. In addition to lectures at the college each morning, in the afternoons I was involved in meeting cabinet ministers, ministry leaders, media heads, conducting interviews for national radio and television programs, and conducting outreaches and services.

