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Dear Partners in the Ministry,

Every new year begins with renewed goals, new commitments, and big plans for the upcoming months. As a family and as members of a missions team, we have goals and desires: to see new souls saved, individuals disciplined, and our church here continue to grow and become the gospel lighthouse in the city of Chipata. We all have optimistic desires every year, but the beginning of the month started on an unfortunate note.

Early on the afternoon of January 2nd, we had just returned home from dropping off my parents at the airport in Mfuwe, and within minutes of getting home, I received a frantic phone call from a young man in our church. His cousin's baby girl was having difficulty breathing and needed to be rushed to the hospital. However, within minutes of hanging up the phone, sadly, the baby had passed away. She was only 2 days away from her 1st birthday.

By the time I arrived at the home, the mourners had already gathered. This was the first Zambian death I have attended; the grieving process here makes my mind go to 1 Thessalonians 4, where there are those who sorrow *as others who have no hope*. Later that evening, I had the chance to pray with the mother and grandmother, and the very next morning, I preached my first funeral. There were close to 100 souls who heard the gospel preached. **Please pray for the Zulu family at this time of loss.**

The rest of this month has been packed with church events and follow-up visits for recent guests. In 2025, we welcomed 219 visitors to Hope Bible Baptist. Although we do our best to reach everyone who comes through our doors, there are still many we need to visit, many who need to be saved and many who need discipleship. Praise the Lord, we saw a young man come to Christ this month, and several others are still learning the gospel. **Please pray with us that the eyes of their understanding will be opened.**

Working together as a team is a great blessing, however, there is still more work than ourselves, the Maticchieras, and Ms. Resch can manage. **Please pray with us that the Lord will send us another family that will partner with our team.**

Thank you for your faithfulness in prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Isaiah, Alicen, Faith, Isabella, and Willow Carr