

Despite Covid.....

The Rev. Clelia P. Garrity, LCSW

In the fall of 2018 a medical clinic in the Zambian bush, home to the Baluba community, was merely a dream. Victor Chimfwembe, the community pastor, was in America to raise funds for a home that he and his wife Rachael host for orphans.

A chance meeting of Deacon Clelia Garrity and Victor, as he visited Ft. Walton Beach for only two days, has blossomed into an incredibly blessed partnership. In just a few short months a medical clinic and birthing program have been established deep within the African bush. Victor's leadership, imagination, hard-work, and deep faith in God has been, and continues to be, amazing. Five thousand bricks were built from mud and fired; an outdoor toilet, medical clinic, and birthing suite built; solar powered refrigeration installed; and a memorandum of understanding with the Zambian Ministry of Health developed. Incredibly, Rachael is now in her second year of nursing school. She will be the clinic manager upon graduation with a BSN and certification in midwifery. Monthly clinics provide medical care and much needed health care education.



Figure 2 Clelia and the people of Baluba

The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast has provided a modest amount of financial support to this blessed adventure. Above all however, the diocese has provided mentoring, love, and prayer to support Victor and Rachael. Once travel is again possible, we will travel to Zambia to visit Victor, Rachael, and the Baluba community. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Deacon Clelia (garritycpg@gmail.com).



Figure 1 Victor and Rachael



Figure 3 The Clinic