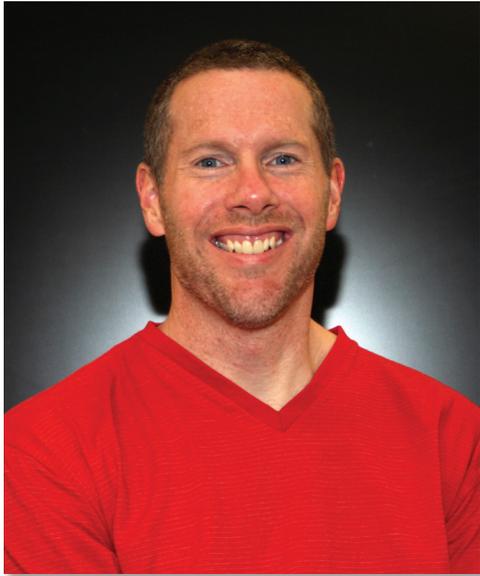


expressions of hope



A couple of years ago, I found out that a good friend of mine, Jim Moore, was going to Zambia with his family on a year-long mission trip. I was intrigued by his courage and faith in following

Christ's proclamation to bring his message to the ends of the earth. I followed his updates on his blog and continually was amazed at what he was doing. As a teacher for 21 years, I understand how important education is for a society's success. I also appreciate how much learning and preparation goes into reaching young minds in the classroom. Jim helped set up and maintain a system of schools that support children of

Zambia who cannot afford to go to a government sponsored school. This summer Jim is returning to Zambia to provide training to teachers within these schools to help keep things moving in a positive direction. The schools have been quite successful and wish to continue to make strides in educating young Zambians.

I am excited to be a part of this two week long mission this summer. I hope to be able to provide different activities for seventh grade teachers to better help their students pass a governmental standardized test so that they are allowed to attend high school. I am also looking to learn some techniques from the Zambian teachers along with finding motivational ways to improve education in my home district of Byron Center.

I would ask for your prayers that this Teachers Helping Teachers training is a success beyond our wildest dreams. Please pray for our health and perseverance in dealing with the change in time and diet. Finally, I would ask that you pray for God to help us assimilate into the culture and bond with the Zambian teachers in a way that will positively impact both of us for years to come.

Follow my example — as I follow the example of Christ.

Teachers

HELPING TEACHERS

Leon Slagter
Teacher, Byron Center High School