



Zion Community Church <zioncommunitychurch@gmail.com>

Lockdown with a newborn!

1 message

Chris and Amy <thezimbas@gmail.com>

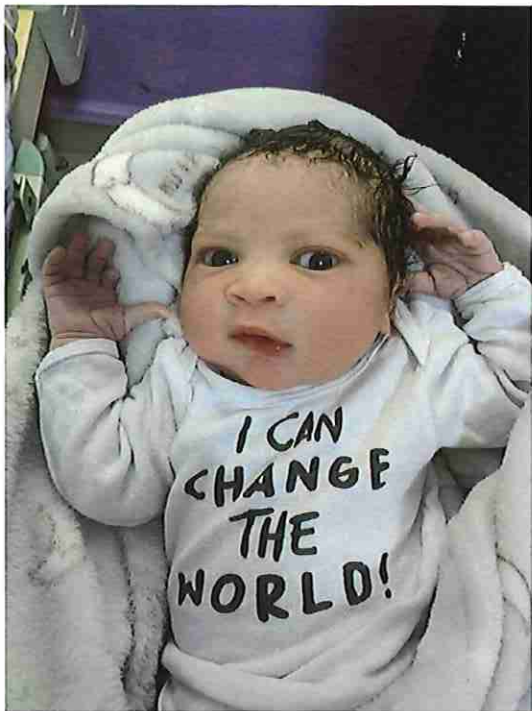
Fri, Jul 17, 2020 at 4:03 AM

Reply-To: thezimbas@gmail.com

To: Zion Community Church <zioncommunitychurch@gmail.com>

Baby Zimba is here!!

For those of you who haven't been seeing our posts on facebook, we apologize for not getting this newsletter out sooner! We've been having too much fun loving on this sweet boy and learning how to be a family of three! Judah Tionge was born on April 25 and he has been an absolute blessing to us ever since. Amy had a really good recovery after her unplanned c-section and we are so thankful that Judah is healthy and growing so fast! Everyone keeps commenting on how alert and happy he is, and we agree! We are truly overjoyed and can't stop thanking God for this precious gift! Thank you all so much for the love and support you have shown our family already! We can't wait for you all to meet him someday! <3





It's been an interesting season of life, that's for sure. I keep telling people that it feels like the whole world has joined me on my maternity leave :) Because outreach programs aren't operating right now, Chris has been able to spend a lot more time at home with Judah and I than he would've, so we're really grateful for that. He's also been doing different things to help out with the ministry, mostly related to our boys' residential programs. Keeping 15 teenage boys entertained on one property (no matter how spacious) for four straight months is not an easy task, but we must admit that they've been very understanding through it all. Four of the boys have been going to their school since early May (grades 7, 9 and 12 reopened because they are examination grades and the government doesn't want them to fall behind), and the rest have been home-schooling. Chris has helped with transporting the boys to/from school, taking some of them to the clinic when needed (we've had a few with malaria and a few injuries...too much time for football these days!), and buying groceries for the house.

A few weeks ago, he and Owen (the res life coordinator) put together an awesome program where the boys performed some of their original songs, as well as some dance and poetry. The boys have loved having some extra "Uncle Chris" time to work on these songs that are brimming within them! He's also joined two of our other staff, TK and Andrea, in leading the boys through an art therapy program on Friday afternoons. We are all anxiously waiting for the time when we can reopen our outreach programs, but until then, we are happy to help out how we can and grateful for this time with the residential boys. Our two residential girls are also doing really well! They are both home-schooled and will be writing their grade 7 exams later this year. They have both worked so hard to get this far and we couldn't be more proud! We've had an intern from Germany, Tabea, with us since January, and she has spent A LOT of her time pouring into these girls! We are so grateful for her and will miss her when she returns to Germany next month. I will come back from maternity leave in a few weeks and will work on some of our accounting projects as well as help with homeschooling the girls until outreach starts back up.



One of the hardest parts of this season has definitely been not being able to share Judah with so many of our loved ones. As many of you know, my parents and sister were supposed to visit us back in May (after first visiting my brother and sister-in-law and their new baby, Hudson!), but obviously that couldn't happen. Everything is still uncertain and there are just a lot of factors to be thought through before they can re-book their tickets. It's definitely been hard, but we are trusting that we'll be together soon. (And thanking God for video chats in the meantime!) We also haven't been able to introduce Judah to Chris' family here in Zambia, which is equally as hard! We don't quite understand why life is looking like this right now, but we're trying to trust God through it all.

We know this has been a difficult time for so many of you, especially financially, and we just wanted to take the time to express our deep gratitude for how you have continued to support us through this year. We know it is only the grace of God that has sustained us all through such uncertainty and we continue praying for you daily! We pray that you see God's divine provision and strength at work in your lives more than ever before. He will see us all through this by His love and grace.

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Our mailing address is:
Abba's Heart Zambia
107 Thorite Rd
Kitwe 0