

From Roy Merritt (May 10, 2022) Visiting our Northern Missionaries

Shadreck Sibwaalu (far right in this picture) and I went travelling among churches up in Northern Zambia—especially to visit and encourage young missionaries that many of you support.

Earl in our expedition we went deep in the bush near Mpika, and had a special meeting with the church leaders and our young missionaries there.

But this time I got a special surprise!

Gerald Mutale and his family were there!

About 25 years or so ago, we wanted to help street boys leave their lives of begging and stealing, and help them become independent, self-supporting citizens.

Gerald was one of those we collected from Livingstone.

He had run away from home because his father was a drunkard, and often staggered home, only to beat up his wife and children.

Gerald stayed with us until his father died, then he returned home. He took over his father's farm, and now supports his family and his mother by raising corn and beans.

He is the one next to me with his arm over my shoulder.

His wife and two children are to the far left of this photo.

Gerald's mother is the grey-haired lady with the bright chitenge dress.

I had not seen Gerald since he left to return home—many years ago!

JOY!

When Gerald's mother greeted me, she took my hand and said, "Thank you for looking after my son. You are a good father."

JOY! JOY!

And the local folks tell me that Gerald and his family are faithful members of the local congregation.

JOY! JOY! JOY!

