

Agronomic Science Foundation

GO Anywhere

While he was exploring the Zambezi River, David Livingstone, one of Africa's legendary 19th century explorers, uttered one of his most famous quotations, saying "I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward."

Seth Sherry might feel the same way as his work takes him to Mkushi, Ndola, Mpongwe, Kabwe, Chisamaba, Lusaka E and W, Makeni, Mumbwa, Mazabuku, Choma, and Livingstone. He works with everyone from small-scale farmers to large commercial farming operations—and government officials too—as he brings the best agronomic tools and knowledge to the people of Zambia.

Seth attributes much of his career success to his involvement with the Golden Opportunity (GO) Scholars Institute in 2007, leading to his career as an agronomist. Now he and his family are living in Zambia where he has a job as a senior agronomist for a high-efficiency fertilizer company.

Some of the family's Zambian experiences have been unusual to say the least. When the Sherry family visited the national park at Victoria Falls—also known as Mosi-oa-Tunya, the Smoke that Thunders—they knew they would see wildlife. But they were not prepared for their close encounter with the baboons that are notorious for snatching things from tourists such as cameras. One actually tried to grab the Sherry's 10-month-old daughter. "I had to go alpha male on him to protect her. Thank goodness he was finally distracted by a brightly colored backpack on a Japanese tourist," Seth says.

Housing is extremely expensive in Zambia, and Seth feels lucky to have found a home on the grounds of the campus of a Zambian theological college on the Great East Road just outside of Lusaka. The simple, but comfortable, home has banana, mango, and avocado trees in the yard that



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is even home to a few chickens. Since the electricity goes out quite regularly, the Sherrys bought a generator to make sure that they will always have water, which must be pumped from a well.

"This is the end of the road," says Seth, adding that because Zambia is a landlocked country, many companies don't have a reason to come here. "I have to do a lot of research on my own. I can't rely on others. Travel is difficult and distances are vast. I have to plan my trips well and make sure that I always have extra fuel with me. You don't want to get stuck out in the bush when the sun is going down. But

it's fun in some respects—where else would I get to see an antelope run by on the side of the road when I'm on my way home from work?"

One of his proudest accomplishments in that work so far has been making a fertilizer blend available that really makes a difference to the small grower—boosting production dramatically, which leads to more financial security and stability for the surrounding communities. Like his 19th Century counterpart, Seth was prepared to go anywhere; the way forward he has chosen allows him to bring precision agriculture practices to a broad range of stakeholders in Zambia and Central Africa.

If you like having the opportunity to go anywhere, please visit www.goldenopportunitiescholars.org for more information on how you can make this a reality.



Seth Sherry (**far right**), a Golden Opportunity (GO) Scholar in 2007, now works as an agronomist in Zambia.