

In Zambia we started the Lusaka Striders Club, based on the DC Striders

Robert Williamson
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The Republic of Zambia is a kidney-shaped landlocked east-central African state somewhat larger than Texas. Prior to its independence in 1964 it was the British protectorate of Northern Rhodesia. Its capital is the city of Lusaka, where our representatives have established their headquarters.



From letter of July 7, 1975: "We have started the Lusaka Striders Club," patterned after the famous D. C. Striders of Washington, D.C., an inner-city track team as famous for its procurement of college athletic scholarships for its members as for its record-breaking performances, "and we have our first training and timing on Friday. I saw the dean of students at the Zambia University and he is very enthusiastic about our scheme and has given us full use of the university track and facilities. Now we are finding the athletes!"

From letter of August 4, 1975: "Our Japanese missionary and I went up to northern Zambia on Saturday by train (one way; we hitch-hiked back!) and met the secretary of the Zambia Amateur Athletics Association about the Lusaka Striders Club. We talked a few minutes and he is processing our constitution.... We have found the club quite a good means of meeting people and building up a relationship. We are hoping to have a match sometime this month.

"I was happy to see a picture published here of the team which set a world relay record, and a couple of them I believe are from the D.C. Striders. The boys were deeply impressed!"

From letter of August 26, 1975: "Last week I escorted a Christian Ceylonese girl to a banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel and met some good influential people for the future. One of them was the American counselor here to the embassy, and he knew of our D. C. Striders in Washington when he was working there. Our Lusaka Striders have been registered with the Zambian Amateur Athletics Association, who are a little worried I think at some extra competition. One of our boys recently won the 110-meter hurdles in the Zambian School Championships! "I am currently teaching a Japanese couple English and hope to expand the business next month.

"My picture appeared in the Times of Zambia recently when we were looking after some scouts in the National Youth Day Service at the Cathedral."