

The United Church of Zambia
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Dear Family and Friends

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17



As July began we began to say farewell to all our friends and family, had our booster vaccinations, our debriefing meeting and took our final Church Service at Cambusbarron. Friends came too to stay and catch up with us. The middle of the month was punctuated by two family gatherings with the first being Euan's baptism at Freuchie. These times were special as we often miss out on such occasions being overseas for two years at a time. It was good that Catriona and Will who flew in from Zambia were able to attend it and the Wedding of Stuart and Heather down South in Warwickshire. After the wedding we visited Gregor and Sarah who were packing up their house in Ruthin for their move to Cardiff. We then came North to take our leave at Sauchie Church and

Kincardine. Our last two days were spent with Kirsten, Stuart and the children. We flew back to Lusaka via Dubai overnight on the 25th-26th July.

The next few days were concerned with the handovers from Mr Kalumbi and Dr Simwanza who had been covering our offices during the furlough. There were meetings, wages, NAPSA and various Human Resource and staffing issues for both of us to attend to. Rev Isabel Phiri from WCC visited and addressed a CCZ meeting which Synod helped to organise.



The UCZ said farewell to three UCZ Ministers who have been called as Mission Partners to serve in Jamaica and Wolverhampton. As World Partnership Convenor, Keith accompanied the General Secretary to the Commissioning Service at Mufulira for the Rev Siwila.



He then travelled across the Pedicle Road to Mansa and on to Mbereshi for the Second Board Meetings of the year in Luapula Northern and Muchinga. Travelling through the DRC is not to be recommended as a regular pursuit. It was done only to save time and distance travelled. The Northern Circuit is a round trip of around 3000km visiting 6 schools and their respective District and Provincial Officials.

A major preoccupation on the Health side has been the 4 Health Posts which have been started and run at Churches in Lusaka's high density areas. The main aim is to help decongest local Government Clinics and provide easier access to quality primary health care at community level. One outstanding success is St Luke's in



Kuku where in under three months, the Health Post has enrolled 731 new HIV+ clients who are now accessing ART Treatment locally.

August ended with meetings for both of us on the Water Project at Masuku, a plan aimed at addressing the water reticulation problems at the School, Clinic and Mission there. We are working with Gossner Mission on this as a pilot project as all our institutions have water and solar energy needs.

For Keith the Board Meetings began again, the more local ones done in a day at Kafue, Nambala and Chipembi, then followed by the 2000km round trip to complete Southern and Western Circuits with another 6 Schools. In mid-September we went to catch up with the family in Malawi and spent the weekend in Lilongwe, enjoying with a few restful days with them at the Satemwa Tea Estate at Thyolo in the Shire Highlands. On our

return there has been the organisation of the International Partners Consultation Meeting which will take place after the Synod Executive in November. It will deal with matters arising our Strategic Plan 2017-21 and examine Mission, Ministry & Empire. Synod was visited in September too by Rev Chris Ferguson, from the World Communion of Reformed Churches.



For Ida, the Hospital and Clinic Board Meetings began in at the start of September with Chipembi. A dinner was also hosted then by the General Secretary for Julie Davidson, author of 'Looking for Mrs Livingstone', and the Friends of Chitambo. They later met up with Ida at Mbereshi and spent a morning 'in search of Mabel Shaw', a formidable lady Missionary who founded the well-known Girls School named after her there.

Jo Vallis was also looking at some childhood memories from there.

Another area of need has been through the influx of over 3,400 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Zambia fleeing extreme brutality and inter-ethnic conflict. These people are reliant on humanitarian assistance and the UCZ has a Clinic, Jagaimo, at the Maheba Refugee Centre near Solwezi which is already dealing with an increased number of refugees both adults and children who are in poor health condition from malnutrition,(60% of new arrivals), malaria, respiratory problems and skin conditions. There is a risk of an outbreak infectious diseases such as dysentery and cholera from the overcrowded conditions

We thank you all for your warm welcome given to us on our return to Scotland and for providing the opportunity to share something of the programmes and activities with which we are involved as Education and Health Secretaries. We are grateful for your prayer support and the material resources you send to us as partners in our life and work here. Half the money needed to supply sheets to all our Health Institutions has been reached.



Temperature today is 38C.

While it has been a busy time these past three months both in Scotland and Zambia; there are clearly national and international concerns that need shaping through prayer and action. Please pray for national and international leaders, for Christians and the Church here in Zambia and for people, friends and relatives around the world to enable us all to live peaceful and quiet lives and that we can minister effectively to those in need.

Today is a public holiday in Zambia devoted to Prayer, Fasting, Repentance, Forgiveness and Reconciliation.

With our love

Keith, Ida, Mubita & Ellie