

PARTNER PLAN

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Dear Family and Friends

As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Col 3:12

The Sheltered Workshop continues to progress. The Brickyard is in a much healthier position, with having had two outside orders as well as from the Mission. CMMB ordered 2000 blocks for a mother's shelter at Masese, where we have also begun to organize some repairs and refurbishment on behalf of our Irish Partners. 4000 were also purchased for a dwelling house in the village. The Doctors' houses are nearing completion, as is the housing for the oxygen manifold, and there is a promise of a new X-ray machine soon, so work will begin shortly. on the construction of a new X-ray Department. We are still seeking for funding for this.



Manifold



Oxygen Outlets in the Ward



We have 185 little layer chicks in our garden shed at the moment. Once they are a month old, they will be transferred to our custom-built hen-house. At the moment it is cold at night and they still need infrared lighting. We ordered 50 but the hatchery donated to us 192 since we were a non-profit as part of their social responsibility programme, so we have just the feed to buy. Unfortunately, we lost 7 chicks, 5 from the journey and two which just failed to thrive. The rest are now well established and growing fast.

I have worked on the annual plan and governance structure and slowly working through policies and the other necessary paperwork.

We have been up to Lusaka several times in the past quarter; taking Ellie to and from school, Ida has attended CHAZ meetings and I did some costings for the future fish pond. We also were able to visit the Czech and Turkish Embassies and make useful contact there. Ida has been busy with the installation of an oxygen manifold and pipeline so that 22 patients can receive oxygen at on time instead of one patient receiving oxygen from one cylinder. She managed to get the Province to give 20 oxygen cylinders to the Hospital and on one of our trips to Lusaka arranged the logistics of getting them filled at Chingas, a privately owned Chinese company that the Ministry of Health subcontracts to. It is unsustainable having to send cylinders on a truck for 800km to get oxygen; that is why we are continuing with our quest for our own oxygen generator at Mwandi. The house for the oxygen manifold was built big enough and in faith, for the generator when it comes.

The US Surgical Team arrived around Easter after three years absence due to Covid 19, and achieved a truly remarkable 50 surgeries, many major cases of which 7 were thyroidectomies, while a physician saw 141 patients, as well as triaging for the surgeries. The attendance by patients was quite overwhelming but the Hospital managed to feed and give everyone somewhere to sleep. Those unable to be attended to this time, have been booked for Surgery in October when the team led by Dr Peggy Schreiber returns again. Both the Mwandi and Mbereshi MOICs were able to operate as well. There were challenges with shortage of medicines, with sterilizers, diathermy and lighting but these were overcome and will be addressed so that lasting solutions are found. The Provincial Health Office, CHAZ and MOH HQ were all very helpful in making these surgeries such as success. Although we all worked long hours, everyone worked hard and were very much just one team.

We had other visitors as well. Dr Ernst Buehler, a German Doctor and an expert in Hospital and Quality Management and the restructuring of healthcare systems came as a volunteer through SES, the German Government Volunteer Programme to help us prioritise the way forward with our strategic plan to expand the hospital into a specialist facility. It was good having the in-put from a knowledgeable outsider. We also had dinner together with Charles Newsome a former American Board Chairperson who visited Mwandi, Mbereshi and Synod. He is writing his memoirs. We got to know John, Terry and Helen

too, from the Uniting Church of Australia who have been over to support the development of the OVC Project.

We have been in regular touch with our supporting Churches in Fife, Lochaber and Houston as well as Ireland and the States who all do so much to support the life and work here, with baby clothes, formula, PPE, medicines, equipment and infrastructure. It has been good too to restart visiting the rural communities we know. We visited Luanja Church and last week were able to visit UCZ Sikuzu School to deliver sports uniforms and some other teaching and learning materials we had been given.



It was good too to receive a copy of the order of service for the Thanksgiving and Celebration of the life of a dear friend, Dr Malcolm Moffat in April. Our family too were finally able to scatter in Braemar, the ashes of Keith's brother Kenneth, who died in Perpignan in 2020.

Progress is also being made with Covid vaccination after initial hesitancy, uptake has improved despite conspiracy theories, misinformation and false theology all circulating on social media and now 42% of the target population is fully vaccinated. Masking, social-distancing, avoiding crowds and sanitizing and hygienic measures are still in force here. There have been 362 000 cases with just over 4000 deaths. Cases are increasing slowly at the moment but the last spike was at New Year.

It is the Heroes and Unity holiday so we are up in Lusaka. Ellie returns to Chengelo tomorrow and we will celebrate Fiona's birthday this evening with the family here.

In line with our chosen Scripture we pray that God will continue to clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We have Jesus as the ultimate example of how God would have us live and pray that as He are gentle and patient with our failures, we extend that kindness to others, whether in our thoughts, our words, or our deeds.

With our love and every blessing

Keith, Ida, Mubita & Ellie