

PARTNERPLAN

Keith & Ida Waddell - Zambia April 2010

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Dear Family and Friends

We wish all of you the blessings of Easter. It is interesting to note that this coming Sunday is the second Sunday OF Easter not the second Sunday after Easter, suggesting that Easter is not just a one day holiday but an extended season. When we look at Easter and the resurrection and its significance for us in our every day lives we become aware that God is at work among us in ways that are often difficult to see and imagine.



We want to give you an update on what has been going on since we last wrote at the end of the year. At the Hospital we've had three American Medical Teams visiting, the first group were paediatricians who did good work at the Orphan and Vulnerable Childrens' Day Care Centre. Two of them who are of Afro-American extraction brought over their families and Jamande and Geniene were married early on in the visit on the lawn at Simba. The second group was the annual visit from the eye surgeons from Salisbury, North Carolina who accomplished 51 cataract operations. With them came a gynaecological and urology team who wish to return. We have just said farewell to Peggy Schrieber and her team, another annual group of general surgeons. They undertake hernias, fibroids and other such work (lumps and bumps!) Peggy first came to Mwandi as a medical student and has faithfully returned each year since she qualified.

So Ida has been busy helping to scrub for the operations and getting the sterilization of instruments done and then repacking them.

We have also had two visitors to stay with us in our home recently. Alice Strittmatter, from the Gossner Mission, a German sister-organisation and partner to the UCZ. Alice also served in Zambia with the German Aid Service in the late 70s and early 80s. Alice was followed by Cathy Crawford who came to visit the Mwandi Aids Relief Project and a women's support group in Livingstone. We look forward to catching up with them both when we are home on furlough.

The roofing of the second classroom block is now complete and paid for - a cool K24m. The steel trusses (24 x12m) for the roof and all the window and door frames have all been made locally and to a good standard. We are grateful for the Swiss-French Church's financial contribution towards this part of the building. Glass and putty, electrical conduits,

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paint and cement for the plastering and drainage have all now been purchased so we expect the new block to be handed by the end of April or early May.

Unfortunately work on the latrines had to come to a stop as we received new plans from the Ministry of Education District Officer. Work should resume this week on a double long-drop for the girls followed by one for the boys. Funding for these came from USA & Ireland. Again all the materials have been purchased and are stored at the High School.

Ida attended the UCZ Synod Council of World Mission Committee Meeting. It was a good time with Zambian colleagues who were testing their calling for the Mission field. It was another good demonstration on how with the Church being a global phenomenon most places in this world can be mission fields and there are no longer real Christian centres as such. It is also good to see that the movements South to North and East to West are just as important as the former North to South and West to East movements in Mission.

This was just after we learned of the birth of Lucy Sepo, our first grandchild, who was born in Port Lincoln, South Australia on 25 February. Ruairidh was fortunately able to be there for the birth. We are anxiously awaiting their return so we can see the little one before we set off home on furlough

Ida also enjoyed meeting many of the other partners stationed elsewhere in Zambia and we were delighted to learn that Marina, one of the Bangladeshi nurses, gave birth to a little girl, Prokriti, earlier in the same week. This will be another grandchild for us along with Lucy and Akash, Liton and Leya's little boy.

After 3 years of trying, the High School finally opened on Monday 15 February for lessons and now 105 children are receiving senior secondary education here in Mwandu. The cost is K170 000 per term about GBP25 and GBP30 for the external afternoon class, similar to what is being charged by the other High Schools in the District for Day Tuition. I am teaching Grade 10 History which I am enjoying.

Finally we've been reading 'Salt and Light' - The Letters of Jack and Mamie Martin in Malawi 1921-28. The book gives a warm and loving insight into the lives of a missionary family 90 years ago and of the people they served and stayed with at Livingstonia. All the joys and sorrows, the difficulties and triumphs and the wonderful variety in the work are all there. Despite the passage of time and life in a different era with different attitudes, there is still much that we, as workers for the same Kingdom, recognize and can empathise with in it. ***Plus ca change.....***

We are looking forward to seeing many of you soon, as we leave Mwandu on 14 April to return to Scotland to undertake deputation work.

With love and every blessing

Keith, Ida & Mubita