

Mwandi UCZ Mission  
PO Box 60693  
Livingstone  
Zambia

30 September 2010

**It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
To sing psalms to your name, Most High  
To declare your love in the morning  
And your faithfulness every night.** *Psalm 92:1-2*

Dear Family and Friends

Since we last wrote to you in June from Scotland, we have visited Germany Austria and France on holiday and we returned to Zambia in mid-August. It was a good time with family and friends. We are now back at Mwandi. We were delighted on our return to catch up with Ruairidh, Fiona and Lucy who had been holding the fort in our absence. It is wonderful to be grandparents and have the little one so close at hand.

We have moved temporarily into a small house, Hippo House, while we wait for our house to be completed. We are hoping that the roof will be on the new house before the start of the rains at the end of October then we may be able to move into it despite it being incomplete. We bought more plumbing and electrical materials in Lusaka.

Keith is teaching at the Basic School, Grade 8 C for Science and Maths, and History at Grade 10. The second classroom block at the High School is now complete as are the pupil latrines. The funds for 2 staff ones are now available and will be started shortly. The Fort Collins Group from Colorado who are visiting us for the second time have helped here and with making computers and the internet more accessible to both staff and children at the schools.

We are awaiting the response to a proposal for 2 staff houses that has been lodged with the Norwegian Church. ZESCO have now connected us to the mains so lights are now available at part of the High School. A borehole has been sunk and capped while we await the solar pump tank and stand promised by the Department of Water Affairs.

Ida is back doing her Aids Relief Coordination, Theatre work and keeping the Central Store. She has also been busy working with the Consistory setting up a home-based care programme through CHAZ (Churches Health Association of Zambia) This has involved much paperwork as well as the more practical side of training and equipping the care-givers and liaising about referrals from the Hospital. It is hoped that although this is presently only covering the Mwandi Village area, it will in time spread to the rural areas through the Church. The Women and Men's Christian Fellowship will play a leading role in this voluntary service.

The Reverend Silishebo has demitted office after 8 years at Mwandi and has been called to the Chaplaincy at the University of Zambia in Lusaka, the Reverend Derek Lubasi who is presently

at Coillard Memorial in Livingstone is acting as our Interim Moderator. There is a flurry of activity cleaning, painting and renovating the manse to welcome the new Minister. Presbytery will decide this on 9 October. Ida and I, as Mission Partners, have been invited to attend this meeting in Mongu. Rev and Mrs Lubasi are currently on a care-taking visit and are staying with us because the other Mission Houses are full of other visitors at the moment.

Other visitors are Dr Sarah Dallas an Obs and Gynae Doctor from Inverness. Sarah has been a stalwart and helped us out on many occasions, even to the extent of assisting us to flit into our temporary house. It was good to welcome Isaac and Judy Tembo. Isaac is studying medicine in Dar-es-Salaam sponsored by the Church of Scotland. Judy his wife is doing nursing at the same time helped by the American Churches. Judy stayed on with Maggie her little daughter to do some nursing practicals here.

On the first Sunday evening we got back was a very moving service for the sending out of the 10 young people back to their congregations. They had been attending a 4 month Mission Course at the Church run by Percy, the Youth Pastor. They had slept in tents, cooked for themselves and freely contributed their talents and labor to various ministries to be found at the Mission. They had also had their faith challenged and deepened, intellectually and academically too, they had a substantial amount of reading and writing to tackle, not just of a theological nature either but also other work needing life skills.

We had a good and useful couple of days with Jennie Chinembiri, the Africa and Caribbean Secretary and Rev George, the Convenor, who were able to get a taste of what we do at the Hospital and School as well as the wider Church work we undertake here. They also visited Kitwe and Lusaka.

Another exciting development hoving into view is the possibility of a Community School at Sikuzu. This is due mainly to the efforts of a member of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Birmingham Alabama. They are faithful friends who visit us annually and were at Mwandu when we returned from Scotland. Sikuzu is a rural community about 8km downstream from Mwandu. The children are prevented from attending school at Mwandu until they can walk the return journey each day. They are usually 8 or 9 years before this happens. So a Grade 1-4 School will be a great boon for them. At present there is a UCZ Pre-school run from the Church.

The 'children' at home are fine. Kirsten and Stuart keep an open house for Catriona and Gregor. Duncan and Ina, Stuart's Parents have been great at collecting pre-school equipment on offer in Edinburgh and transporting it to Kildrum in Cumbernauld for storage until a container can be organized in due course for the needs of the Mission.

Gregor gained his BA this summer in Tourism and Conservation and is now doing his honours year. He is still a Warden in the Halls at Auchencruive. He says there are many more girls this year than usual so there is a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the kitchens and bathrooms! He also has a part-time job at Ayr Race Course. No, he assures us, he is not a bookie's runner!

Catriona did very well in her O Levels, especially in History as well as English Lit, Art and PE, We are very proud of her.

Mubita benefited from his time with us at home. He is now out of nappies and his vocabulary has

increased and his speech improved

As you have read, we have much to be thankful for.

With love

Keith Ida & Mubita