

PARTNERPLAN

Keith & Ida Waddell - Zambia November 2024

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Dear Family and Friends

Stand upright and hold your heads high for your liberation is near. Luke 21:28

This is the first Advent reading in the Common Order. We are sending out our partner plan early as we will celebrate Christmas and New Year with Ruairidh, Fiona, Lucy and Cora in Thailand this year. We will remember together the light that came into the world and the child born for us to bring justice peace, a different kingdom and liberation.

Loadshedding continues. We enjoyed an increase from 3 hours of electricity to 7 hours this month then back to the 3hour ration. Work is being done on our export line to Namibia so we have had low voltage since Sunday. Production of blocks has been badly affected and on a more personal level our microwave has stopped working! With help from Aiken we have managed to double the size of our production slab, which not only allows for a greater number of blocks to be cured at the same time the quality of the base is much improved too.

Our three Mission builds are progressing apace. The Nutrition Block sponsored by the American Board is nearing completion. The Hands Around the World One-Stop GBV Centre is at roof-level and a good start has been made on the Beit trust Student Hostel. Ironically, the late onset of the rains has enlarged the window for getting the roofing done.



One Stop Centre

The rains in Mwandi too have been poor, convectional showers only, no real frontal rain yet. Plenty clouds and wind resulting in another dry storm. Only 27.2mm so far, this is a concern, so keep praying. The Zambezi too has fallen to the lowest level we have seen. Our lower garden did not flood this year as is customary and the water level in the Silombe inlet did not even reach our riverbank fence on the West side of our lawn. Sandbanks previously unseen have been uncovered and in places it is now possible to wade to Namibia.

With the COP29 Conference going on in Baku at the moment, we are hoping for new collective quantified goals to be set. The 1.5C global warming limit is becoming a survival issue for many people round the world and is crucial for a sustainable future for us all. Work needs to be done together finding solutions through actions to de-escalate climate threats worldwide.

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A team has been formed to transition the Sheltered Workshop from a Mission-run project to become part of the mental health therapy unit at the hospital. The transition began this month somewhat earlier than planned with the hospital taking charge of the 94 layers and the fishpond with 1000 fingerlings. We have purchased 38 fingerlings and six layers for ourselves. Mubita no longer uses the swimming pool so that found new life as a fish pond.

We built a henhouse and fenced a run for our chickens too. Birmingham Alabama has provided a scholarship for Cleo who looked after the fish and layers, she begins university in January, so rather than taking on a new person for a short period, we passed the livestock over to Brighton at the hospital who cares for them now. The block yard will be passed on after the three builds have been totally finished in the new year.



Thanks to funding from SSPCK the first workshop to train people in Art Therapy took place in the Hospital Chapel with 15 participants and 2 trainers over 5 days. A video was made to record this training course. Mentoring of the participants will continue with both Zambian and Scottish facilitators. Regular therapeutic art sessions with all the necessary materials are now being planned.



We got home safe and well at the end of October from a trip to Morija Mission in Lesotho. It is a non-stop bus ride of over 30 hours each way from Livingstone. Western Presbytery were invited to participate in a Church event being held by the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA). Lesotho is 200 years old, and the Church is 191 years old this year.



Our Group with the King and Queen of Lesotho



Keith and the Bishop loading the Hymn Books.

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The group from Western, which included the Bishop, were a mixture of clergy and laity, who held various positions in the Presbytery. The French Protestants founded the Church there and it was they who sent the Mission Group, headed by Rev Francois Coillard and his Scots-born wife to Barotseland in 1885. It was a mixed group with 5 Basotho Evangelists, two of their wives and children. Along with them came William Waddell, as the Mission Carpenter. He is a kinsman of Keith's; so, the Retreat, Communion and Celebratory Service with the King of Lesotho present was almost like a pilgrimage for us.



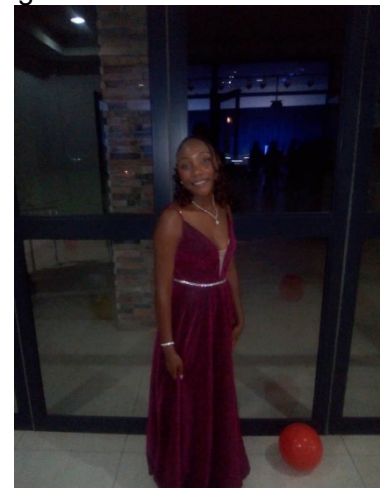
We enjoyed our time at Morija and brought back 500 Silozi Hymnbooks we had ordered earlier in the year, which are printed there. Silozo and Sesotho are very close linguistically so we were able to follow the hymns and prayers. The hymnbooks were kindly funded by the SSPCK.



Another time we have greatly enjoyed was being involved with the UCZ Jerusalem Choir, who have just made an album with videos called Sutulela Kuna (Draw Near to Me). The album's theme is based on Psalm 70:4-5. Ida has been the Choir Matron for many years. We are now working on planning the launch. It is no longer a CD or DVD that is produced but a copyright link. This we are now working on – new territory for us. The album itself is a mixture, taken from

the more traditional Silozi hymnody and self-composed songs and choruses based on Bible verses. The choir wishes to raise money to put into income generation, to meet the choir's needs, support evangelism and offer community support through house-building.

We recently picked up Ellie from school as she had completed writing her IGCE O Levels. She enjoyed her Leavers Dinner at school and is at present with Catriona and Will in Lusaka. She has her School Promenade Ball on 29 November in Lusaka. She is helping with childcare and getting Catriona's shop organised. We will meet up with her in early December before we fly out of Lusaka for Chiang Mei



Our journey to Thailand will remind us of the persecution of Christians and other minorities in many countries in that part of the world, to say nothing of the wars in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, the Maghreb, Yemen, Haiti and the DRC.

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The question needs to be asked are these actions liberating or oppressing? Are people being manipulated by charismatic leaders? This can be also asked by us at a local and personal level too, remembering the Prince of Peace came to bring good news and to set free the oppressed and rejecting the domination, violence and aggression of 'Empire'.

This year the UCZ chose as its verse Understanding the Times and what to do 1 Chronicles 12:32. This requires the Church to discern the sign of the times, look ahead and stand for the truth that never ends.

The prophetic voice of the Church should be heard homes, villages, towns cities, schools, hospitals, parliament and workplaces. Speaking out will cause conflict, acrimonious debates, accusations from all sides, but these are needed to resolve disputes and bring contradictions to light. Prophecy is always upsetting and incomplete; but it brings light and hope into the world, through Jesus, the baby, the message and glory of Bethlehem.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and every blessing in the coming new year.

With our love

Keith, Ida & Mubita