

PARTNERPLAN

Keith & Ida Waddell - Zambia August 2024

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Dear Family and Friends

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

As Christians, God calls us to use our gifts to serve others by doing what needs to be done. It is his work we are all involved in. You don't always manage at first and so we often need to go back and try again. Writing these quarterly letters help us to see what we have done and what still needs to be done.

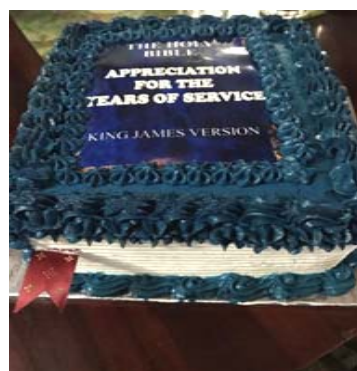
April was a busy time for us dealing with the work in hand and preparing for our deputation in May and June. At the beginning of the month we welcomed Hannah and Erin, two medical students from the Edinburgh School of Medicine, who were doing a month-long Tropical Medicine Elective.



Dr Mukoka – MOIC Mwandi

Simultaneously, Dr Chikwanda arrived from Lusaka to run the Endoscope Workshop. He was followed by Jane and Maggie from Hands around the World who came to do an on-site visit and look at how that organisation might support our work at Mwandi. Mid-month Ida was involved with the US Trust's Board Meeting before beginning the operations with the American surgical team who undertook 81 procedures in 10 days mainly, thyroidectomies, hernias and gynaecological operations.

On that Sunday I was preaching. At the end of the service, Ida was called to the front of the congregation and we were both publicly thanked for the 20 years' service we had given at Mwandi. To our delight and great surprise, we were presented with a picture, chitenge and cake. It was a very moving occasion. We were then prayed for and sent on furlough with the Church's blessing.



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Ida then departed for Lusaka to chair the CHAZ Board Meeting. Keith remained with Mubita and ensured that workers' wages and other financial commitments could be met in our absence. There were similar requirements regarding chicken and fish feed as well as quarry dust sand and cement for the lock-making.

Keith and Mubita then joined Ida and spent our last weekend before flying with Catriona, Will and the grandchildren in Lusaka. We left on Sunday 28 and were met in Edinburgh by Kirsten. We spent a few days with them before moving into our furlough flat on the Thursday. Marjorie Clark, an old friend from World Mission and now an interim moderator in Perth, picked us up and drove us to Callender for the start of our Presbytery of Perth deputation.

It was good to catch up and thank Jeff, Dorothy and the congregation there for their faithful support. In the evening, we had our usual evening with St Serf's, enjoying the music and fellowship. Towards the end of the week, we visited Brechin and Farnell for the first time and were warmly welcomed by Adriaan, Sanelle and their congregation. The next day was Stanley Primary School in the morning followed by the lunch-time Fellowship at Luncarty. Rev Susan Thorburn, whom we met in NE Fife on previous furloughs as a community chaplain, kindly drove us to and from Perth. It is always a great joy for us to return to Cambusbarron, our sending Church which we did on the Sunday. The work in Perth finished with a first visit to Dunkeld for a Tuesday evening meeting where we were once again warmly received.

On our return from Perth we had our Debriefing, our eyes checked and our Psychological Assessments: these were on-line for the first time. On Saturday, the General Assembly opened, with us attending as Commissioners for the first time. It was good to learn where the Church is at the moment and where it wants to go. The Rev Shaw Paterson took over as Moderator from Rev Sally Foster-Fulton. Getting down to business, reforms and finance took centre stage with the Church working to balance its budget by 2027. While savings are being made, the most deprived areas should not be forgotten. Calls were made for the cost of the Assembly itself to be reduced. Most Presbytery Mission Plans were now in place.

Joanne Billeh, a Palestinian Christian, now living in Jordan, spoke movingly of how she and her family had been personally dispossessed by the conflict. The Assembly called for an immediate and permanent cease-fire, a stop the export of armaments to Israel and the implementation of a two-State solution.

The establishment of a Committee to consider the Church's work with social justice, ecumenical and interfaith matters and work with international partners was moved. Ida spoke congratulating Central Africa Churches for their work over the past 100 years but urged the Kirk not to forget the valuable work done previously by the former World Mission. She spoke of the drought currently affecting the area. The Church should continue to look out to the wider Church and make its valued contribution there too. The Great Commission does not stop in Jerusalem. Other major topics discussed were Social Care, the shortage of Armed Forces Chaplains, Assisted-Dying and Safe-guarding. The Guild also reported on its significant work at home and overseas.

As Commissioners we were invited to a variety of social functions where we were able to meet other delegates from Scotland, other British Churches and from overseas; these included visitors from the Central Africa Churches, the Middle East, the Uniting Church of Australia, the Italian Waldensians and Hungary. Our invited guest from the Egyptian Church was not granted a visa by the Home Office. The Duke of Edinburgh was the High Commissioner this year. We were invited for a glass of prosecco and some canapes at Holyrood on the very wet Wednesday evening, introduced to His Grace, who encouraged us to keep up the good work.

Once the Assembly was over we headed to Lochaber and Appin where we were hosted once again by Malcolm and Marion Kinnear. We spoke at Kinlochleven, Duror and Fort William on the Sunday and at a Presbytery Zoom Meeting on the Monday. We were invited to become the Mission Partners for all of the Presbytery of Cleir Eilean I.

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Knit and Natter Group. Donating baby clothes and blankets

We next started to work in Fife with the Sunday service at Dunfermline Abbey. Later in the week we were given the opportunity to speak to pupils at two schools in Fife. The children were engaged, knowledgeable and asked very good questions.

On our days off we tried to meet up with family and friends and spend some time with them. Gregor, Maia and Elsi came up for a few days during half-term. We have also seen Kirsten, Stuart Iona and Euan on a few occasions as well. Our old friends Jackie and Brendan visited us too

On the Sunday morning, we took the electric bus to Bridge of Earn and were picked up by our old friend Rev Valerie Walker and taken to the morning service at Newburgh with Abdie, the Parish of Lindores. This was Ida's Dad's former charge, so it was a special time together with old friends, great to see such a lively and missional congregation and to enjoy a tasty lunch together. A special thanks to Natalie for taking us all the way to the park and ride at North Queensferry. It shortened our bus journey considerably.

Next followed a meeting organised by Ian Alexander and Liz Grant to see if Edinburgh University could perhaps help Mwandia Mission Hospital now it was a General Hospital. Liz and her team were receptive to them looking at Rural Health Care, help with visits from a Surgical Unit and capacity building through research being undertaken in Mwandia. She also set up a meeting with the Scottish Government's Zambia Desk.

We met Niall and Mulenga at Victoria Quay and they went through what was on offer from the Scottish Government and pointed us towards the Non-communicable Disease Programme for a later date. Charles Sim joined us. He is head of Fair Trade in Scotland and involved with Eco-Congregations. Through him, we have managed to become members of the Church's Credit Union and we will look at a Toilet Twinning at Sikuzu Primary School. Keith went for an X-ray which was normal that afternoon; then a very enjoyable dinner with Valerie, Duncan, Jennie and Ainsley - old World Mission friends

It was good too, to be able to celebrate Iona's 12th Birthday in Lenzie with all the family including Ina and Duncan. The next weekend we caught up with Eric and Helen in Strathmiglo then on to Muriel and Jim's in St Andrews for the Coffee Morning and Plant sale at St Marks.



It was a successful morning and again so grateful for the hard work and generosity of those involved. We were delighted to catch up with Rev Janet Foggie, whom we knew from Stirling University. She is the locum at St Marks. She and her husband live in the Dunbog Schoolhouse where Ida attended Primary School. After Sunday service, we enjoyed a few hours company with Lily Musk a former Missionary to Zambia at her home.

In our last week Ida caught up with a number of nurses she did her training with 50 years ago. Our furlough flat was in Marchmont, where Ida lived during that time. Another fine get-together was with the Church of Scotland HIV/Aids Group. Then we set off for Houston and Kilellan.

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We had a great afternoon of 10 pin bowling at Braehead followed by a delicious meal at the Inn in Houston. We stayed in Kate Jackson's house. We got to know her as we worked with her daughter and son-in-law at Chengelo. After the Sunday Service a wonderful three course meal had been prepared by Caroline and her team.

After our farewells we returned to Edinburgh to pack and clean the flat. Just before we left we managed to meet with Annie, Ida's sister and David, her husband in Perth.

We spent the last two nights at Kirsten and Stuart's. Kirsten drove us to the airport early Thursday morning. After a fairly lengthy transfer in Doha, where we all caught an awful flu from which we are just recovering, Will picked us up on the Friday morning in Lusaka. We set out early on the Sunday morning for Mwandi to prepare for the arrival of Kirsten and Stuart with their family and friends. By concentrating three months deputation into two meant it was quite a tight schedule with little downtime in Scotland, but it meant we could spend time with Kirsten and the family here in Zambia.

With our love
Keith, Ida & Mubita

