

PARTNERPLAN

12 December 2021

Dear Family and Friends

My soul tells out the greatness of the Lord, my spirit has rejoiced in God, my Saviour. Luke 1 46-47

We attended the planned meetings we mentioned in our last letter in mid- October in Lusaka. At the Churches Health Association of Zambia Conference Ida gave a presentation on Church Health Management - Transitioning from Mission Partners to Local Church. She was also re-elected to the Board of Trustees and appointed Vice-Chairperson, the first women Vice-Chairperson in its 50-year history CHAZ is the national umbrella body for Mission Hospitals.

Keith attended the inaugural Board Meeting with St Andrew's School and continued with the Education Secretaries' attempt to reach the new Minister with the Church Mother Bodies' response to the previous' Governments Statutory Instrument. A meeting is now scheduled for 14 December.



In the last week of October we returned to Mwandia to hand-over there, and pack for leaving on furlough. We left Lusaka on 3 November and flew to Edinburgh via Doha to 11 nights self-isolation in the furlough flat as Zambia is undeservedly, a Red List Country. We were blessed by 'Red Cross' parcels from Jo and Richard and Jackie and Peter but managed to work the wonder of on-line grocery shopping and delivery. We were permitted outings on Day 2 and Day 8 to post our results. This was actually quite a useful time to catch up on out-standing admin, prepare the Powerpoints for deputation and rest a bit.

It was good too to catch up with Bunmi, our Methodist Church line-manager, and we wish her God's richest blessings in her future work. Other colleagues who are retiring and we wish well, are Alison Gibbs from the URC who has faithfully served as a missionary teacher and latterly as headteacher for 36 years. Prior to leaving Zambia we also said farewell to Rev Morgan Silwenga, the Mission and Evangelism and Rev Dr Kondolo, the Vice-Chancellor of the UCZ University. They were both colleagues on the Senior Management Team



We enjoyed Zoom meetings with the Houston Mission Group, the Zambia Malawi Fellowship and Friends of Chitambo. We have since had our Debrief and Personal Reviews and medical check-up. We have also managed to be given our Flu' and Pfizer booster vaccinations. We have our own Lateral Flow Test Kits which we use prior to and after a Church visit. This protects both us and the congregations we are visiting.

We have begun our Deputation work in the Churches who so generously support our work and have been to Hope Park & Martyrs with Strathkinness in St Andrews for the Sunday worship, Messy Church, a wonderful Madrigal Service and coffee and a good chat with Mission Group. Last Sunday, Kirsten drove us to Callander Kirk for the Sunday Service where we received a Thermo-coagulator for the Cervical Cancer Programme. We enjoyed an afternoon Communion Service in the Trossachs on the banks of Loch Achray. This was followed by an evening fellowship at Lecropt in Bridge of Allan where we presented our Powerpoint.

Last week we had our medical check-ups and reviews before heading to Cambusbarron, our commissioning Church on Sunday. On Sunday evening we were invited to Choral Evensong at Old St Paul's in Edinburgh, after which we were able to thank the Scottish Episcopal Church for their much appreciated gift to help us provide PPE for our schools and clinics over the past year. So it was good to be in Scotland for the signing of the St Andrew Declaration, which reaffirmed of the strong ties between our denominations. Their gift was a practical expression of sharing in the journey of ministering together from Scotland to the wider world and proving that faith in action is not denominational.

In our Powerpoint, we continue to share about the income-generating schemes for the sheltered workshop, introducing the individuals who are already at work and our future plans. Ida discusses the transition to specialization and the upgrading the Hospital. The work in hand to put in the oxygen pipeline, the continuing search for the funding for the Oxygen generating plant, the cancer screening and treatment programme and other support programmes, from knitting, baby-clothes, bursary sponsorship to our beloved residents in Kandiana. All these areas bless and help a variety of individuals in need and this we can only do with your prayers and the care you show in assisting us materially and financially. We appreciate so much your faithfulness in sustaining our life and work in these ways. This speaks to the Scripture we have chosen as a framework for our deputation work. All one in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:28

We are looking forward greatly to spending Christmas and New Year with the family here, something we have not managed for a number of years. Covid permitting we hope to spend a week down South after we finish deputation work in mid-January.



As we approach Christmas the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is beginning to escalate rather alarmingly here in Scotland, in Zambia and elsewhere in the world. The virus threatens once again to affect our day-to-day living and our family life in the run up to Christmas. The cold and the long dark nights and short days here in Scotland tend to reflect the present gloom and darkness that the world projects, but Christmas reminds us that darkness does not have permanent power over light. Darkness may try to prevent the light shining, but it only succeeds temporarily. Eventually the light will shine through, revealing the greatness and goodness of God. Omicron will pass, like all trials, but until it does we pass our hopes and fears to his son, the babe in the manger, the daily presence in our lives.

May God bless you, your homes, families and all those you love this Christmas.

With our love

Keith, Ida & Mubita



