

# Keith & Ida Waddell – Zambia

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The United Church of Zambia  
Synod Headquarters  
Nationalist Road, Box 50122  
Lusaka, Zambia

<http://idaandkeith.blogspot.com>  
[keithida2014@gmail.com](mailto:keithida2014@gmail.com)

Dear Family and Friends

### **Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures for ever.**

It has not been an easy three months for us with our life and work with the loss of pupils, colleagues and family members. Many of plans we had made earlier have been changed with events cancelled and rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances reminding us of Burns's line that the plans of mice and men gang aft a-gley!

Our weakness and helplessness in the face of the sorrow, distress and tears of others ironically allows us to meet the Lord in these unexpected people and places. However, the first quarter of 2018 has not all been gloom and despondency.

We left Lusaka a few days before Christmas and set off for Lilongwe where we spent a good holiday with Ruairidh, Fiona, Lucy and Cora. After Christmas we were able to visit Nkhoma Mission and have lunch with David and Rebecca Morton. Ida was looking at the Cervical Cancer Programme and Keith passed on official condolences at CAAP Synod on the very sudden death of the Education Secretary, Adamson Tong'o with whom he had arranged to visit Nkhoma Mission School at a previous meeting. We enjoyed the time together and visited the interesting cave paintings at Mphunzi after lunch at the Dedza Pottery. The youngsters, rather uncharitably, took a picture of Ida and me and posted it on the family whatsapp, entitled 'Original Inhabitants?'.....



Cats and Will New Year's day

Just before Hogmanay we flew to Likoma Island near to Mozambique, where we took a house on the beach over the New Year period. We were joined by Catriona and Will, together with Will's parents and Aunt. On New Year's Day Catriona and Will announced their engagement. It was a relaxing few days of celebration, memorable for swimming and snorkelling amongst splendidly coloured tropical fish in Lake Malawi and walking past baobabs and mango trees to a spectacular and well-

preserved Anglican Cathedral St Peter's in the town: completed in 1910, it was built deliberately at the former slave-market

We returned to work and at the end of January participated in the three-day synod workers retreat in Monze, examining the missional congregation concept where local congregations of God's people are empowered to do his work, in the local community using local resources to address needs, particularly those of the suffering and marginalised, to bring transformation and fullness of life. It is God-centred advocacy and social-justice



Anglican Cathedral St Peters Likoma Island Malawi

In February the school board meetings were scheduled to begin. Only Kafue Boys took place on the prescribed date. We had a visit from the Africa and Caribbean Convener and Secretary of the World Mission Council in mid-February. Jennie Chinembiri and Valerie Macniven came to see us and look at other UCZ programmes being assisted by the Church of Scotland.

Prior to this the Scottish Government's Minister of International Development Dr Alasdair Allen asked us to arrange for him to attend the Sunday Service at All Saints in Kabwe where the Central

Presbytery Bishop, Rev Edward Musonda preached on the importance of doing everything in love. The next day we attended the symposium which brought together all the Scottish Government's partners and project teams in Central Province for a time of hearing from each other, sharing ideas and enjoying discussions. The meeting was also joined by the ministers for Central Province and for community development and social services. As Scots working in the area of social services ministry of the United Church of Zambia, as health and education secretaries we were invited as observers. It was a useful opportunity for them to get to know the government staff as well as to begin to network with main recipients and sub-recipients of Scottish grants for the UCZ in the future.



Deputy Heads Conference

After this Keith flew to Nairobi, where he was invited to attend the coordinating secretaries summit for the relaunch of the Africa Methodist Council. The conference also dealt with migration issues and their moral implications for the council. We heard a moving account of a young Kenyan woman who had been trafficked to Saudi Arabia and Libya in the vain hope of a better life with greater employment prospects. A support group and the Kenyan government helped to repatriate her from the horror she was enduring.

On his return the board meetings in western and southern provinces beckoned but they were interrupted by the surprise declaration of an extra public holiday between Women's Day and Youth Day. Another rescheduling to mop up all the outstanding board meetings took place in Holy Week. A Conference for UCZ deputy heads was also organised in late March. It dealt with ethics discipline and codes of conduct (pupil & teachers) and was addressed by representatives of the Teaching Service Commission and the Teaching Council of Zambia



Mubita and Jan

As convener of the Synod World Partnership Committee, Keith has been heavily involved in the steering committee work in organising a Council for World Mission Regional Assembly under the theme 'Healing Relationship: Hope for New Spirituality'. This is the third in a series of partner conferences organised by the UCZ.

Less than a month ago Jan, the wife of Ida's cousin, was diagnosed with a large brain tumour which could not be operated on. Her condition deteriorated rapidly and she passed away on 20 March. It came as a dreadful shock to us all and Ida has flown home to be with Iain and the family at this awful time for them all



Queue to see Lynne at Jagaimo Clinic

We have been joined for a third time by Lynne and Bob Connelly from Kincardine. They have been accompanying Ida to her board meetings where Lynne does a great ministry by holding skin clinics and is able to treat conditions which would otherwise remain untreated for the lack of necessary medicines in rural clinics. Bob turns his hand to repair and rehabilitation work on the infrastructure, again another area which does not receive the necessary attention

The UCZ runs Jagaimo, clinic in the Maheba refugee camp. On the visit made in March over 100 patients with chronic skin ailments were seen and we ran out of medicine, but still the patients kept coming. In two months there were over 1500 cases of malaria. The clinic is too small and under-staffed to meet the demand put on its resources and present infrastructure. The greatest challenge remains as the clinic numbers increase faster than we can develop to meet these needs. CHAZ have sent mosquito nets which are being distributed now. There is still no running water and the solar panels which supply power for lighting and other low voltage equipment need to be increased to meet the demand for lights and power.

A whirlwind hit Mbereshi hospital in January and the new lab roof blown off. Other older roofs at the hospital were also affected. Work continues to repair this damage.

At this time as we celebrate the resurrection, we give thanks for the abundant love that anoints us healing our wounds and soothing our souls, binding us together in heart, mind and soul in our past present and future. We wish you a joyful and hope-filled Easter.

With love from

Keith, Ida & Mubita

