

August 2015

Isabel is extending her work for the Bulawayo East District by working in two departments. In addition to her work as Child Care Officer, she has joined the District's Healthy Living team. The other three or four members are retired nurses or other health professionals. They visit the circuits, encouraging those whom they meet to eat good, locally available foods. I'm sure Isabel can explain better than I can what the team is achieving, so here I have copied a paragraph from a newsletter Isabel sent to our District link at Ashbourne: *'The focus of the programme is to improve the health of individuals and communities served by the Methodist Church Bulawayo East District, to teach participants the nutritional value and importance of using local and traditional foods and influencing them to adopt healthy eating habits and lifestyle. Also to prepare God's people for the work of service in their community. This in turn will have a positive impact on reducing illness caused by bad eating habits, reducing hospital bills and limiting the cost of food in communities. Improving the lives of participants, their families, friends, neighbours, church family and patients.'*

The project to open a satellite home of the Matthew Rusike Children's Home at Mzinyathi, south of Bulawayo is only progressing very slowly and it is very frustrating. Meanwhile, Isabel continues to liaise with her teams of volunteer Care-Givers in the circuits to help to provide for the needs of orphans who are being looked after in their communities. She also visits orphans whom she has helped to place in institutions in Bulawayo.

I have decided to reintroduce the A-level subject Further Mathematics at Thekwane, with the support of a colleague who, although he teaches Geography, has a degree in Statistics, so he has offered to teach that part of the course, whilst I cover the other parts. We have been improving our results for Mathematics at both O-level and A-level, so this is a good time to encourage some of our students to extend their potential qualifications. The first group of students has now completed Lower 6th and they are due to write their final examinations in November this year. We recently received the November 2014 O-level results and my class did very well, breaking the school record for the best ever pass rate for Mathematics.

We get tremendous support from the church family at Hillside Methodist. Isabel and I are members of a fellowship group which meets weekly and the latest development is to use a Whatsapp group to communicate with one another between meetings. Isabel has joined the Praise and Worship team which helps to lead worship each Sunday morning. Susannah and I have been busy with the Sunday School children together with three other leaders. We organised a Fun Day for the children of the Sunday School the Saturday before last. I think they really enjoyed it and I needed to lie down in a darkened room afterwards to recover from the excitement.

Jonathan and Isabel Hill