

## PARTNERPLAN

# Keith & Ida Waddell - Zambia October 2022

The United Church of Zambia  
Mwandi Mission  
Box 60693  
LIVINGSTONE  
Zambia

keithida2014@gmail.com

Dear Family and Friends

### **The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Isaiah 40:29**

The hot dry season began last month in September with the temperature rising rapidly and the ensuing winds bringing their seasonal small-scale whirlwinds. Although September is usually a very dry month, there was some abnormal sporadic rainfall caused by the early arrival of the low-pressure zone from Congo in the north of the country.

It has been a difficult time both nationally and locally with 21 members of the UCZ Women's Christian Fellowship being killed in a terrible road traffic accident in Northern Province. A respected Mwandi business owner and fellow congregant was shot and robbed in August. He left a wife and young family. This type of robbery is almost unknown in the area, so it came as a dreadful shock. The sheltered workshop lost Grant Mulyati, a long-time mission farm-worker, who unexpectedly died in his sleep on, ironically Farmer's Day. He was a very reliable worker with green fingers and a great love and knowledge of animals. Most recently we lost In'utu Mwitemwa from a pulmonary embolism. In'utu served at Mwandi Mission Hospital for 24 years most recently as nursing officer. She also headed up the cancer screening and treatment unit. We found her at work on the wards in 2004 she also worked at out-patients and at the Mother to Child health department too. She too will be sorely missed and leaves three daughters the youngest is 12 and still at school. We hope that a fund will be set up to help her complete her schooling.

The block yard continues with its production. It has just completed the order for the new mothers' shelter, a further order to finish the building at Masese Clinic and a number of smaller local orders have been delivered too.

The layers are now 15 weeks old and beginning to look like pullets. A chicken run has been constructed to give them more space and allow them to peck and scratch outside.

Work is also beginning on the rehabilitation of our first fishpond. The land that was used for rubbish pits behind the house has been cleared and fenced and will be planted out as a fruit orchard. Vegetable beds will also be dug to provide greens for the chickens. The domestic appliance company DEFY, through the Turkish Embassy has donated a freezer to the sheltered workshop. Its main function will be to store our fresh fish. However, amongst the hens we were given by the hatchery there are a number of cockerels and broiler which we will dispatch, dress, freeze and sell.

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We have managed with careful cutting and duct tape to line a large and a small fish pond, which have now been filled. A pump for circulation has been purchased and installed in a newly built pump house. We have ordered 1500 three-spot bream fingerlings, which should be ready for collection early next week.



It has been good to be able to catch up with two of our churches' mission teams by Zoom. We have recently spoken to both Lochaber and Houston in this way. We have also done this with St Mark's in St Andrews in the past. We are able to talk face-to-face. All three do a great job in keeping the stock of baby-clothes we give to newborns topped up. We also receive from a few other sources. Sister Ruth Sikwiba now oversees this ministry. This has increased significantly the numbers of hospital deliveries and young women starting to access cervical cancer screening as we give slightly bigger clothes to them for their children.

We have had a number of visitors this quarter. We started with Andrew Ashdown our Methodist boss, who was on a tour of west and southern Africa. It was good to welcome him to Mwandia and share a bit of our life and work here with him. The Health secretary Gina Siatwinda-Oliver came for the board meeting at the same time and welcomed him on behalf of Synod. We were invited as special guests to the wedding of Chris and Olivia. Chris was a volunteer doctor at Mwandia and Olivia is the Gender Officer for World

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Vision. We got to know Olivia as a young student in Lusaka and Chris when he came to the mission hospital.

Toby and Kay Hudson from North Carolina also visited with a church group. Toby is a founding member of the Mwandi Farmers Co-op and he had a number of meetings while here; as a vet he has also supported a number of mission initiatives as outreaches to local subsistence farmers.

Finally, we had another visit from the American surgical team in early October, led by Dr Peggy Schrieber. The team performed 48 different procedures, thyroids (goitres), hernias, lipoma and keloids, hydroceles and hysterectomies and various others. The physician helped triage for general surgery as well as obs & gynae saw and treated over 250 patients. The Health Secretary and MO from Mbereshi again visited to lend a hand. The American team were ably supported by the usual Mwandi team. They all worked hard and put in very long days to get as many people attended to as possible.



We are very grateful to the Ministry of Health for providing the drugs it was able to procure, and to our American and Irish partners and our own supporting churches in Cambusbarron who helped to purchase necessary drugs which were unavailable otherwise. St Marks in St. Andrews purchased new theatre lights for one of the theatres. Last year a surge burnt out the lights in both Theatres. So, what a difference it made to the main theatre. The patients who are treated are those who do not have the means to pay for the operation at a government hospital. The treatment, medicines, operations and food are free to all who need it, so we greatly appreciate the generosity of those who make this possible.

We have also applied to the Czech Government for 10 acute bed units and a suction machine, which will allow oxygen, suction, electric sockets and telecommunications to be available at 10 bedsides without individual critical care equipment having to be wheeled there. We pray that this will be successful as it will greatly improve the quality of the

management of patients requiring more care, in surgical, medical, maternity, theatre and children's wards as well as those patients in intensive care.

We have also been busy with the paper-work for the oxygen plant which all being well should arrive over the weekend. It has landed in Walvis Bay and is being cleared now before setting off for Mwandi via the border crossing at Katima Mulilo.

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Ellie comes home for her half-term holiday this weekend too. Mubita continues to work at the brickyard and around the house. He goes twice a week to the school and does PE with Grade 8. This term it is gymnastics and aerobic dance.

Even as we undertake all these different activities in His strength, much coordination, flexibility and juggling are needed. We are conscious that we sow, but that God gives the increase. He provides the resources and we build, using them. With God's presence we are working with Him in the care of his creation, and to be of service to our brothers and sisters. He provides what we need to pay our workers and meet our overheads. We have a very good team here, working as a family, in a common effort to transform our lives and those of others to bring glory to God.

With our love

Keith, Ida & Mubita