

PARTNERPLAN

Keith & Ida Waddell - Zambia July 2018

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Dear Family and Friends

“..... he showed himself to them many times, in ways that proved beyond doubt that he was alive..... “ Acts 1:3



Maia Easter Monday

Ida was with Gregor, Sarah and Maia on Easter Sunday before flying home on the Monday. After the CWM regional assembly the next week we headed to Kabwe for the full synod meeting. This is comparable with a General Assembly. This was preceded by a two day workshop for delegates on missional congregations. This involves local congregations working in the local community, using local resources to meet local needs. It is still the people of God doing God's work, sharing the gospel making disciples and meeting the needs of all creation and all nations.

The full synod began as usual with the pastoral session on Friday, followed by the finance meeting on Saturday. On Sunday morning we attended the ordination of 16 ministers and the commissioning of 3 diaconal workers at St Peter's Church in Kabwe. In the afternoon the

synod departments, committees and presbyteries started their reports on the activities for the past two years. Keith retired as convener of the world partnership and was succeeded by Ida amongst other retirements and appointments.

The last week of April was used by Keith to attend the school board meetings in Muchinga Northern and Luapula. Again our schools did well in the national examinations. Five out of ten gained 100% pass rate at grade 12 and it is not just impressive quantitatively but qualitatively too as almost all these pupils have achieved the necessary score to gain admission to university and other tertiary forms of education. Another three schools attained over 90% but there are two which are underperforming for various socio-economic reasons. Work and interventions are underway at both schools to improve the present situation.

For Ida, infrastructure work at Mbereshi has been an on-going challenge to procure materials and ensure the repair of the lab and other roofs that were damaged or blown away in the January storm. Another unexpected problem was that the health professional council raised fees five-fold without warning for Doctors from overseas wishing to volunteer their services at Mission Hospitals. This could drastically affect the good work carried out by our visiting teams of surgeons.

A joint health and education project about to begin, is a Euro 600,000 scheme to improve the water reticulation system at Masuku Mission and bring running water to the school, clinic and church. The project, funded by the German government through Gossner Mission will involve the

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replacement of pumps, pipes, tanks and taps with an emphasis on sustainability and the use of solar power where possible, as the renewable source of energy. A local water committee has been formed to maintain and manage the running of the system on completion. This will be a great improvement to the quality of life for pupils, patients, clinic and school staff, church workers as well as the wider community.

Another area where there is similar greater coordination is with the reconvening of the synod institutional social services committee, a forum to offer support and review policy, strategic direction and performance in the three departments of education, health and community development and social justice. They also have a replacement planning role to identify successors for our positions when we step down from our present positions at the end of 2020. There will be a trial-run during our 2019 furlough.



Synod Complex

In May there was a service to commemorate the beginning two years ago of the synod investment complex which will be the new church headquarters. It is 85% complete but needs a final push to complete it. To raise the funds for this a national sponsored walk took place in Lusaka last Saturday and in other presbyteries too.

Many thanks to those of you who supported us the sponsored walk we did on Saturday morning on behalf of the UCZ synod office complex. There was an excellent turn-out.

We walked to the music from the Boys Brigade brass band, starting and finishing at Woodlands Stadium. The walk was flagged off by the minister of religious affairs, Rev Godfridah Sumali. It took about 2 hours to cover the 10km, but it was a good time of fellowship; meeting old friends and



Waiting for the Walk to begin

new people. We walked through the site of the new complex on our way back to the stadium. We were very proud of Ellie and Mubita who both completed the walk as well. It was good to catch up with Rev Teddy Kalongo, Rev Dr Kabonde's predecessor as General Secretary, who joined us for the walk. We got to know him when we served in Mwandi. He now takes care of two churches in South Wales with the Methodists. He was visiting with three elders from his congregations at Porthcawl.

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Start of the Walk

We have had a number of visitors recently. We are always amazed how small the Christian world is and can usually find some mutual friend or connection with visitors. We had Pat Munro, a retired Deacon, staying with us for a few weeks as she was visiting the Journeying Together project being run by the UCZ and is one of the Guild's projects for 2018 - 2021. The wafer-making machine; (the UCZ uses hosts for communion), is in operation now and Deaconess Nakamba who looked after our Congolese boys while we were on furlough last year is in charge of production.

We also spent time with Rev Barrie H Morris, from the Methodist Church in Blackpool, who was invited to be the guest preacher during the Thanksgiving Service for the first president of Zambia Dr Kenneth Kaunda, on the occasion of his 94th birthday. He and Liz served in Kabwe and at Mindolo during the 1970s & 80s and are friendly with John and Gwyneth Symons whom we knew well from Chengelo days. Related to this, we also learned with sadness of the recent death of the first president of the United Church of Zambia and former

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Rev Morris with First President Dr Kenneth Kaunda

president of the Methodist Conference, The Right Reverend Dr Colin Morris. The UCZ sent its condolences in the form of an official eulogy.

At the end of this month a one-day conference was held for all Head teachers of UCZ schools to analyse documents received from the ministry, regarding the review of the Education Act of 2011, the new proposed education (aided educational institutions) statutory instrument and the draft memorandum of understanding for individual schools. These will all bring changes to the way mission schools are run so it was vital to have input from heads as we prepare our approach and responses to the government individually as a church and collectively through the education secretaries forum, who represent the country's church-run mission schools



St Lukes, Kuku, New Clinic

There are now 8 UCZ clinics in high density areas, 6 in Lusaka and 2 in the Copperbelt, helping to decongest government facilities. Over 1500 new patients have been started on anti-retroviral therapy using the new model of index testing. PEPHAR (Washington) were impressed by the new clinic at St Luke's in Kuku compound and by this aspect of the UCZ's social ministry. This ministry fits in well with the missional congregation approach mentioned at the beginning of the letter.

We thank you for all your help and support as we walk together in different places in the world but with that sense of belonging together and being one in Christ.

With our love

Keith, Ida & Mubita