

Mission IN ZAMBIA

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Update...since we wrote at Christmas.

After Christmas Chipo and Luyando returned to school and Gina travelled to UK.

Having completed primary school in November the girls changed uniform, but not school and moved into Form 1 Secondary at Chengelo. They and their friends from year 7 (equals UK year 6) were joined by many more from different schools in Zambia. Chengelo has around 400 Students.

At the end of January, Gina travelled to the UK to do some necessary updating to ensure she can maintain her Nursing Status in the UK. She is also now registered as a General Nurse in Zambia.

In May and June, Malcolm was in UK. He enjoyed preaching in Northampton Circuit. Now in Zambia he is increasingly

involved in Chaplaincy and supporting others in the UCZ in their Chaplaincy work.

He also continues to offer technical support. This has taken him to various places including Masuku.. an old 'Mission Station' where he was Minister back in the 1980's. Water was a problem then... it remains a problem now. Despite numerous attempts to resolve it, the ever increasing population at the growing Secondary School and Clinic still exist most of the time without running water.

Gina returned to Zambia in time for her birthday and spent many hours catching up on paperwork in the office. It was also time for the twice yearly visits to the seven clinics and two hospitals.

We were soon setting off

Northward to Mbereshi and Lubwa. Leaving the capital Lusaka before sunrise we arrived at the lodge at 20.00 hours, having driven the last two hours in the dark. A journey of almost 1000km, most of it on roads which have many potholes.. sometimes more pot holes than tar! The next morning a drive of 40km onto Mbereshi for a Board meeting and to meet the local congregation*

... and then to the next destination Lubwa Mission staying over at Kasama...again driving the 362km over three hours in the dark on road, the tar broken by familiar potholes.

**more about that later*

Other Pages

Gina's work

Requests for prayer

The work continued.

The future & Our family

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The hospital management board.. outside new maternity unit and old Mission buildings



The road to Lubwa for over 100km



Two board meetings and some conversations...

Lubwa Mission is East of Kasama.. but there is no direct route so it is about 200km away. One option is to go further south on the tar/potholes and then head northward on the main road that goes to Tanzania. However as we discovered the next day, that is much less favourable than cutting across on the gravel (mud) road and using the pontoon to cross the Chambeshi River. A bumpy ride.. poor vehicle!

On arrival in Lubwa, as at Mbereshi, the key people are waiting to meet with Gina as UCZ Health Secretary: The Hospital Administrator, Government Health Official, The local Chief, The Presbytery Bishop and other local church leaders. Gina needs to ensure that both policy requirements are met and the standard of Medical practice are maintained and improved. All on a very limited budget. An impossible task! But God is good.

Meanwhile Malcolm meets with the hospital engineers and maintenance staff to talk about boreholes and water shortages... and what to do with theatre lighting that has failed due to power surges or low voltage.

*At Mbereshi, Malcolm talked with leaders of the local congregation to see if it possible to develop a partnership with a UK Methodist congregation.

We follow the Bishop as dusk comes to spend the night in a lodge in Mpika 170km away. That is when we discover that the large lorries transporting goods from Tanzania have turned the road into a mud bath, not least as it is the rainy season.

We are happy and tired when we reach home having travelled over 2000km. The next days are spent writing up the visit.. then comes the pondering: How can things move forward: What are the real priorities? Where can the funding come from to ensure adequate water? Will the planned local fundraising dinner help?

For Prayer

On the 7th day of each month in the UK Methodist handbook, people are invited to hold us in their prayers

Thanksgiving: Mbereshi Hospital held a fund raising dinner and dance at a hotel in Kawambwa. They are planning to use the money raised to refurbish the theatre which currently has not ceiling and a Brocken flooring surface. They also need to replace the air conditioning. Methodists for World Mission (MWM) gave a generous £2000 to help rebuild the condemned laundry at the hospital

2. At Lubwa Mission: That the vision of rebuilding much of the existing structure may be developed into a viable long term plan. That the existing structure which seems to have had its foundations undermined by termites, may continue to serve its purpose until funding for a new structure can be secured.

3 The Roads

May the government use its limited resources wisely in developing a road, rail and air infrastructure that helps the country to move forward in an economical and sustainable way.



Is the building safe to use with a crack like that? People have tried there best...

Zambia:

Zambia is centrally placed with the only access to the coastal ports being via road and rail connections. Everything reaching Zambia, with has to come via Road, Rail or Air.

The roads are often damaged by huge and heavy trucks (often with trailers) which is the most common way of transport within Zambia.

There is a rail line constructed in Colonial times on a 3ft gauge (much smaller than UK or European standard). This runs from South Africa to the Copperbelt in the North of Zambia. There is also a railway constructed by the Chinese to the Port of Dar-Es Salam in Tanzania. All rolling stock is in need of refurbishing/replacing and the rail lines likewise. There is now talk of a rail line passing through Angola and the DRC.

The population of Zambia is growing rapidly. It is now over 20 million. In the 1990's it was around 8 Million.

English is widely spoken and is the national lounge used in government. However there are over 70 local languages of the heart. Several of these are spoken widely.



... and some more journeys:

It seemed like no sooner we were back from the north than other journeys started.



Early one morning we travelled to the outskirts of Lusaka to meet a Dr Peggy from USA who was cycling from Egypt to South Africa... to raise money for Mwandu Hospital. A few weeks later she would be meeting Gina again over the operating table as Gina assisted in Theatre at Mwandu Hospital where our friends and college Mission Partners are based. One of Gina's tasks is to get the necessary clearance and permission for medical staff from other parts of the world.



Then there was the journey to the village to lay the gravestone for Gina's mum and dad. Although a sad occasion it was a joy to see Deaconess Maboloblo who worked with Malcolm when he was a Mission Partner years ago.



This happened whilst the twins were on holiday. We then took them to Mwandu Hospital and afterwards a few days holiday in Namibia.. where the cover picture was taken. Then another Board Meeting at Arthur Wina hospital and



Not forgetting the UCZ Synod Aerobics day in Lusaka...For Church members and Corporates. after the energetic movement and music we all took part in the running: Malcolm 400m and 800m and Gina and the girls 400m. We came away with awards. Luyando came first!

...and a word about our family and future.

We continue treasuring our time serving God. Over the years we have experienced many beginnings and ends. In 2015 our time in Moçambique came to an end likewise Birmingham in 2021/2022. Now we know that Gina's role as a Lay Mission Partner with the Methodist Church will end in August 2024. We knew this may happen...we just hoped that it wouldn't be so soon! We will always appreciate the Methodist Church for enabling and supporting us to serve the UCZ. Beyond 2024 the Methodist Church will not be supporting Mission Partners unless they are ordained ministers. Since the Methodist Conference ratified this decision, we have valued online conversation

with other Mission Partners. Amazing ZOOM!



The twins turned 12 recently. We went and stayed in a lodge close to them.. It was good to have family time and conversations about the future. These will continue in the months ahead as the Methodist Church Global Relationships let us know more as to how they will bring the program to the end in 2024. Luyando and Chipo clearly like being at Chengelo and it will be very sad if they need to leave the school.



It is has been great to hear that Judy has been offered a two year contract with ROCK UK having completed an outdoor pursuits apprenticeship with them. Andrew has begun his own business and now owns/manages a cafe in Malvern

FAMILY PHOTO'S

