

Mission

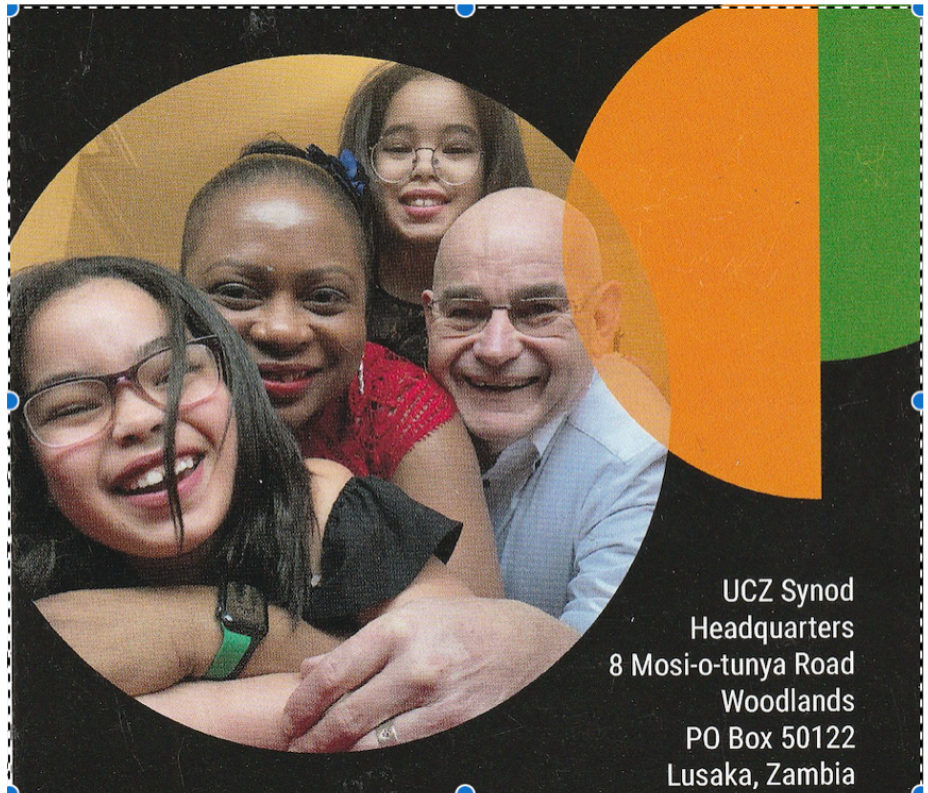
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NEWS FROM THE OLIVER FAMILY

Hello from Zambia!

Warm greetings from a hot and sunny Zambia. Andrew (Malcolm's son) arrived in time for his birthday on 5th October. They spent a few days together before going to pick up Luyando and Chipo for the week long half term break. The twins have settled in well and are enjoying their last term as primary Students. Chengelo school is around 200miles north from Lusaka where we live. It takes around five or six hours and some of the road is far from great!

Gina's work....

Before half term, Gina faced a long and arduous trip to the western part of Zambia. She joined a group of American volunteer doctors for a couple of days at one of the two major United Church of Zambia (UCZ) hospitals that form part of her work as the Health Secretary. She greatly enjoyed the clinical practice although not the journey to Mwandi hospital which

includes miles of road where it is necessary to travel alongside the broken up road... After treasuring time with Zambian and American clinicians, she journeyed north for a board meeting at Arthur Wina Clinic.. a round trip of around 1600 Km (almost 1000miles) a third of which is on road where there is more pot hole than tar!

Gina has been in the post of Health Secretary for over a year. She enjoys the variety and challenge of the work. A day can include meeting sometimes face to face and often on ZOOM with Synod officials (Synod Bishop, General Secretary, Presbytery bishops and Administrative Secretary) to visiting/contacting the Ministry of Health or CHAZ (Churches Health Association of Zambia) or the various hospital and clinic administrators and staff. Then there are six monthly board meetings at the two hospitals and seven clinics involving travelling north, south

east and west throughout Zambia. Normally she takes the car with the help of a Synod driver, sometimes she has flown. To enable her to maintain the hands on nursing that she loves, Gina has arranged to do some voluntary nursing at the University Teaching hospital. In February Gina will be in the UK to enable her to ensure she can attend the necessary courses, necessary for revalidation when the time comes.

Recently Gina organised a seminar/workshop in the Capital which the Administrators/ lead staff from all nine facilities attended. This was a great opportunity to engage in team building and enabling collaborative working. Guest speakers were invited to provide input relevant to encourage all the facilities to develop both clinically and structurally. The Synod Bishop also attended.



Travelling to pick the twins with our friend Neil ..Saying goodbye at Erdington and Goodbye July (Erdington)... and to Andrew in October (Kenneth Kaunda Airport)

Chipo and Luyando....

Our twin daughters Chipo and Luyando recently both took part in a musical production based on the bible story in Daniel and the fiery furnace. Luyando took the part of Abednego and Chipo along with seven others danced and sang representing the fiery furnace. It was great to be there with other parents and Gina's sister aunty Munyansa. We then took the twins camping around thirty miles away for the weekend.

...and Malcolm

On 31st August Malcolm formally 'sat down' (retired) as Superintendent of Birmingham Sutton Park Circuit. His farewell service was at the end of July and the next day he was flying south with his longstanding wonderful friend Neil to join Gina, Chipo and Luyando in Zambia. So the last weeks of his official Superintendency were conducted via ZOOM and WhatsApp from Zambia.

The Methodist Church, Global Relationships office have classed Malcolm as an 'Accompanying Volunteer' not a formal Mission Partner. Malcolm is very happy to have this flexibility.

Alongside Malcolm's calling to Ministry.. he also has experience and expertise in things related to mechanical engineering. He hopes to pursue these in his retirement. Malcolm was delighted therefore recently to join the technical person from the project department and a maintenance engineer from a UCZ Secondary school to explore how best to help Masuku Clinic and School improve their water supply. Malcolm has a real heart for Masuku not least as in the 1980's he was Consistory Chair (Superintendent) there.

A greatly appreciated visit...

We were greatly blessed by a visit from the recently appointed Partnership Coordinator for Africa Revd Dr Andrew Ashdown. We are so appreciative that Revd Andrew travelled with Gina to visit the two major hospitals and some of the smaller clinics. He was also able to meet with the General Secretary (Revd Dr Chipasha Musaba) and Malcolm to explore Malcolm's role within the UCZ. Malcolm of course is both a Methodist and UCZ minister having been ordained in Zambia in 1987.

For Prayer

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

- Continued wisdom for the leadership of the UCZ both locally and nationally as they seek to bring people to Jesus balanced with supporting some great healthcare and education work in partnership with the government.
- How best to make good use of resources available to the Health department so their impact is maximised.
- Daily wisdom for staff in UCZ hospital and clinics in balancing infrastructure maintenance and provision of clinical services.
- That those who have a financial security be open to share their wealth so that others may know the blessing of adequate health care.



Sports day in August at Chengelo School



The Synod Bishop (Revd Sydney Sichilima) with Hospital Administrators from all the nine UCZ Health facilities attending the workshop/seminar. Mission Partners Ida and Gina working together in Mwandia UCZ Hospital with American doctors and local staff...



A Prayer

Source of all love and goodness, we praise you, we adore you. Out of your love, you invite us to work in partnership with you, to bring healing and hope.

Gracious Lord, thank you for the way that you have called people to work in difficult and remote clinics and hospitals bringing healing and hope to those who have little or no material wealth.

Thank you that God's Spirit enables people to have resilience and fortitude.

Gracious Lord it is humbling to see smiles when underlying there is often considerable pain.

May fresh ways be found to support financially the clinical endeavours of people who have little or no money, yet have incredible commitment and skill.

May clinical staff have wisdom when, every day, decisions have to be made between maintenance and provision of life saving treatment.

In moments of sadness and despair, may we hold fast to the hope you give us and may we never cease to appreciate your goodness to us.

In Jesus name we pray with thanksgiving in our hearts.

Moving home...

Having lived at the old Synod headquarters for a year, we knew we had to move for there has long been a plan to redevelop the site which is close to the University Teaching hospital.

We have been blessed in finding accommodation in Kabulonga which is relatively close to the New Synod Office. It felt good to make home there as family and we are thankful we were able to choose it whilst the twins were on holiday.

Having been in our new home for just over a month.. it feels so good to have settled and have familiar things around us. Last week six barrels, two bikes and three suitcases, which left UK in July arrived safely at our door. Praise God ...everything intact.

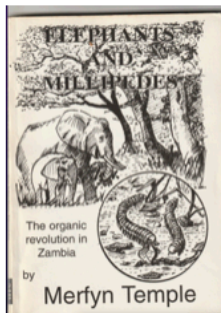
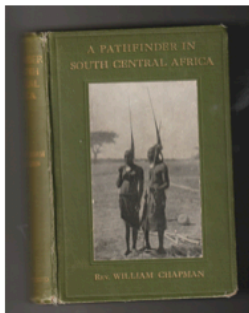
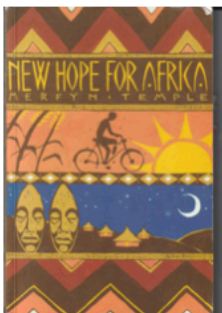
Appreciation

We are so appreciative to have the opportunity in serving God with the United Church of Zambia, supported by the generosity Methodist Church UK and the Church of Scotland. It is great to daily witness a country that manages to celebrate great diversity, treasuring different cultures, whilst at the same time avoiding division: One Zambia One Nation!

It has been great to spend time reading and learning some of the history of the country.. not least that written by past Methodists who lived in Zambia, pre and post 25th October 1964 when the UK granted Zambia its Independence. That is now 58 years ago. Many mistakes and wrongs have happened.. thankfully GOD IS GOOD. We look forward to sharing in Zambia's future! We also hold UK in our prayers in this time of transitioning Prime Minister's.



The United Church of Zambia manages two hospitals and seven clinics... mostly in the rural parts of Zambia as the **labels** show



Books old and new which we have been recently reading ..reminding us of the challenges Zambia faces not least due to the legacy of colonialism.



The Church of Scotland



Methodist Church



