

PARTNER PLAN

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Dear Family and Friends

**He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him
John1:10**

Professor Gus Spath, the US advisor on climate change, was saying recently that the top environmental problems are not really biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse or climate change but selfishness, greed and apathy and that Science does not have the answer and that a cultural and spiritual transformation is required to address these issues. Two related and serious environmental issues to hit Zambia recently was the disclosure that Zambia's deforestation rate is the leader regionally and the third highest in the world. This was followed by the Minister of Energy announcing in Parliament that Zambia was to start experiencing six-hour long power-cuts, following the worrying fall in water levels at the Kariba Dam. Most of Zambia's electricity comes from the hydro-stations.



While these matters are perturbing we would, nonetheless, like to express our deep gratitude for the generosity and faithfulness of our friends and partners in the United States. The Formula for Life Programme supplies infant milk powder for babies, who have lost their mother or who are unable to be breast-fed for some medical reason. This programme has been supported by First Presbyterian Church from Aiken in South Carolina for 13 years and in that time, \$400 000 has been raised. Over 750 children who otherwise would have struggled to thrive or survive, have been fed well for their first two years. We are grateful to other Churches who have also supported this programme.

Innocent, now 3 years old, came with Granny from 40km away to say thank you.

In late October we had another very busy week with the safe arrival of the Oxygen Plant /Generator. It had got stuck at the Namibian- Zambian Border but the Member of Parliament for Mwandu phoned the Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Health (MOH) and we managed to get the delayed forms sent to the Ministry of Finance to clear the container. The District Commissioner had asked Zesco to bring a crane to help unload but no crane was available. Ian, the owner of the Aroma Hardware Store in Mwandu, kindly lent us his truck. Simalaha Peace Parks also came with their tractor and pulled the oxygen plant out of the container and so the Namibian truck was released on time without demurrage. We then spent a whole day and into the night moving the plant from Ian's Truck onto a ramp that we had made using the old container jacks, rails, gum poles, with chains and blocks and tackle to slowly lower it. Then finally on the third day, again working into the late afternoon, we succeeded in manoeuvring the 3 tonne piece of equipment from the ramp and into its place to the Oxygen house. It was a massive and complex job, but good, local teamwork made it possible.



We are very grateful for this gift, which came through our old friend, Charles Newsome, from North Carolina. Having the ability to produce our own oxygen, will make such a difference to the Hospital and the community, in fact to all the surrounding Health Centres and Hospitals. Aiken, the Scottish Episcopal Church, Arthur Cox and Church of Scotland have all contributed towards the manifold, pipeline, the construction of the oxygen house and transport, to get us to where we are today.

Once more, our thanks to Dr Peggy Schrieber and her team who came to do surgeries from 3 to 11 October

PROCEDURE	TOTAL
Thyroidectomy	6
Hernia	12
Lipoma	3
Hydrocele	1
Oophorectomy	1
Hysterectomy	3
Keloids	3
Endoscopy/Colonoscopy	1
Misc	7
TOTAL	48
No of Patients seen	250
No seen and treated by Physician	174
No screened for surgery	76



The Surgeries cost the United Church of Zambia Mission Hospital and Church, K47,945.00 for medicine and extra cleaning materials. The American Team and other partners have helped to defray these substantial costs which are incurred, by offering this service at no cost to the patient and bringing donated medication and other consumables. We are not just grateful to the surgical team but to the Ministry of Health and the associated government department for their support for the UCZ in working to address and meet the health needs of the Zambian people and their significant contribution to these life-changing and successful procedures. This is very much appreciated.

Operating under the new lights courtesy of Hope Park , St Andrews.

In other good news, after 13 years of lobbying, the Ministry of Health has promised to deliver a digital X-ray machine. They have suddenly announced they will visit shortly to inspect the X-ray building in which the machine is to be placed. Unfortunately, the previous suite in the OPD is now not up to standard. We have the plans and the lead sheets, thanks again to Aiken, to construct a new suite rather than try to renovate the old one. This will begin once funds are sourced for this important building.



Ellie has continued to make good progress both socially and academically at Chengelo. She has improved her grades significantly over the year. Two major achievements were her coming first in the Rockridge Challenge, an 18km road race, that she chose to do by cycle. At the end of term prize-giving, Ellie was presented with the award for out-standing perseverance. She has completed her Bronze President's Award (DofE) this term and is working through the school's outside-education Rumdoodle Award. We drove to Mkushi and stayed overnight with Ian and Alison, former colleagues from

our time at Chengelo. We are grateful, too, to Gina and Malcolm, who often save us this journey by collecting Ellie with their twins and taking her back to Lusaka or dropping her off after holidays.

After we picked up Ellie from school, we proceeded to UCZ St Margaret's Congregation in Itezhi-tezhi where we were invited as guests of honour to attend the Reception and Induction Service of Rev Mutafela Siloba. We have known Rev Siloba and his family for many years, as they are from Mwandia. He served at Masuku for four years after College and so we saw him twice a year when we came for the school and clinic board meetings. We also attended his wedding in Kalomo earlier in the year



We came from Choma and enjoyed the good road to Namwala then drove on the more challenging embankment across the Kafue floodplain to the pontoon ferry. A well-graded gravel road took us through Zambeef ranching country to Itezhi-tezhi. We were welcomed and accommodated at Lakeside Lodge which sits on the hill overlooking the lake and has a magnificent view of the lake. It was formed by another dam and there is a hydro-electric station there too. At the Sunday service Keith delivered a message of encouragement to the Minister and those congregating for the event. It was a time of warm fellowship with friends and visitors from throughout the Presbytery, including the Presbytery Bishop and neighbouring clergy. We also met up with the Head of Njase and the wife of our Minister who is serving as Deputy Head at the same school.

Both Ellie and Mubita enjoyed this time as well; Ellie even met a great-aunt for the first time there!

As regards the Sheltered Workshop, we are beginning to build up a small stock of blocks that we can sell without having to make every individual order. The pullets have just started to lay and this week we have sold our first five trays of eggs. The fingerlings put in in October are beginning to grow as well.

We are looking forward to a break with the family here in Zambia over Christmas and the New Year. We will celebrate Christmas with Catriona and Will with Christmas Eve in their home and Christmas Day with Will's family. Ruairidh, Fiona and the girls are off to Thailand shortly to look at houses and schools in Chiang Mai where they hope to move to later next year. We hope to catch up with them when they return to Lusaka before New Year. The family in Scotland and Wales we will catch up with on Whatsapp.

We are reminded once more of the birth of Jesus, by the beautiful words of the prologue from the Gospel of John. John uses the image of Jesus as the lamb of God, someone meek, non-violent and sacrificial and we are taken back to a vulnerable child being born in a stable and laid in a manger because there was no other place for him or his parents. He is also portrayed by John as the lamb upon the throne, not some high and mighty, grasping materialistic leader the world is all too familiar with. It is lamb we look to on the road we follow in the midst of all the conflicts, violence, blunders and rapacity we still see around us.

With our love

Keith, Ida & Mubita

