

Glen Lund – Zambia

April 2011

UCZ Theological College,
PO Box 20429,
Kitwe.
Zambia.

Phone: +260212210160
Redhair.community@googlemail.com

Tropical greetings to all. You have in your possession the first Lund family newsletter from Northern Zambia. It is nearly 11 years since we were last in Africa, then working alongside the Anglican church of Northern Uganda. After a year of intense preparations our desire of returning to Africa teaching theology in partnership with the Church of Scotland has been fulfilled. On the 13th of January we left Shropshire bound for Kitwe where we have taken up life as mission partners at the United Church of Zambia theological college. Seventeen hours later, grimey and exhausted, we were warmly welcomed by two colleagues at Ndola airport. An hour or so later we arrived to further friendly welcomes and a delicious cooked meal at our new home opposite the college on the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation campus. Unpacking, a wash and some sleep soon followed.

Glen here: I am involved full-time at the college as a biblical studies lecturer and I am also currently the acting head librarian. This means that I oversee the work of the library, not just borrow and read the books(!), as well as manage the computing resources of the institution. These have so far proved to be enjoyable and rewarding responsibilities. I am particularly proud of the progress that has been made on the network and internet facilities at the college. When we arrived the internet was rather irregular and unreliable. It is now dependable and pleasant to use (most of the time.)

Somewhere between Britain and Zambia I was transformed from an Australian New Testament scholar into a Scottish Old Testament one. Consequently, I have started out this semester with one class about the prophetic books of Israel. There are nine second year degree students taking the class, most of whom are training to be ministers in the United Church of Zambia. Next semester holds plenty of New Testament teaching in store as my true area of study has been uncovered and the college has no other New Testament specialist.



**Julu demonstrating how to eat local cuisine
(the black variety are the tastiest)**

Before then I have a three day course with the appropriately named intensive students. These are students who cover thirteen weeks worth of course lectures in 3 days. It is an intense experience for lecturers and students alike but is a good source of revenue for the college and gives some students the opportunity to study theology who would not be able to do so otherwise.

The college currently has 34 students of mixed ages and gender. The majority of students are ministerial candidates for the United Church of Zambia but there are also a significant number of deacons,



Kathleen and Jayden in the library. What has Daddy done with all the readers?

social workers and theologians in training. Most college days begin at 6.45am with a chapel service lead by one of the students. These are usually high quality, uplifting times of communal worship. This is followed by classes or office work until 1.00pm. In the afternoons there are varied activities from sports and college maintenance through to preaching clinics and tutorial groups.

I am working hard on my image as a nutty professor through a quirky sense of humour and original alerting activities that I use to break up my two and a half hour block of teaching. The work load of teaching at the UCZTC is spread between a dozen or so lecturers. About half of these are full-time academic staff at the college. The remainder are retired or are currently engaged full-time in parish ministry. They only teach a course here and there, but their contribution to the college is invaluable.

For leisure I have prowled the streets of Kitwe, seeking items and services to help us settle in. On weekends, I have been gaming with the children and friends. Recently I have been going to Deepak's and Kiran's house (Indian colleagues) to watch the cricket world cup. Australia is to meet India in the quarter final so there should be some friendly banter in the next few days.

From Wendy: A week into our stay here, we thought it best to establish our routine and began working with the Sonlight materials that were here for us. Our official learning time ranges from 7am to 12.30, sometimes into the afternoon. Julu is fairly self motivated, just needing prods now and then to stretch himself. I work with Taliesin and Tsunami, sometimes Kathleen. They have been pretty well motivated up to now, helped by the afternoon quotas of Golden Time, awarded according to attitude and application in the morning. Exceptional effort even earns extra time.

We've encountered a few obstacles. Some of our materials, e.g. microscope, are delayed in the shipping and it took two months to gain internet (yet to be reliable at home) which is required for the learning materials. I'm enjoying the materials too.

Kathleen is still plagued by more active epilepsy. We have been blessed by the willingness of her previous neurologist to advise when necessary. It is also a blessing that we have found a delightful girl, the daughter of a Special Needs educator, to spend a few hours each day with K while I'm with the two Ts and running the household. The latter does my head in!

Aside from our four, there are often at least six others who desire my immediate presence. At least I don't feel unwanted, though I do lose my rag occasionally.

Taliesin and Julu are experts, well trained by Glen, in calming me down "Would you like a cup of herb tea? Put on some classical music. Sit here and don't move!"

U CZ gave us a largish house and land in the midst of various families. It's great and provides shelter for us when we need it from all the attention.

We have intermittent running water from the attractive campus dam, less intermittent electricity, a telephone, very unsatisfactory internet so far and a cute, chewy puppy. We didn't have trouble with these amenities in our seven previous rural African years as we didn't have them, bar the dog. They can be useful though.

We wrote a longer letter describing our surroundings. Request if you would like it.

Joy! Our musical instruments arrived safely (piano not yet). We performed Yellow Submarine and Hava Nagila in ensemble: Julu - guitar, Taliesin - recorder, Tsunami - cello and me - violin/voice. Tsunami and I enjoy music making with local students on Wednesdays.

We have visited some churches around us and have yet to choose where to settle. Christian fellowship is great and all around us.

Younger Lunds pointing to a famous landmark opposite our house

