



UPDATE from MUTARE

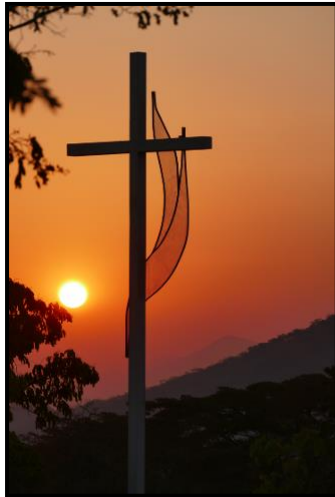


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**You crown the Year with Your goodness,
and Your paths drip with abundance.
Psalm 65:11**

Newsletter
Vol. 34, No. 4
Nov 2020

Dear friends and family,



An evening climb to the cross on the hill, an impressive backdrop to Africa University. We watch swallows circle as the sun sets, leaving an orange glow in the sky. A solitary student sings an old English hymn in Portuguese. We greet him and find our own spot to enjoy the tranquillity.



Attending a fund raiser recently for a new fence for a pastor's house, I was reminded of school 'lunchbox' days. The lunchboxes my children took to school were often unimaginative compared to the delicious, exotic, spicy lunches of other students! Worse still, they were sometimes – well, embarrassing – carrot sticks and left-overs!



Carrying Lunch Boxes to the University Dining Hall.

A full lunchbox reminds me of the boy who took his loaves and fish to Jesus, and so helped to feed thousands. Offering 'lunchbox' gifts to be multiplied and used to change the lives of others is exciting.



Thanksgiving and Christmas are like orange, red, and green lunch boxes filled with abundance and thankfulness to share. '**You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance**' has long been one of my favourite Thanksgiving verses.

THANK YOU for all your support these past months. Since our plans to visit churches this year were canceled due to covid-19, we have enjoyed our online meetings with some of you, getting acquainted or reacquainted, sharing news from Zimbabwe, and hearing yours. Thank you for your giving, prayers and encouragement, all of which make ministry possible.



Even after months, it still seems incredible to be meeting online with students living in different countries so that teaching and learning takes place in this (hopefully) stop-gap measure to keep Africa University investing in the lives of young people and the future of the continent.

Stressful as it might be, there are times when humour lightens the task:

Larry: "..... if the meat chickens grow too fast, they may die from heart attacks".

Student: ".....You were talking about chickens being heart-broken?"



Our English class lists over 50 students. Not all are able to join for daily lessons very easily. Some students in the group from Ivory Coast walk a significant distance every day so that they can connect on their phones. Our lessons are interspersed with 'sounds of Africa'.

- a rooster crowing
- a tropical storm tipping rain on a tin roof
- dancing to a distant African rhythm
- family members peering into the screen and sending their greetings

In line with government policies, AU might reopen face to face classes in January. At present there are very few Covid 19 cases in Zimbabwe so borders are open again.



Larry's planned retirement from the Mission Board is now a reality, but he continues as a volunteer, enjoying his two Agriculture classes despite the challenges of online instruction. He smiles when he thinks of how the Farm Manager and his staff have kept the university farm going despite covid-19, and just finished a record wheat harvest- thanks to hard work... and investments in irrigation equipment.



We would love to be involved in your in-person or online end-of-year services and gatherings. Please let us know if you would like us to send:

- a pre-recorded Bible reading by one of us
- a pre-recorded 'Children's Time'
- a recorded presentation, sharing our (yours and ours) ministry at Africa University.
- a 2-minute video of Daniel Kazadi, an Africa University student sharing his experiences at AU and his dreams for the future.

We also ask that you consider

- continuing support in my role as English teacher.
(**Advance Special number: 107392**)
- Providing scholarship support for a student: (**Advance Special: 3021028**)

FAMILY NEWS

We are grateful that our kids are all well. In October, when my mother died suddenly in England, Covid-19 prevented me and my sisters from traveling for a funeral. Thankfully a Zoom memorial service allowed us to share a farewell with my sisters, our kids, and others.



We wish each one of you a blessed Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. The future seems complicated, but we know we are held secure in the Hands of the One who walks with us in green pastures, beside still waters and in the shadowed valleys. We do not walk alone.

Yours and His,
Jane and Larry Kies

Please Pray with Us

- thanksgiving for the low incidence of Covid 19 cases in Zimbabwe
- prayer for people in parts of the world badly affected by the pandemic
- a spirit of thanksgiving and generosity during this special season