

Update from Mutare

Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again, I say, Rejoice!! Phil 4:4

March 2023

Dear friends and family,

For the first time in nearly forty years, we did not send out a Christmas newsletter. We certainly enjoyed receiving many- if yours was one, Thank you!!! We are thankful that we can still keep up with each other even when we might not see each other regularly.

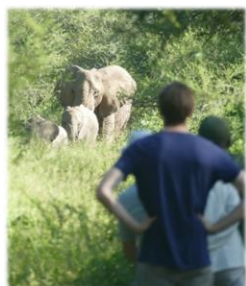
The failure to send a Christmas newsletter was not for lack of news- quite the opposite!

We spent most of the last six weeks of 2022 in Australia helping Carly celebrate her marriage to Brodie. The time was very special, with our whole family joining us, including a camping 'familymoon' on the Sunshine Coast as well as Christmas Day with Brodie's family near Brisbane. Larry's sister Mona and her husband, Rick, also made the long journey, and ended up returning to Iowa on what turned out to be their longest Christmas Day ever.



Michael Ben Ada Brodie Carly Jane Larry Pule Christine

Shortly after returning to Zimbabwe, we were told that we were given a two-year extension to our Residence Permit. Not the same as Permanent Residence, but at least we can postpone once more the answer to the question, 'When you are finished teaching at Africa University, where will you retire???'



In January, as part of their honeymoon, Carly and Brodie came so that Brodie could have a better understanding of how Carly grew up. As a family with the kids growing up, we had enjoyed many a trip to the parks. Our weekend in the bush with the newlyweds didn't disappoint as we had a number of close encounters with wildlife.



We are both happy and thankful to have the opportunity to remain at AU working with young people and Investing in Africa's Future.

Jane has a light load of remedial Intensive English two afternoons a week with a small class of students eager to engage in conversational English.



Larry's first year Ag students spend a significant amount of lab time on the AU farm learning how to care for livestock. For some this presents unexpected challenges. Here Audrey is being helped to overcome her fear of holding a day-old chick. Second-year Crop Production student Tainara was very proud of her pumpkin patch harvest.



We both love to walk. During the weeks when the students are on early-morning duty at the AU Farm we have been getting our brisk 40-minute walk (we live on campus) so that we can check on them... and encourage them.

The students in the pictures are not all on scholarship. We know that those who do come on scholarship are only able to be here because of the generous gifts of many who will never themselves experience the excitement of watching piglets being born, hens laying eggs, cows giving their creamy milk.....experiences that help equip the students with the skills and confidence to grow more food for a continent with a growing population.



In February we spent almost a week celebrating Larry's 70th birthday with students and friends. LOTS of cake and laughter. Three eight-year-old girls in our campus housing group sang the Happy Birthday song to him. During the



song, he responded to their question with 'Jane is my girlfriend' whereupon they continued with 'We Wish you many more!' He told them that he is quite satisfied with Jane!

May this Lenten period be a time of reflection for you, leading to a joyful Easter!!!

Jane and Larry Kies

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<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/3021028/>

The Farm Development Fund: For current projects:
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