



UPDATE

from

MUTARE



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**I am doing a new thing. I have already begun.
 do you not see it? I will make streams in the
 wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah**

Newsletter
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Dear friends and family,

If you had to 'bring to the table' something that represents who you are or where you are or what you do, what would that be? Or if it had to tell a story about what matters most to you, what would you say?

Larry brought a whiteboard marker together with a number of former Africa University students (though these he could not actually put on the table!) "Living letters" he called them. I 'brought' our son Michael to represent all children growing up in a different culture who most likely have to adjust to another one in later years.

Others brought a diary with all their weekly appointments, or a compass or a cross made from some special wood. Someone else brought a Moringa plant - that nutritious wonder plant that is helping to feed so many people in a community.

This was something we were asked to do when Larry, Michael and I recently had the amazing opportunity to go to Johannesburg and participate in a gathering of missionaries from all over Africa. Africa is so huge, each country having its unique culture, richness and challenge, and you can imagine many interesting things were brought to that table.

During this Easter season - we remember that some simple things were brought to another kind of table at a farewell supper. Bread and wine. Jesus showed them to his friends and told them that they represented his love and sacrifice of his life for them - and not just for them, but for those who came after them. Just as it inspired me to see other missionaries bringing something so meaningful and personal

to the table, so it makes me grateful that Jesus gave so much for me.

New assignments

There will be many new experiences for us in the year ahead as we prepare to leave Zimbabwe in mid-May for six months of 'Home Assignment'. We feel a little overwhelmed as we consider all the travelling, and less predictable routine in our days, but look forward to catching up with family and friends, visiting churches we have known for some time, and making new friends in churches that we have only started to get to know.

We pray we can bring you new and fresh news from Zimbabwe as we speak about this country we love, and the university which has been our home these past 15 years. We would like to be those "living letters" that the apostle Paul mentions as he talks to the church...

Something new for our students

Its long been our dream in the Intensive English program to start a language lab for our students.... somewhere they can practice



English by themselves. Thanks to money given recently, we now have 4 learning stations set up in the University

library with computers installed with a popular language program, Rosetta Stone. We are so grateful.

Something new on the AU farm

We are expecting the arrival any day of a new 65-hp tractor which Planting Hope International (in Kansas) very generously provided enough funds to



purchase. Thanks to all who responded generously to our request for help...we are in the process of deciding how to use the gifts, as well as what to target for the next development of the farm.

A shot of a student with part of her harvest substituting for the tractor still on the way.

Something new in our family

Michael will be coming back with us in May and staying to finish high school in Iowa. The first of our kids to choose this option. This has not been an easy decision, but one that has been made with prayer, and will involve some major adjustment both for Michael and parents! On another note, (pun intended)- ha ha, he and his friends recently won an award for their performance on marimbas.

Carly spent her spring break (from Emory University) in New Orleans with a group of students teaching entrepreneurial skills to 4th graders and putting up playground equipment. She will spend the summer at Badlands National Park with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks.

Pule is looking forward to the end of winter in Fargo.

We will have a weekend with **Ben** in New York on our way from Zimbabwe to Iowa. YEEAH!.

Please pray

- a prayer of thanks that our Zimbabwe residence permit has been renewed for TWO years instead of the usual ONE.
- for us as we travel and speak...that we be exciting 'living letters' with energy, good health, and a clear message

The rough outline for our travels is:

Mid-May- leave Zimbabwe

June 5- attend the Iowa Annual Conference

June 12-20- Illinois Great Rivers

June 23 begin speaking in Iowa churches *when not out-of-state;*

July 12-28- Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania

Aug 4-7 Wisconsin

Aug 8-15 Northern Illinois

Sep 11- Wichita, Kansas

Sept 12- Lincoln, Nebraska

Oct 15- Vancouver WA

Oct 18-25 California/Nevada

Oct 26 Lake Havasu City, AZ

Nov 10- Begin the return journey to Zimbabwe via Atlanta

In Iowa and Illinois our schedules will be coordinated by conference mission/itineration secretaries. In all other states we will make arrangements directly with churches that we will visit. We have juggled many commitments, and apologize in advance if we don't see you.!

Our schedule is still in the process of being confirmed... please check our Facebook page (Larry and Jane Kies church visits 2016) for updates.

Our contact details will be:

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We hope to see you!!!

Yours and His,
Larry and Jane Kies

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