



Mwana News - August 2021

"But God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" Romans 5 v8

As the third wave of the pandemic continues in Zambia and other countries around the world, I have recently been reflecting on the many health care workers that have sadly died in the line of duty. No one would choose to give their life to the virus, but there is a Father who was willing to give His only son to die for sick people, sick from the sin virus! A much more deadly virus than covid! "God loves you" can sometimes feel like an empty cliché, but if we could truly grasp how much the Father loves us, we would never dare to doubt or fear. I pray that as you read this today you will be comforted with the immense love the Father has for you and how much He longs for you to draw near to Him.

At present our church is meeting online and although the internet is amazing, it can never fully meet the need for true physical connection, especially with the body of Christ. I'm hearing of lives changed by the Lord during the pandemic and also others who have fallen away. Hebrews encourages us "to not give up meeting together", an important reminder for us, as becoming disconnected from the body of Christ is potentially a greater danger to our eternal destiny than the virus could be to our bodies.



Prior to the third wave, we had started a new venture taking Mwana Mission into the schools on a weekly basis. We have purchased four portable PA systems that are stationed in the four communities where we are working: Chipata, Kalingalinga, Chazanga and Ngombe. The PA system along with the puppet stage, puppets, music player and other equipment will allow the volunteers to repeat the weekly programme in more schools. Unfortunately we had only started work in 5 schools before the schools closed in June. We look forward to the schools reopening in September, when we will be able to properly roll out the new vision for our schools outreach.



Omega School, Ngombe

School closures have been very detrimental to many children, as online learning is only an option for the privileged few in Zambia. In Lusaka, many children have been sent back to other family members who live in the rural areas. This puts them at risk of never returning to schools, particularly the girls who are commonly forced into marriage.

The Zambian education system is struggling with very low ratio of teachers to the numbers of children, poorly equipped classrooms with no text books, a 50 year old curriculum and outdated teaching techniques that leave many children bored and distracted. I find it heart-breaking sitting with 12 year old children who can't read! Zambia has many problems but unfortunately the education system is one of the biggest challenges. This is one of the reasons why we have chosen to home-school Kimberly and Daniel in our micro-school; The Learning Studio. In September when we open for the new term we will have 9 children. Please watch the link below to see a recent update on Mwana and the school.

<https://youtu.be/1CmzhjR51dc>

In my April newsletter, I wrote about the desperate situation Mercy and her family were facing. I am so happy to report to you that in the last minute we were able to pay off the debt and rescue the house. There remains some legal issues to be resolved but the family will not lose their home. I thank God for those who helped us to restore the family home. God is faithful! It was also a comfort to Mercy as this has been her final year at school and the added stress of the situation was not helpful for sitting important exams.

Levy, our student nurse has successfully passed his second year exams and enters into his third year.





Jones Musonda who we supported through 4 years of nursing, has his first job in a remote village within Luwanga District of Zambia. He does the job of the nurse, midwife, pharmacist and cleaner and makes decisions way beyond his nursing training since the nearest hospital is 300km away. The local people call him Doctor since they see all male nurses as doctors. We thank God for the opportunity to help Jones get to where he is and we look forward to see what God has for him in the future.

All of the Mwana Action children have been affected in their studies due to covid, so we pray for them that they will catch up soon, especially those sitting exams this year. Here is a list of their names and grades:

Zambia

Levy Chilola	Third Year Nursing Degree
Mercy Kabunda	Grade 12 Final year exams
Daliso Sakala	Grade 12 Final year exams
Dina Mukomba	Grade 11
Bongani Moyo	Grade 10
Kenneth Mwaanga	Grade 10
Elizabeth Chisanga	Grade 10
Nathan Kabunda	Grade 0

Zimbabwe

Adeola Maponga	Form 6 - A level
Tawanda Maponga	Form 4
Tanya Zvimba	Form 3
Moreblessings	Form 5 - A level

When the first vaccines arrived in Zambia it was advised that the vulnerable should go first for their vaccine. However the uptake was very slow and so they made vaccines available to everyone. I was glad to be in the first 150,000 to be vaccinated with astrazeneca. Now the third wave hit and cases and deaths have been much worse, resulting in a greater uptake of the vaccine. Sadly, its going to take a long time for people's minds to fully change on the dangers of the vaccine which may mean the restrictions on our freedom will remain for much longer.

This week Zambia has a general election. I am asking kindly for your prayers during this tense time, particularly for justice and righteousness to prevail. Thank you.

It has been 2½ years since we were in Scotland, much longer than we have ever been away from my family. Kimberly and Daniel only remember their grandparents, aunties, uncles and cousins from zoom calls and photos. We are really praying the restrictions will change to allow us to come home soon.

A massive thank you to all who continue to generously support us in prayer and in finances. God bless you all.

Love

Janey, Evans, Daniel and Kimberly