

Andrew & Lyn Ramsey January 2010 Update

Dear friends,

New Year greetings from Ndola, as we start 2010 and also a new decade!

TWO MORE GRANDCHILDREN! - December has been very eventful, with two conferences, Christmas and two more grandchildren arriving! Our foster-daughter Alecia gave birth to Anna Sophia on 14 Dec, while Chris (our eldest) and Elaine welcomed Eva Mae into the world on 28 Dec. We now have 3 grandsons and 6 granddaughters - 2 more and it's a football team! It's hard being so far away at this time - but we will hopefully catch up with them all in 6 weeks - see below.

CHRISTMAS - We ended up having a quiet Christmas. An American gap-year student was coming to share our festive meal, but she had to cancel, so we celebrated on our own and enjoyed it - a hearty feast, complete with crackers and party hats! In 40 years of marriage, we reckon this is the first such occasion, so it was very special! Andrew preached at the short morning service, which was led very well by our brother **Danny**, who has been taking on a lot of pastoral responsibility since he graduated from Bible College last July.



YOUTH CONFERENCE - This went very well indeed over the first weekend in December, with about 100 young people 'camping' at the Itawa church and about 50 others coming in on a daily basis. **Danny** and **Ziso** made a powerful partnership in directing proceedings. At the last session, on the Sunday morning, **Ziso** spoke with his usual emphasis on evangelism. He showed photos of local young people at barbecues that had been put on with an outreach purpose. Some of the youth now in the church had been 'saved by meat' - being attracted by the



barbecue and then finding Christ! On the Saturday afternoon, instead of the games and sports that one might have expected, all the young people had gone to the local marketplace to do personal evangelism - a challenge to us all. After the Conference, **Ziso and Nicki**, Zach and Zoe went to UK for a 2-month break, based mainly in N Ireland . They have arranged to visit our home church in Preston at the end of January.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - The weekend following the Youth Conference, about 50 women from a number of Elim churches in Zambia met together at the Boys' Brigade Centre just outside Ndola . The meetings were challenging and our theme, 'Raising the Standards,' came over well - it's not about better lifestyles and material possessions, but higher levels of spiritual commitment and holiness. **Pastor Agnes** encouraged us all to join forces and be powerful for God. We elected a new Executive Committee, with a new National Chairlady, but **Agnes** will keep at the forefront of the ladies' work and also continue to look after her little flock at Chifubu.

OLD PEOPLE'S HOME - The Chifubu church now has its own little church building, complete with metal roof, standing in a very large plot. The setting is peaceful and it was decided that this would be the ideal place for the Old People's Hostel to be built. There have been the usual frustrating delays with obtaining planning permission from the Council, but soon we hope that work will commence on the foundations for this building.

NEW YEAR - Our church put on its usual 'overnight' meeting on New Year's Eve. After a very late start, the event went really well, with an emphasis on praise and thanksgiving. The majority of those attending were young

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people, who wanted lots of singing and dancing! **Danny**, the convenor, did a very good job, although he kept making us stand up, to counteract an increasing tendency to doze off! After the countdown to the New Year, there was a time of exuberant praise and greeting one another, then tea and cakes to keep us going until 5am. Andrew gave his 'little word' at 1.15am! We looked back with thankfulness and ahead with new resolve and commitment. Personally speaking, we thank God for so many blessings in 2009 - safe travel, an excellent furlough, special holiday, good health and healing, three new grandchildren - and much, much more!



BIBLE SCHOOL - Andrew and I are very busy preparing courses for our new Distance Learning programme. As 'course series editor' - plus having Contact magazine to edit each month, I'm kept busy. (I'm the checker of spelling, punctuation, grammar and overall consistency in the courses!) Andrew is adapting earlier courses, adding questions to help the students do their own studies **Pastor Chelu** are also working on courses. **Pastor Chelu** keeps faithful with his ministry of 'prayer warrior' and he's the one people go to with their personal problems, as he is always ready with a listening ear and good biblical counsel. (**Ziso** has taken some of our first Distance Learning courses to start working on during his current break! **Agnes** would love to do the Diploma level course at some point.)



VISIT TO UK - We have been taking our annual month's leave in UK, thanks to God's provision for flight costs through our rented-out house in UK. We have just booked our next break from 15 Feb to 24 Mar 2010. We are not planning to do any itineraries as such during this short period, but Andrew in particular would be happy to consider visiting churches for ministry where time allows. (You can imagine what my preoccupation will be!) Do email us if you are interested.

HOUSE SALE - While on furlough earlier this year, we had the idea of selling our house, just south of Preston, and buying our daughter's more central house. This will be better for our retirement in 3 years. It has enabled our daughter to move, too. Things are working out very well - we may even get to stay in our 'new house' during our Feb/Mar break. We are so grateful to God for His loving care and provision in countless ways over all our years of missionary service.

We send our love, with best wishes for the year ahead,

Andrew & Lyn