

Ramsey October Update



Dear friends,

Greetings from a very hot, steamy Ndola! It's October - our hottest, most humid and tiring month, so we have invested in two more electric fans!

NEW GRANDCHILD – Our grandchild no 7 has just arrived! Hazel had been booked for a Caesarean section on 28th Sep, so we were ready and waiting for the news. Isla Grace Maltby was born just before midday, a beautiful little sister for Daniel (4) and Hannah (2). How we thank God for His goodness! Two more grandchildren are expected in December: Chris and Elaine are pretty sure that Grace (3) will have a little sister, while Alecia and Mark are excitedly awaiting their first baby. Phil and Clare have Joshua (5) and Amélie (almost 1); Donna and Pete have Jack (21 months). So we should have nine grandchildren by the New Year - what a challenge to keep up with them all!

CHURCH CONFERENCE – Going back a month now, the National Conference of Elim-Zambia was a very rewarding weekend, with about 150 people camping out at the church. Our theme was, 'It's time for Spiritual Awakening' and this was emphasized throughout. PASTOR CHELU was in charge of special times of prayer and intercession. New churches were recognised in Lusaka and Livingstone; others brought encouraging reports of growth and building projects. We were amazed at the large proportion of young people and children at the Conference. ZISO & NICKI had some good times of interaction with them. Planning has begun for a special Youth Conference in December.

CONGO AUDIT TRIP – On 2nd Sep we set off at 8.15am in a taxi bound for the Congo border at Kasumbalesa. We walked across –

bombarded by what seemed like hordes of young men desperate to help us with our baggage and formalities – and then, after our passports were duly stamped, we found David and Julie Gaze waiting for us in their Land Rover on the Congo side. We were in their home in Lubumbashi by 3pm - the journey had been a success. We had managed to take with us a special cake to celebrate our ruby wedding (40 years) on 6th September, a Sunday. On this evening we had a joint meal with our fellow-missionaries in Congo and shared the delicious cake that a member of our church had made for us.

While we were there, the weather became stifling hot. Windows had to be kept open, bringing in clouds of thick orange dust – Lubumbashi seems like a dustbowl in the late dry season, as so much of it is broken tarmac or dirt roads. Andrew ploughed through the CAM-Congo accounts to do the annual audit. I helped with some cross-checking of figures, but was always relieved to get back to my editing! I finished most of the work on November CONTACT in Lubumbashi. We managed to fit in some talks with the other missionaries. They are experiencing some 'teething troubles' as new missionaries settle in and find their place.

POWER CUTS - Nick & Kym Delpport brought us back to Ndola on Friday, 18 Sep and stayed the weekend with us. They needed to collect some personal goods and other items in Zambia, so that made the journey easier for us. We arrived home to a power cut - how annoying and humbling after all our boasts about 'civilised Zambia'! Apparently, a turbine had burnt out at a power station, major repairs were underway, and houses were taking turns at being cut off for a few hours. However, there'd been another problem here, causing the power to the appliances to stay off for days. Our fridge-freezer was totally defrosted and food had to be thrown away. (We'd just locked the house this time, leaving no house-sitter.) On Fri, Sat and Sun evenings, we had our turn without power and used our paraffin stove and candles. Of course, this was 'home from home' for the Delpports, as they are used to frequent power cuts in Lubumbashi!

NSOBE RETREAT – We spent the last weekend of September at Nsobe Camp, at the invitation of Ndola Christian Fellowship (NCF), the expat church. Our friends encouraged us to relax, which we were happy to do, as we were very tired after the Congo audit trip and then looking after the Delpports. The NCF

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leaders housed us in a very comfortable safari tent, like last year. (We wish we could spend each night of the hot season there, as it is beautifully cool at night!) There were some fun activities. Those that we joined in only served to confirm to us how very unfit we are!! Andrew, who is looked up to as a kind of father figure/chaplain by NCF, didn't have to minister, but he did have some good talks with the leaders and on the Sunday had the joy of baptising a South African couple in the swimming pool!

ALPHA COURSE – We've been asked to help with the 'Holy Spirit Weekend' on 9-10 October, as part of the Alpha Course currently being run by NCF. We are joining with them on the next two Weds evenings in preparation for that, so we can get to know the people who are on the course. We really enjoy helping in this way, and as the evening's activities start with a meal, this is a bonus!

BIBLE SCHOOL – Last week we had a day of prayer and fasting for guidance regarding the future of Elim Ministerial College. This was led by DANNY KAMAWE, who has just graduated from Trans-Africa Bible College in Kitwe. It was a very encouraging time of praise, prayer and discussion. We realised that many people are keen to study the Bible and be better equipped for their ministry, but they cannot abandon their families for long periods during these days of financial hardship. Many also are needed by their churches. This partly explains the poor turn-out for the residential course. We had a follow-up meeting this week and we are now looking at adapting our current courses to allow for distance learning as well as having some intensive weeks at the Bible School as

part of the programme. We need God's wisdom and guidance as we move forward in this new direction. DANNY is interviewing potential students.

CHIFUBU CHURCH – Yesterday (Sun) morning was a great day of celebration at Chifubu compound of Ndola. It was the first Sunday meeting in the new Elim church building. No more renting classrooms, hopefully! They had rigged up a bright orange tarpaulin as a temporary roof, borrowed some benches and made the inside welcoming with a carpet, blue curtains on the front wall, a lace tablecloth, flowers, etc. Andrew had been asked to preach on this special occasion and I led the Communion that followed. Mapalo church was supporting and there were over 60 people there. Pastor AGNES was thrilled with everything. It was good to see her husband Michael looking much better and able to help with some of the work. Chifubu church has a very large plot and we are now looking into the possibility of building the old people's home on this site – an ideal peaceful location.

RACHEL MAGOWAN – Our latest visitor arrived on the flight from Lusaka at about 8.30am on 29 Sep. Rachel, 22, has come out from the Armagh Elim church in Northern Ireland for five weeks – the church which sent us the team to build the preschool 3 years ago. Rachel is keen to help with children's and youth work. She has enjoyed the first week of her 5-week visit, spending some mornings helping at our church pre-school and also joining ZISO & NICKI for some of their activities. This afternoon, for example, she went with them to a children's outreach meeting, with a prepared talk to give. She's also enjoying meeting our colleagues and co-workers and getting to know some of the church youth. She is surviving the extreme heat very well – but our drinking water seems to be disappearing amazingly fast these days!

We send our loving wishes to you all,

Andrew & Lyn