

Ramsey September Update

Dear all,

Greetings from Ndola! This newsletter is somewhat overdue, as we have been extremely busy recently... (it's also getting very HOT now!)

HECTIC SIX WEEKS – It's funny how one has relatively quiet periods in life and then everything seems to crowd together. From 20 July until early September we have had four major events coming close together – the CAM-Congo audit in Lubumbashi (8 days away from home), the CAM Field Conference (6 days away), our own Church Conference (long weekend), and the 2-week visit of our team from Preston. Quite a lot to think about!



CAM CONFERENCE – We are pleased with the way this went. Organising things was quite tough, especially Thu 5 Aug - the starting day. Andrew and I had the perishable foods to buy, three lots of people to meet at the airport, our own packing to finish... and we needed to be at the Conference venue early, to show people around as they arrived! Fortunately, MMM, the Vocational Training College where the Conference was held, is only 15 mins drive from our house, so we could go to and fro. Some of our Congo missionaries helped by meeting those arriving at the airport and bringing them to our house.

The 18 of us (missionaries from Congo, Zambia and Mozambique and Home End representatives from UK) were lodged in four guest houses, which MMM uses for visiting teams. The largest one has a good-size dining room adjoining the kitchen. Here Becs, a friend from the expat church, cooked our main meals at lunchtime and we all ate together at two long tables. The evening meals were also eaten here - self-catering, but usually involving leftovers from midday! We ate breakfast in our separate houses and all our meetings were held in two lounges, keeping an informal atmosphere. There was a lovely sense of family and unity throughout the Conference.

CHURCH CONFERENCE (19-22 Aug) – This was also very good. About 250 people stayed on site for 2 or 3 nights. The Conference theme was 'Let Love Loose' and this was linked with teaching on evangelism and also prophecy - very helpful guidelines re independent, unaccountable prophets, who charge money for their 'prophecies' and cause distress in the churches.

PRESTON CHURCH TEAM – They arrived at midday on Sat 21 Aug, in the middle of our Church Conference, with all their luggage intact – including two guitars and a saxophone. In the team were brothers Samson and Simon James, in their early 30s, both married with children (Samson leads the worship team in Preston, Simon is a church elder); their nephew Danny (16), Beth (24), Martin (18), Danny Stephenson (17) and Kim (16).



After drinks and a rest, we took the team to church for an outdoor evangelistic meeting followed by an African meal, with a tentative sampling of 'nshima' - maizemeal mush! Next day, Sunday, we had the

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final church meeting of the Conference. Our instrumentalists joined in with the worship team; Sam was even asked to lead the combined choir of about 50 in a simple song. It was a tremendous time of blessing for everyone.

We kept our team busy! They painted all the outside of the guesthouse and worked at Ziso Moyo's orphanage site on several days - helping shift bricks and building a kiln, then helping with the construction of a 'jungle gym'. (The Irish team, visiting the Moyos for the same 2-week period, had fundraised to cover the cost of the materials. Our visitors also spent time encouraging our church praise team with new songs, etc.

They were a good team in every way, organising a washing-up rota and also having evening devotions together, taking turns to 'preach'. Beth and Kim slept in our guest wing, but joined the others in the guesthouse, often tidying or washing up over there! All went well with the meals – the trick was to fill up the hungry with mounds of rice and extra bread, etc!



BARBECUE – Last Sunday – the teams' last day - we had a lovely BBQ in our back garden, mainly with the church youth. Ziso fetched benches from church to help with the seating and we used his big barbecue. We got some of the girls from the youth to do the cooking – burgers, chicken and sausages. Beth and Kim fried a huge pan of onions and we also heated up ten tins of baked beans to help stretch the food! The Moyos came later with their team, bringing four chickens cut up and already boiled, so the portions could be finished off quickly on the barbecue. There was plenty of food for the 40+ who attended, so I needn't have worried! And then some pots of cooked Zambian food were brought by church friends, so people really began to feast! Each team member was given an African cloth and we had a hilarious time when the men tried to wear their cloths in different ways! We ended with a terrific time of praise and worship at about 9pm, out in the garden, with our guys (still in their 'wraparound skirts'!) playing their instruments...

BARBARA LAWSON – She arrives on 9 Sep, for a 3-month visit. We have just had enough time for Mrs Nyirenda, our house worker, to clean the guest house and get it ready for Barbara. We are looking forward to having her here again, and when we go away for the expat church's weekend retreat at the end of Sep, she can keep an eye on things for us!

We send our loving wishes,

Andrew & Lyn