



# UPDATE

from

# MUTARE



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*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people  
on earth!!  
Luke 2:14*

Newsletter  
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Dear friends and family,

### ***Merry Thanksgiving and Happy Christmas!!!!***

Like in many cultures, many Zimbabweans have names with literal meanings. Names like NoMatter, Trymore, Shakemore, and NoMore (the mother's fifth child; I'm not sure if she was successful in her later family planning) are common. Two very common Shona names come from the same verb- Farai ('Be happy') is common for both boys and girls, but Fadzai ('Make someone happy') is only used for girls. A strong hint of bias in gender roles?????

The most common Shona name, for both males and females, is *Tendai* (Be thankful). The same verb root is used for other common names such as *Rutendo*, *Tatenda*, *Tinotenda*. Appropriate names for any time of year, but especially at this season. On Thanksgiving Day we were asked to mentally list all of the things that we are thankful for...and then to note the items on the list for which we could claim no credit, but which we had because of the generosity of others. It was humbling!

So during this Christmas season as we celebrate the coming of the Christ-child, we give thanks for His coming to earth- to live and die, for us. We also thank you for your love and support and your thoughts, prayers, letters, cards and emails.

### ***Farewells***

We are also thankful for those to whom we bade farewell in this earthly life this past year. Our list is topped by three individuals:

- Larry's very dear Uncle Joe who proved that it is possible to be involved in politics and still maintain one's integrity and sense of humor;
- Loyd Schaad, a role model in agricultural development, and his wife, Margaret; and

- Velma Watkins, a saintly 90-year old who loved life and others and inspired us in her outreach to young people.

We are sure that you have your own list.

### ***Africa University News***

Today is the last day of final exams. Most students have already gone home for the Christmas holidays. The rainy season has started well, and the students coming from rural areas will come back much darker and with calloused hands from wielding hoes. Numerous students have stopped by to express their appreciation for the scholarship help that allowed them to stay in school. Thank you to those who helped and continue to do so!!



*Several of the scholarship students singing in the Praise the Lord Choir.*

### ***Farm news***

The national electricity supply continues to be very unreliable, and seems to be getting worse. Power cuts occur almost daily and sometimes last for several days. Farm Development Funds were used to connect the Farm Sales room to the campus generator, making a huge difference in our ability to keep our livestock products (meat and milk) cold. The dairy cows are producing far more milk than they have in years, but processing the surplus milk has been almost impossible with no electricity much of the time. The most cost-effective option is to install a back-up generator

at the dairy, so that will be the next major use of the Fund. Thanks to those who can help!

### ***Other news***

The fiber-optic cable has finally been laid, and is awaiting connection to the campus computer center. Hopefully our internet access and accessibility will be hugely improved. The continuing power cuts and disruptions in internet connectivity have made life on the web impossible at times.

If you tried sending an email to the address [lkies@africau.ac.zw](mailto:lkies@africau.ac.zw) and it bounced back, please try again. The address is still valid! And we can receive files of up to 2 mb. We also use [LarryKies@gmail.com](mailto:LarryKies@gmail.com), but it is easier for us to receive email on campus from our campus address, especially if you send attachments.

### ***Home to the USA in 2012????***

Our three-year term here is up in 2011, but we have requested a one-year extension so that we have time to visit more churches when we come in 2012. We will keep you informed.

### ***Zimbabwe news***

Harvard's Joseph Nye once said, 'Peace is like oxygen. When you have it, you don't think about it, but when you don't have it, it is all you can think about.' Zimbabwe is a country at peace right now, but there are tentative plans for elections in 2011.

Many people here equate elections with violence. Please pray that the country remains peaceful, and that Christians lead in promoting peace.

### ***Family news***

We were thrilled to have Ben with us for awhile before he spent two months working in Cape Town, and he is now attending a university in Taiwan continuing his studies in Chinese.

Pule, 21, is excited about his offer of an internship with Microsoft. He will spend next summer working at their facility in North Dakota.

In November, Carly, 15, attended (with her class) a week-long Outward Bound leadership and

mountain-survival camp and loved it! She's now working on a Christmas vacation assignment- a 15-page essay on 'How I Would Change the World.' Good question for all of us!

Michael, 11, was so pleased that both he and his good friend, Simba, were selected as prefects for



their Grade 7 year starting in January. Prefects are an essential part of the British educational system (Harry Potter fans are familiar with their roles), and provide a good chance to develop leadership skills.

*Simba, Sean and Michael at a cricket match*

### ***Please join us in prayer for:***

- Peace on Earth (especially for continued peace in Zimbabwe)
- Thanks for all those who have given of themselves to make life better for others
- Wisdom for Africa University leaders in an economic environment that continues to be challenging

Merry Christmas!!

Yours and His,

Larry and Jane Kies

U.M.C. Advance Special numbers:  
Africa University Farm Development: 3021027  
Africa University Scholarships: 3021028  
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