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Come, and you will see.
John 1:39

Newsletter
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Dear friends and family,
Greetings once more from Mutare, Zimbabwe!!

Two of John the Baptist’s followers are curious about Jesus, and when Jesus asks: “what do you want?” they say they wish to know where He is staying. Jesus says to them, “Come and see!” Their response to His invitation leads them into a life-changing adventure.

There is often the promise of something unexpected and unknown in an invitation. So it was with an invitation we received recently: ‘

Come and help us celebrate the dedication of a new home for our pastor.

We drove 3 1/2 hours to find ourselves in a remote village where lack of rain and overgrazing had left a colorless, shade-less landscape, in the midst of which stood a freshly painted new home.

The church members were excited and thankful, the floors gleamed and the windows sparkled, and we were welcomed by Godfrey, their pastor, who had spent the past 3 years completing a degree at Africa University while growing 4 small churches



in the area. His dedication had inspired people to work and raise money for the pastor’s house, and what a contrast it was to the tiny, dingy, two-roomed building he had been sharing with his wife and 3 children all that time.

Godfrey sitting near a ‘kitchen hut’ near the new house.

The thing is, he would not be living there; all his hard work was to benefit the family who would take his place as he moved to another church in a different part of the country.

I think of Godfrey’s willingness to follow Jesus and serve the church as I read *Jesus’ invitation to “come and see” – and then later on His challenge to deny self, take up the cross and follow Him.* It’s an invitation to follow a saviour, One who redeems, cleanses, forgives and heals – and takes us on a life-changing adventure.

I am really thankful to know people like Godfrey whose lives speak of dedication and compassion and love, and the power of the gospel to change lives.

CAMPUS NEWS

March 23-24 many visitors will descend on the campus for the festivities celebrating the first 20 years of Africa University.

Never a dull moment for my teaching colleagues and me (Jane) with a class of 82 students. Now that they have one semester of English behind them, it’s so much more fun to watch them participate in drama, debates and Bible study. They so much enjoyed a” treasure hunt” we organized at the beginning of the year where they were sent all over the campus to discover some aspects of the history of the University.

Larry is once more teaching, and loving the excitement of working with young people. He is not allowed to show favoritism in the classroom, of course, but does like to keep a special eye on the scholarship students to be sure they are doing OK.

FARM NEWS

The university farm's new manager is a hard worker who likes to see results. There are many examples of his eagerness to improve productivity on the farm.

December and January were difficult months for rain- far too little in December, far too much in early January. But still the crops are looking great.

We had the chance for our first big test of the potato lifter bought last year. Everyone was impressed not only with how much work it saved, but especially the reduction in damaged potatoes. So much better than using digging forks and hoes.



By our next letter we hope to have a picture of a new tractor!

FAMILY NEWS

Ben had an amazing trip to Nepal and is back in Boston writing computer code.

Pule is learning to bake bread on the weekends. He continues to find working for Microsoft in Fargo challenging and enjoyable

Carly is amazingly busy, especially with her favorite sport (track- sprints are her best events) as well as swimming, tennis, drama, school magazine etc etc. She is trying to get the most from her last year of high school. Being Headgirl has given her many learning experiences!

Michael does NOT like track, but does continue to train in swimming. He enjoyed a recent clinic led by Kirsty Coventry, the Zimbabwean Olympic backstroke champion. He often heads straight to the keyboard when he arrives home.

LOCAL NEWS

The mango season is almost over. Sigh. Huge one-pound, juicy fruits for 15c each...one of the joys of living in Zimbabwe. India is the largest



producer of mangoes in the world- but exports few because of local demand. The best mangoes we ever tasted in the US were at the table of a pastor in California who grew up in India- and obviously knew what a mango should taste like!

Elections are still due to be held, but no one can say exactly when. President Mugabe is now 89 and plans to run again.

Please pray

- For late season rains to carry the crops through.
- For peaceful elections in Zimbabwe. Many people are publicly calling for a non-violent election campaign- pray that they follow up on their calls
- For Africa University to continue to grow as an institution serving the continent
- For the success of the renewal of our work/residence permit application

Many thanks for your prayers, thoughts, emails, cards and support!

Yours and His,

Larry and Jane Kies

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