



October 2021

Newsletter from Mrs Gina Oliver Heath secretary of the United Church of Zambia

Gina is serving in Zambia and Malcolm will be joining full time next year. Their daughters Chipo and Luyando are attending school in Zambia.

Chipo and Luyando write:

When our family arrived in Zambia we had 28 suitcases. The immigration officer was very nice and let us go through without any problems. We were met by our cousins and family by the exit. We were very tired so we went to a hotel and had some food and slept. Days later we went to visit our school and we stayed there; the next day we went to Noahs ark for a school camping trip for the grade sixes. When we were at camp we were able to try a new fruit called monkey brains. It was a yellow fruit which had a brown pulp inside it. We enjoyed it. We even made shelters out of sticks and slept in them. We met with all the grade sixes in our class.

After the camp we settled into our new dorm called Zambezi hostel (Zambezi is a river in Zambia). We are currently in different classes I am in Leopard class and Lulu is in Giraffe class. (Our mum's favourite animal). We are enjoying being in boarding school. We have a strict routine on when to do things. No mobile phones or gadgets allowed. We have house parents called Mr and Mrs Tembo. They live with us and look after us after school. We have to wake up at 6:30 in the morning spread our beds neatly, tidy our wardrobes, take showers and get dressed ready for class. We then have our breakfast either cornflakes, porridge or egg on toast and maybe bacon at the weekend. We also have other chores at the dorms, there's a rotating rota stuck on the wall. Currently my job is to empty the bin in the common room and Lulu has to tidy the common room. Other girls and boys have to do other chores like sweeping the floor. Our laundry is all done for us apart from our socks and underwear. We have to wash these by hand.



We finish school at 3 pm and this is our free time, we play in the play park just outside our dorm and we can receive phone calls from our relatives during this time then its shower time , dinner and prep. (time to do our homework). Each day is different sometimes our headteacher takes us on an evening walk.

We have also joined different clubs e.g scripture union, tennis, basketball, netball and music. As part of our usual subjects we are learning Bembe a Zambian language. So far we can greet.. mulishani or shani. Lights off is at 8 pm.

At the weekend we have cleaning competition and get inspections in the morning . We then have free time after breakfast to either do planned activities painting or we go swimming as the weather is nearly always above 27 degrees. Sundays we go to church. We also have free weekends when our parents can come and pick us up and bring us back after the weekend.

Currently we are seeing mum and dad for our first free weekend. We are happy to see them and they are asking so many questions about boarding life.

We are telling them lots of new things like how female mantis eat a male one . We are doing well and enjoying playing with our friends at boarding school. As mums puts it boarding school is like one long sleep over with school friends!!

Gina writes :

After arriving in Lusaka we had a few days to relax and settle into our newly painted house. We visited the Synod Headquarters just for brief introduction on the Wednesday. The synod complex building is simply spectacular apparently was completed end of 2019.

I received a very very warm welcome with friendly staff. My first day in the office was on Friday the 24th. The office routine starts with morning devotion at 8am led by different members of staff then everyone goes to their respectful offices.

Hand over started the following Monday and went on for a whole week. During the handover we visited two health facilities .Chipembi and Kafue health clinics. Pictures will follow in attachments. I am looking forward to visiting the remaining 7 facilities in due course as part of my orientation covid permitting. We heard yesterday 1st of October that the Zambian government will be lifting all the covid restrictions as the number of new infections and deaths have decreased. However, we have been warned of a 4th wave towards the end of the year. Zambian are being encouraged to continue taking precautions and accepting the Covid vaccine.

I thank God that we safely arrived in Zambia and more especially the twins have settled well in their new school. I am looking forward to working with the United Church Of Zambia to take Gods work forward. My husband Malcolm has been busy helping us settle in, driving, shopping and fixing things. As I write he is preparing the journey back to the UK and today has had the pre-flight PRC test.

Prayer Points:

That vaccines may be readily available and that people of all ages will have confidence to have them.

That I may continue to be able to absorb mountains of new information whilst developing relationships with colleagues.

That Luyando and Chipo will continue to treasure their schooling at Chengelo and grow in confidence in studies and in learning Bemba.

That I and my colleagues may have travelling mercies in many journeys I need to make throughout Zambia.

That as new opportunities evolve in serving the health needs of people that the UCZ clinics and hospitals may find the resources to appropriately respond.

That the shelter for expectant mothers at Chipembi UCZ Clinic will soon be constructed.

That the program to develop solar power at the hospitals and clinics will continue to flourish and come to fruition

