



# UPDATE from MUTARE



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**Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, sixty and a hundred times.**  
**Mark 4:8**

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Greetings from the Valley of Dreams at Old Mutare, Africa University!

One of the mottoes of Africa University is “Investing in Africa’s Future”.

Larry: Recently I read of a 47-year-old lawyer in Paris named Raffray who thought he was making a clever investment when he convinced a 90-year-old widow to accept \$500 a month from him with the condition that he would become owner of her prime apartment when she passed away. Widow Jeanne Calment went on to become the oldest living human being, and reached the age of 122. Lawyer Raffray died before she did. So much for his wise investment.

Zimbabwe recently experienced great uncertainty after the army demanded that 93-year President Mugabe step down. He did, and the new President Mnangagwa has been sworn in.

We are confident that, like the seed sown on good ground, the investments made in Africa University will continue to be secure, just as they have been during other times of political and economic turmoil. Thank you to all who have been praying for us, for AU and for Zimbabwe. Rest assured that we are well and safe, and people are hopeful for the ‘New Zimbabwe’.

### Investing in our students

*Jane: Recently we joined the teams of students and staff who feed into some of the local churches on Africa University Sunday, and share encouraging news of how Africa University is enabling many young people to*

*provide new leadership, new vision and new energy in their churches, schools, businesses, and communities.*



*An early investment, AU graduate (and former Intensive English student) Mande Muyombo earlier this year was elected bishop in his home country of DRC (Congo).*

*This week I received an email from a recent graduate of A.U. from Kenya, who is now working in a college in Tanzania in a new training program for pastors. The college is starting an Intensive English program to better equip these pastors in their studies and various ministries, and he is appealing to us to assist with advice, a curriculum and teaching material. I am thrilled to think that our relatively small program here might be helpful in a new college in Tanzania!*

*As we invest in the lives of our young people on campus – and off, we are truly investing in the future of a whole continent. During this year’s matriculation ceremony, students were challenged again to “dream big”. As I get to know my own students, I am constantly surprised to hear their stories of often very humble backgrounds, and God-given opportunities to come and study here, and I encourage them to think in terms of how one day they might make a difference in their communities.*



(Larry)- I am really happy about my classes; my first-year class is the largest I've ever had. Many are frequent reminders of the generosity of those who have helped with gifts to the Scholarship fund... Thanks to those who have made those investments!

### Investing in the AU Farm

Many thanks to all who have helped invest in recent developments at the Farm.

After years of milking by hand, we finally invested in a DeLaval milking machine pipeline system that transports the milk straight from the cow into the bulk cooling tank. The improvement is geared for further expansion of the dairy in the months and years to come.



Our center pivot irrigation system is now in place and irrigating its first crop. We hope that increased yields, reduced costs and the chance to familiarize our staff and students with this technology will prove the wisdom of this BIG investment.

Among new projects on the drawing board in addition to continued development of the dairy

are a new house for raising day-old pullets (female chicks) to become laying hens; a walk-in freezer and better slaughter facilities for assisting in marketing our broilers; and improved housing for our farm workers.

### Family News

Ben recently celebrated his milestone 30<sup>th</sup> birthday and continues to enjoy his work with Flatiron in New York.

*Pule is excited to be planning his wedding in 2018! Lots of emails and Skype conversations with him and Christine to work out the details.*

We enjoyed having Carly back for awhile in June/July. During her senior year at Emory University she keeps more than busy with classes as well as a position in the campus residence life.

*In his last year in high school, Michael drives to school every day from where he is staying with Larry's sister near Waterloo. Classes and band keep him busy.*

### Please pray

- *For wisdom in making decisions about investments of our time, money and other resources*
- *That all the investments in our students and farm development pay handsome dividends*
- *in Thanks for the non-violent transition of power in Zimbabwe, and for wisdom for the new president.*

During this holiday season, when so many are struggling, hurting and affected by floods and shooting incidents, may you experience joy as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

As always, thank you for your support, love, cards, prayers, thoughts, and emails!

Yours and His,  
Larry and Jane Kies

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