



UPDATE from MUTARE



Larry and Jane Kies
Africa University
Box 1320
Mutare Zimbabwe
email- LKies@Africau.edu

*(If your gift)...is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently.
Romans 8:8*

Newsletter
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Greetings from Africa University!

(Larry): The new academic year began with a boost for Africa University- the combined efforts of farm workers, students, and staff resulted in an award for the Best Tertiary Institution display at the Manicaland Agricultural Show, and the AU Farm won for Best Piggery and Best Rabbit.



The excitement took me back to the Jesup, Iowa Farmers' Day when I was about nine years old. My mom encouraged two of my brothers and me to each enter a dozen eggs in the Produce section. I can still vividly remember checking the results of the judging, and running four blocks to tell Mom that our eggs had taken the top three positions! You can imagine the boosts to the self-confidence of we three farm-boys. It was only decades later, after we were grown and had finished college, that Mom confided to us that ours were the only three Eggs entries that year.

(Jane): Larry and I spend much of our days in classrooms and offices, walking on the farm and surrounding bush, and over the years we have seen how contributions, large and small, have both provided encouragement and resulted in tremendous growth, impacting the lives of countless young men and women from all over Africa preparing to be leaders.



One friendship we treasure is that of a young Nigerian Health Sciences graduate, Vincent, who is now working as a missionary in Liberia helping to set up a medical laboratory in a mission hospital.... So many young graduates collectively continue to Invest in Africa's Future.



(Larry): Winning the Best Piggery award not only boosted the market for our breeding stock, but also provided positive reinforcement for Joel Nyabunze, the AU Farm Piggery and Poultry Supervisor. In addition to the day-to-day management of these livestock units, he loves helping in the instruction of the students, as seen in the picture where he is demonstrating teeth trimming of piglets to 1st-year students.

'Professor' Nyabunze has been working at AU since 1992- almost from the very beginning of the institution. He raised his family in a very small, humble house on campus.



Soon he will move into a larger and nicer house that is nearly finished. Thanks to the Illinois Great Rivers conference which funded it! Thanks also to all who have contributed to help the AU Farm develop and prosper. Some of the more recent activities have been buying a new fertilizer spreader and working on lining fish ponds so that we can raise tilapia on campus. We are also in the early stage of plans to expand production of broilers/meat chickens. Since the student body has grown, an increased demand by the campus Food Services for meat means that the Farm's thousand-birds-a-week facilities can no longer cope.

Speaking of students... This term has seen my largest first-year class ever in Practical Agriculture. Exciting!! Of course, many are here only because of the gifts to the Scholarship fund. Thank you to those who continue to help!!!!



Scholarship recipients Kelvin and Naomi learning how to use the milking machines

Zimbabwe News

A month ago, the funeral was held for Zimbabwe's first President, Robert Mugabe. The Zimbabwe economy continues to struggle, with cash shortages and hyperinflation. However, the capable leadership of AU finds ways of managing the day-to-day running of school.

Unlike the hyperinflation of 11 years ago, there is still food in the stores, and the numerous vehicles on the road belie the fuel shortages. And Zimbabwe continues to be a safe destination if you are thinking of visiting!

Church Visits

We are still sorting plans for visiting churches in 2020. Since 2000 we have visited churches every four years. No, it wasn't so that we could enjoy all the political ads on TV during an election year. Present plans are to 'itinerate' from July to September. We will let you know more detailed plans early next year.

Family News

Michael stayed in Ames during the summer to take classes and work. He had his first experience in independent apartment living, but is now back in the dorm for the second year of his Software Engineering degree program at Iowa State.

Carly continues to be very excited about her University of Queensland campus ministry in Brisbane, Australia, with a commitment for another three years there. More on her can be seen at www.cmfi.org/ckies.

Pule and Christine in Boulder, Colorado, and Ben in New York continue to keep busy with work and non-work.

Please pray for:

- Guidance for us in making some big decisions for next year
- A good rainy season in southern Africa, and wisdom for farmers and farm managers in coping with the hyperinflation in Zimbabwe when buying seeds and fertilizer

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

Yours and His,
Larry and Jane Kies

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Thanks to Wesley Kuture for the pictures of the Ag Show and Vincent in the lab.