

Merry Christmas from Zimbabwe!

Lining the street at the turn off to the Zimbabwe- Mozambique border on the outskirts of Mutare centre, stone carvers display rows and rows of sculptures fashioned in typical Shona style. The most beautiful creatively depict family ties and bonds, and over the years these have supplied us with 'Gifts from Zimbabwe' for friends and family in many places. At this time of year, there are small nativity sets with figures to recreate a scene in a stable- a baby in a box, a mother and father and collection of animals - a family! An ordinary family, yet a family different from and more complete than any other. Jesus gave his followers a new definition of 'family', and living in Zimbabwe for the past 25 years has helped us to appreciate that more and more.

Our church brings together people in our community and works to build and grow a family. Africa University prides itself on bringing many nationalities together, creating a Pan-African family. We work in mission with a family that extends to different continents. And all made possible through our shared relationship to the child in a manger- Jesus.

This Christmas season, Larry and I are thankful for all the family we have come to know both through living here and previous homes, and we wish each one of you a very special time with family - wherever you are and with whomever you celebrate, creating memories that will bring you joy throughout the year to come.

Larry and Jane Kies
Africa University
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