



# UPDATE from MUTARE



Jane and Larry Kies  
Africa University  
Box 1320  
Mutare Zimbabwe  
email- [LKies@africau.edu](mailto:LKies@africau.edu); [jkies60@gmail.com](mailto:jkies60@gmail.com)

*But for you who revere my name, the sun of  
righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.  
And you will go out and frolic like well-fed  
calves. Malachi 4:2)*

Newsletter  
Vol. 36, No. 1  
Jan 2022

Dear friends and family,

Larry and I love the picture of vitality (pointed out to us recently in a devotional by the South African farmer-preacher Angus Buchan) in the prophet, Malachi's words: '...you shall go out and frolic like well-fed calves' (New International Version). I am often reminded of the playfulness and energy of a calf out from its stall- kicking its heels as it delights in its new freedom!

*AU Ag students with the calf they had just ear-tagged.*



Prayers for vitality, renewed energy, and hope for a New Year is certainly a good place to start! And top of the list is a **HEARTFELT THANK YOU** for your

prayers, thoughts, cards, emails as well as faithfulness in giving and your commitment to Larry and I and countless **Africa University** students engaged in providing leadership in Africa. We are all together contributing to a God-given vision and mission, and we are so grateful to God for the resources that assist the University as it provides education for our students. The **Africa University** Choir frequently reminds us of this in the song 'The Dream is Alive', written and put to music by the late Patrick Matsikenyiri (who passed away one year ago).

## New Year Beginnings

In the first days of the New Year, I enjoyed walking to the **AU** farm in the early mornings to see Larry and a group of his students planting and weeding class demo plots. It's so good to see our students engaged in the process of producing food! There is also something wonderful about watching plants grow – the weeds, if left unchecked, as energetic as the calves!



My own interaction with students over the break was assisting those on campus to practice their English skills. I have been encouraged to see our students take the initiative to organize small group debates and English Language ‘clubs’.

### Teaching and Covid

Like most places, Covid-19 has greatly changed the way we teach. Most of our students are off campus; throughout the continent, poor internet connectivity frustrates students and staff. Many students also do not own computers and so participating in lessons and assignments and even taking exams is done by smartphone. In Zimbabwe, although Covid-19 infection percentages have been comparatively low, many young children have suffered the consequences of interrupted classes and closures of schools.

On a positive note, we have all become familiar with a new way of teaching, and AU has expanded its student enrollment. Online instruction opens up possibilities of reaching far more students on the continent. The **AU** campus residence halls house close to 1000 students, the majority international and those doing practical subjects (such as Larry’s Agriculture classes). Classrooms have been beautifully equipped with white boards and projectors in preparation for a blended teaching approach.

### So, where do our graduates end up?

Perhaps, like us, you are curious about our graduates. It’s always interesting to follow up on students engaged in important work/ministry in their respective countries. Seeing them applying skills and experiences learned at **Africa University** makes us so thankful for the support that has enabled them to do so.



**Doel Kaloa**, a young missionary (GMF) from DRC graduated from **AU** with a BA in English and Communication studies. She’s in Zambia with the Zambia branch of the World Council of churches, working closely with women, children and youth in education and health. Her skills make her a valuable asset to the communications department as she manages social media platforms, takes pictures and writes reports.

**Salles David** was excited to tell me that he married in 2020 and he and his wife have a baby girl! He trained as a lab technician at **AU** and works in the General Hospital in Malanje Province in Angola processing medical samples in the lab, and making diagnoses. He finds fulfilment in seeing sick patients recover. Salles feels so grateful for experience, both theoretical and practical, gained in his time in Zimbabwe as an **AU** student.



### 2022 Church Visits?

On a personal note, Larry and I anticipate a year of change. We plan to be in the USA from mid-May to September- first for our son Michael’s graduation from college, then to share **Africa University’s** vision and something of our lives and work here. We will be sending dates that we will be available in the various annual conferences. Please do contact us if this would fit in with your plans for 2022.

At the end of September, I will join Larry in being retired from GBGM. At the moment, plans are uncertain; we are both apprehensive and excited about what God has for us next.



### Africa University Farm

Dr Sebastian Chakeredza teaches Animal Science here at AU. He has recently taken over the administration of the A.U. Farm Development Fund (Advance Special:3021027). Please email him to find what exciting plans are in the works. ([chakeredzaS@africau.edu](mailto:chakeredzaS@africau.edu))



### Other Africa University News

Malaria continues to be a killer, especially in Africa. Late last year the Malaria Research and Reference Insectary was dedicated. It was funded by USAID through the US President’s Malaria Initiative.

From the AU Website ([www.africau.edu](http://www.africau.edu)):

*“The second Health Sciences research laboratory now houses the malaria molecular surveillance core, which has nested PCR capacity for specialized parasite detection and genotyping, as well as vector sibling species differentiation and blood meal identification assays. The lab also has semi-automated ELISA facilities for vector sporozoite rates and malaria immune responses determinations.”*



(Samuel Toto harvesting mosquito pupae for research.)

### Family news:

Though we were not able to spend Christmas with our children, *watching* them enjoy family time made us so thankful that they love to be together! 2022 will also bring changes for each of them: In July, Michael will move to Seattle for his first post-graduation job; Carly and Brodie are planning a December wedding in Australia (we are so thrilled!!!!!!); Ben and Ada continue to travel the US while working remotely, and recently enjoyed visiting Pule and Christine in Colorado- skiing together and then hiking in Utah.

Please pray:

- in thanks that despite the recent increase in the on-campus student population there have been few covid cases
- for wisdom for the search committee for a new Vice Chancellor (university president)
- for guidance for us as we prepare our schedule for speaking in churches later this year

We also ask that you consider

- continuing your support of Jane. (Advance Special number: 10739Z)
- providing scholarship support for a student: (Advance Special: 3021028) <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/3021028/>

May this year give you reasons to be as joyful as a young calf released from its stall!

Yours and His,

Jane and Larry Kies

