



UPDATE from MUTARE



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Dear Friends,

Greetings from Iowa!

The straight north/south, east/west well-maintained roads lined with neat orderly homes with extensive lawns are a reminder to Larry and I that we are not in Zimbabwe! We have enjoyed some weeks of family time and visits to supporting churches, and I can boast to friends that I have travelled from the east coast to nearly the west coast- of Iowa (Mississippi to the Missouri Rivers)!!!

Some of our highlights have been:

- the honor of being able to share the message of hope through all that God is doing at Africa University
- playing cards (4-point Pitch) on a patio with our hosts, with their affectionate cat keeping us company

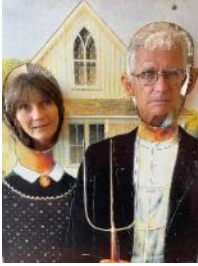


- a brief stop at a small Mississippi town, surrounded by glimpses of the past from the pioneer days

- a conversation over lunch with a former missionary to Korea, hearing about his experience in a very different culture during turbulent years

- a visit to an agriculture project run by a church and community to supply fresh vegetables to food pantries
- a small-town church's vision for a 'mission' outreach to the community through renting a place downtown





- warm conversations with old friends (and new!) who have shared travel and mission experiences and made us feel so much at home
- being hosted lovingly (and patiently) by others as we fought Covid. We sadly had to cancel many church visits but are now recovered.
- the generosity of family as they share their homes - and even a bright blue Toyota Rav4 hybrid



- seeing Michael in his cap and gown (he and we missed the Iowa State University graduation ceremony because he got covid two days before)
- attending Larry's Class of 1971 high school class reunion
- catching up with Larry's relatives
- the anticipation of having time with all our children together in July

Our visits are also a sad reminder that this will be our last itineration as GBGM missionaries. Larry retired from Global Ministries in 2020 and I will be doing so in September. We will send one more newsletter before that day arrives.

We are thankful to our supporting churches in Iowa who have so kindly hosted us these past weeks and look forward to July in Illinois, early August in Wisconsin, Lansing MI, Cleveland Heights, OH and possibly Indiana but we are still finalizing plans. Sadly, we will not be able to travel much further than this in the time that we have. This was not an easy decision, as we know so many of you have faithfully supported us for many years. You will be welcome to join me when I give an online presentation on 1 September (please email for a link closer to the time), or we can arrange for a private Zoom or Google meeting/presentation.

Although we were not on campus to witness the ceremony, we felt proud of the 712 students who graduated on 11th of June. This is AU's 26th graduation, and as we think of all the young men and women who have been shaped, trained and changed in their university years, we thank God, say '*Congratulations Makorokoto! Amhlope!*' to the most recent graduates and their families and feel profoundly grateful for the love, support and financial resources that have made all this possible.



We'll be returning to Zimbabwe in September. We hope that during our retirement there we can continue to be involved in Africa University, the church and local community. We pray that the Immigration Department will look favorably on our application to stay. Thank you for your prayers, emails, thoughts, and support!!

Yours and His,

Jane and Larry Kies