



# Scott Family April 2007



Greetings to you all from Kitwe, Zambia

By the time you get to read this Easter will be over, and Pentecost looming. We hope and pray that your celebrations have been joyful. Easter in Zambia is always a busy time. At the Seminary the staff and students go on retreat for three days during Holy Week, returning in time for the renewal of priestly vows and the Maundy Thursday Foot Washing Service. On Good Friday we walk "The Way of the Cross" and reflect on the meaning of the death of Jesus for us. On the Saturday night we light the paschal fire and celebrate the Easter Vigil and then on Sunday morning another celebration. At one parish there was singing and dancing from around 10:00 am until well after lunch time. It is all a good deal more important and meaningful than Christmas and the times of solemn reflection and celebration help really make Easter special and meaningful.

Here life has been changing for us all. For the Scott family the children have ventured off to their new boarding school. The first term ended on Maundy Thursday with a school play and the parent/teacher consultation for Hannah. This meant that Keith was supposed to be in three places at once!

Adam, naturally, played a role in the play: "The Thwarting of Baron Bollingrew". He thoroughly enjoyed being the voice of the dragon and props manager. He also spent the previous weekend on an outdoor pursuits course. A genuinely indoors person Adam thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the "Kundilla Extreme" and picked up an award for the most enthusiastic (or is that reckless?) new comer. He has settled well and has started to rise to the challenges of a more demanding academic regime as well as life away from home. Everyone hopes that this experience will help him to reach his full potential at "As" and "A" level.

Hannah is also doing well at school. Her report was the usual boring list of "A" for achievement "1" for effort and all of her teachers seem well pleased with her first term's work. She is settling well and making friends in her hostel, although still has pangs of homesickness. She is also enjoying the school stables, where she rides twice per week. Both are changing a lot as a result of this experience, and are learning a lot, not only academically but about themselves too. Mum and Dad are also feeling the winds of change. Suddenly, after 17 years Keith and Lyn are a couple again. It seems very quite about the house during term time, and, Lyn adds, very tidy. All this changes at half-term and holiday times when Adam and Hannah arrive home with several sacks filled with dirty washing. It truly has been an interesting and good time for us all.

It has been all change at the Seminary too. Frazer Kachikoti has left to take up a role in Buchi Parish, which hosts one of the projects supported by last year's Annual Project. He has been replaced by Bishop John Osmer. Born in New Zealand, Bishop Osmer has lived and worked in Southern Africa for many years. He was elected as the first Bishop of Eastern Zambia in 1995, where he served for about 8 years. Now retired he was asked to take over as Rector by current Zambian Bishops. He is doing an excellent job and seems to enjoy the challenges of administering the Seminary. We have also been joined by a short-term mission partner from CMS England, Emma Johnson. Emma is from Sunderland, and has just completed her M. A. at Durham. She will be with us until July, after which she will return to England to train for the priesthood. None

of this makes the financial situation at the Seminary any easier. The finances of the Zambian Church will take some time to stabilise after an awkward couple of years and it is still very difficult to make the small grant and the large costs to coincide. Zambia is a very poor country and most of the people live at the very margins. Even bright, sophisticated young people with lots of motivation and plenty of brains find it difficult to get further education and good jobs.

We had a new intake of students in January, most of whom will be with us for one year training as evangelists. The background and education of these men and women ranges from one young, sophisticated and very bright city girl to one older man from a deeply rural background. Preparing classes and teaching such a varied group is a real challenge as their needs and abilities differ so widely. Both Keith and Lyn are busy with this challenge. Keith continues to teach some New Testament, Homiletics and Systematic Theology, while Lyn joins Keith in the Homiletics class and teaches English and Study skills. CMS Ireland and the Zambian Church are definitely getting good value for money, especially as Keith is also busy with his "evening job" at St. Matthew's Chambishi.

Our diocesan Bishop, Albert Chama, was in the UK recently, and we know that he had a good time with many of our friends and supporting parishes in Ireland. He came back very positive, and is looking forward to the visit of the CMSI META team later this year. We will be planning the programme with him as soon as he returns from the provincial Episcopal synod in Zimbabwe. Managing a diocese in Zambia is a difficult business. There is all that new outreach, busy congregations, parishes that sprawl across 10 or more churches scattered across hundreds, perhaps thousands of square kilometres and the challenges of pastoral care in a country where the average life expectancy is still below 40 years.

Poverty means that the diocesan income is very low, in some places the entire community are subsistence farmers with no cash economy at all. All this means it is hard to pay the clergy. Often the clergy miss out being paid at all. One diocese has not been able to meet the stipend bill for the past three months. Pray for our bishops as they struggle to cope with these huge challenges.

Lyn and Keith continue to worry about family "back home". Lyn's mother is especially ill at this time. Sadly she has had to go back into hospital after only a few weeks at home. We would really appreciate your prayers for Lyn's dad at this difficult time. Keith's mum continues to be reasonably stable in her nursing home.

Well our time is up, and we must go back to the common round and daily task. May God bless you all, fill you with the Spirit and send you into the world to live in the divine mission of Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Keith, Lyn, Adam and Hannah Scott.

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