



# UPDATE from MUTARE



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*You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds  
are steadfast, because they trust in you.  
Isaiah 26:3*

Newsletter  
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Dear friends and family,

‘It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.’ A friend, Carole, taking a writing class was tasked with taking this quote from Dickens’ A Tale of Two Cities to write about Covid-19, with the twist that pessimists had to relate how the last months were the best of times, and optimists the opposite.

Most of us could find plenty of stories of stress, loneliness and sadness. In her essay, Carole related how she came to enjoy quiet times, new ways to worship on-line, and even a prospective new hairstyle. We pray that you have enjoyed uplifting moments and new experiences.



**The cross over Africa University**

In our March newsletter we wrote that we planned to be in the USA by now (late May), preparing to speak in supporting churches from June-November. **The schedule that was drawn up is now on hold- we are in Zimbabwe until further notice.**

Although early in March there was a period when no flights were entering or leaving Zimbabwe. Ethiopian Airways now flies in and out of Harare several times a week.

GBGM (our Mission Board) is actively working on alternative ways for us to visit supporting churches, including online meetings. We have participated in several Zoom training sessions already. Details for two meetings that you might consider joining are given below.

**If you are interested, please pre-register, since registration is limited.**

### **June 4 at noon EDT**

Session focus: Agricultural missionaries  
**Larry** will be on a panel with three other missionaries- (Temba Nkomozepe in Zambia; Fatuma Olangi and Katembo Kutela in Angola- all AU Agric graduates).

[https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqdumqrT0qGd35y6cyhHKD0UHGqffXDknH](https://gbgm.zoom.us/j/9211111111)

### **June 12 at 9am EDT**

Session focus: missionaries working in education  
**Jane** will be on a panel with three other missionaries

[https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsc-2pgTwpHdES6NV88XqdGZq081GJTych](https://gbgm.zoom.us/j/9211111111)

### **SPEAKING SCHEDULE**

Sorry, but at the moment, other than above, we don’t have a schedule. For timely updates, please email us or check our new website:

<https://larrykies.wordpress.com/>

When the picture of Jane having her temperature checked at the AU gate appeared in the March newsletter masks were not yet common. Now they are required when in public.



Like schools around the world, both AU staff and students have been challenged to gain new skills in online teaching and learning. This has kept Jane and I plenty busy with classes, and online exams.

Access to internet has been a severe challenge to many of our AU students. When students from Larry's Crop Production class left campus, half of them said that their home situation and finances would make it difficult for them to take online classes and exams. Yet, last week, every one of them submitted their final exam online as expected. We are quite sure that the struggle was not easy, but the Information Technology office helped them to access discounted data time. Amazing what can be done when focused!

The Zimbabwe government recently announced that Grade schools and high schools can open in phases, starting with Exam classes, Grades 7, 11 and 13. Universities can plan to open for final-year classes. How that will work for us when the August term is supposed to begin is still being worked out.

The lockdown, combined with mandatory quarantines for returning residents, and increasing testing, has helped keep the confirmed corona infection rate low. Last count was 149, with four deaths, in a nation of 15 million. Most of the positive cases were residents returning from overseas. We are thankful that as of this writing, Manicaland (the province where we are located) so far has only 9 cases, and those are in quarantine camps for returning residents.

**AU FARM NEWS**

The farm manager and his staff have not slowed down during the lockdown. Most of the wheat is now sown and starting to germinate. The pumping system and irrigation pumps all received much-needed new equipment- having money available in the Farm Development Fund when needed made a huge difference.



**Sowing wheat with the new spreader**

-the fish ponds (for tilapia) are being renovated, including security fencing so they don't mutate into 'flying fish' when ready for harvest  
 -cold-storage for the broiler chickens is in the pipeline

Despite all the challenges brought on by a fragile Zimbabwe economy and now the corona virus, A.U. continues to reach out in Jesus' name, training young people for an uncertain future.



**A.U. labs are producing hand-sanitizer to distribute to hospitals and others in the community.**

**FAMILY NEWS**

**Michael** stayed with a friend in Minneapolis to finish the semester on-line, but is now back in Ames for his summer internship. With so many people out of work, he feels fortunate.

*Carly's campus ministry at University of Queensland at Brisbane continues in a social-distance mode.*

**Pule** continues to work at home in Boulder, as does **Ben** in New York.

***Please pray***

- prayers of thanks that so far, the confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Zimbabwe are still very low... and none at AU
- for wisdom for AU administrators in making decisions about the upcoming August semester
- for all throughout the world severely affected by Covid-19, either from infection or from the lockdowns

Thank you for your support, prayers, thoughts, emails, cards and letters. We pray that you are kept safe and find ways of reaching out to your loved ones and others.

Yours and His,  
 Larry and Jane Kies

U.M.C. Advance Special numbers:  
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 Africa University Scholarships: 3021028  
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