



# UPDATE

FROM

# MUTARE



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*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us... prophesying... serving... teaching... encouraging... giving to needs of others... leading... showing mercy...  
Romans 12:6-8*

Newsletter  
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Dear friends and family,

A recent email asked Why?

**Why.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?**

**Why .....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?**

**Why.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering?**

**Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?**

**Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?**

**Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?**

**Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?**

**Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?**

**If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?**

**Why? Good question.**

Jared Diamond, in his book *Guns, Germs and Steel*, attempted to answer the question, 'Why did some civilizations develop and become dominant- why did Juan Pizarro sail to Peru and conquer the Incas, instead of a representative of Inca Emperor Atahualpa travelling to Spain and capturing King Charles I?

To keep perspective on what we are doing, we sometimes ask ourselves, 'Why are we here in Zimbabwe, at Africa University?'

To help us answer that question, we look to those with whom we work... our students and former students, our fellow workers.

Rebecca Mutyambizi (right) graduated from AU 2006 with a degree in Sociology. Her father, Rev Dennison Nyamurowa, toured 49 states in 1959 with Bishop Ralph Dodge and 3 others to raise funds for scholarships for Zimbabweans to attend US colleges. Rebeccah came to fulfill her father's dream of having a college-educated daughter, and now helps

run the family trucking company. She is a fervent supporter of AU, with one child already an AU graduate, and another to graduate in 2011.



Walter Manyangarirwa was in the first class of AU Agriculture students. Now teaching entomology and



plant pathology here at AU, he earned his PhD at Clemson University, and is taking increasing responsibility in the administration of the Faculty of Agriculture. He also runs the Plant Clinic. In the picture he is advising a commercial vegetable farmer with a cucumber disease problem.

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Jonathan Mazani (3<sup>rd</sup> place student winner of the AU half-marathon) lost his father last year, so is dependent on scholarships to complete his degree in Agriculture. He plans to be involved in Environmental Management when he graduates in 2011.



Rev Philip Musharu graduated in Theology and is now the bishop's right hand man. He helps the church to grow and seek answers to the 21<sup>st</sup> century questions of the How and Why of the church here in Africa and especially in Zimbabwe.



Each of these individuals is helping to foster development in Zimbabwe and other African nations, and are part of the 'critical mass' of educated and motivated people necessary for the economy to revive and the church to grow. There are still many challenges (electricity continues to be a major problem. The power grid is in place, but various factors cause numerous power outages.) but at least the graph is sloping upwards.

Last month we visited Botswana, where Jane and I met, married and worked for many years. The peace and prosperity, and the breath-taking development that has taken place since we left in 1991 thrilled, but also saddened, us... Why can Zimbabwe not do this? We returned with renewed hope and determination to help AU play its role in doing just that...in Jesus' name.

### **Farm News**

The Farm Development Fund helps us to continue to expand our irrigation system. Our 5000 layers are producing (salmonella free!) eggs a-plenty. We are having trouble sourcing sufficient broiler day-old chicks to meet demand for poultry meat. Yesterday I saw an interesting statistic- the monthly demand for chicken in Zimbabwe is around 250 g (1/2 a pound) per person- two pieces a month. How many pieces did *you* eat last month?

### **Family News**

We were delighted to have Ben spend a month with us (I think he now speaks Shona with a Boston accent) before heading to Cape Town for a 2-month stint with a software firm working on converting voice into texture and color.

Pule is now in an apartment and has started his third year at Iowa State in Computer Engineering. When Jane called him one day last month he had no water because of the flooding in Ames... we were glad *that* situation didn't last long.

Carly smiles even more since she had her braces off! This term she will be busy again with swimming and field hockey.

Michael was so excited to get some guitar lessons from Ben, and improved dramatically in a short time. He has become a keen swimmer, with backstroke his best event.

Please pray for:

- a good rainy season starting in November
- the numerous AU students not knowing if they will continue their studies as the Financial Aid resources are stretched thin while the Zimbabwe economy continues to be in a funk
- discernment in knowing Why God put *you* where you are

Thank you for your love, prayers and support!

Yours and His,

Larry and Jane Kies

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