

CONTACT



Canteen

Construction!

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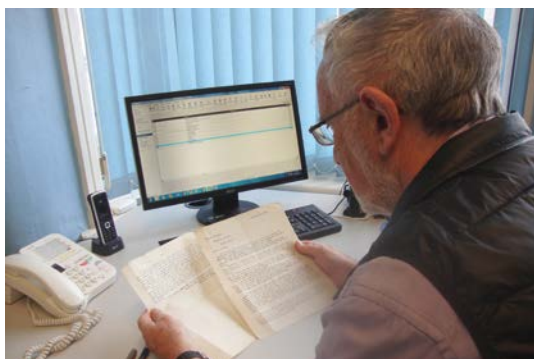
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THE END OF AN ERA – WITH THANKS

by Kym Delpont

At the end of 2023, Andrew Ramsey formally ended his role in the CAM office. Then, in March 2024, he completed his final term as Trustee of CAM International. This will indeed mark the end of an era of faithful service to God for Andrew, who, together with his wife Lyn, has worked with CAM International since 1973 – 51 years!

During this time, Andrew has been a CAM Missionary, Administrator, Chair of the trustees, Archivist, Assistant-administrator, and Trustee... Wow! There is so much work involved in each of the above roles, and Andrew has carried out each one with excellence and grace.



▲ Working on the archives

Those of you who have called the office over the years to give donations or ask for information will know Andrew well and will have experienced his kind and friendly assistance.

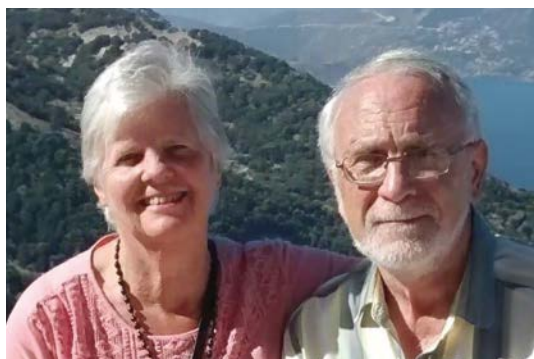
I have worked with Andrew for a number of years now, but more closely since 2017 when I took on the role of Administrator. Andrew has been a great mentor



The Ramsey family at Kipushya, Congo ▲

and I have learned so much from him. It will be very hard to 'let him go' as I will miss his wise counsel and his knowledge of all things CAM. However, he has certainly earned the right to enjoy his retirement, so we are releasing him with thanks. Besides, he has said that he will always be available if we need advice and will continue to take care of the CAM archives.

Andrew has been working alongside Rajan Joseph in the CAM office, training him up to learn all the ins and outs of data entry and office procedure. Now that Andrew has left, please pray that the Lord will bless and help Rajan and me as we try our best to fill Andrew's shoes!



▲ Andrew and Lyn

Colossians 3:23-24 says, 'Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly as though you were working for your real master and not merely for humans. You know that your real master will give you an inheritance as your reward.' We know that the Lord will bless Andrew and, for those of you who know him, I am sure that you, along with us, wish him all the best for his retirement.



Giving to those who are in extreme poverty ▲

A very common question asked by missionaries in Africa, in the midst of untold suffering, is **‘Why, Lord?’**. The thought frequently crosses my own mind. **‘Why, Lord,** are so many born to privilege and to a degree of comfort and social support, and yet the vast majority in our world are born into, live and die in comparative abject poverty?’

A well-known commentator paraphrased Isaiah 46:10 like this, *‘The whole sweep of history, from its inception to the things still in progress and on till the end, is under His sovereign rule.’*

Seeing the bigger picture

So often our understanding of what is happening to us in our lives is interpreted by the present moment. Whereas God sees the bigger picture and says, *‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’*

The clear teaching from Jesus’ encounter with Martha and Mary, when they asked **Why, Lord?** over the death of Lazarus, was that His delayed arrival was in order that they and others would see the glory of God. If we truly believe that God is loving, kind, gracious, merciful, all-knowing and all-powerful, then we also need to believe that what He allows to happen in our lives, and to those with whom we meet and interact, has a purpose.

Unseen purpose

Our lives and all that we do as His people in this world, therefore, has meaning in the eyes of the sovereign God of the universe, which is why Paul states in Romans 8:28, *‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.’*

So, in Africa, we are learning day by day to see the bigger picture, but it does not stop us asking the question, **‘Why, Lord?’** We need to remind ourselves that, however helpless we may feel in the face of suffering and tragedy, that the Lord of Creation is in full control, and we can trust Him to work out His purposes in all that we encounter in life for His glory alone.



▲ An impromptu group sings their thanks!

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BARUK CENTRE

by Wanderley da Silva

Wanderley and Rosaria da Silva devote much of their time and energy towards the Baruk Centre in Chimoio, Mozambique, which operates a pre-school and vocational training centre, along with providing training for church leaders. Due to Rosaria's ill health, the da Silvas are not currently able to be in Mozambique, however, while they may be physically absent, they are working as hard as ever with the administrative side of things. Here is what has been happening at the Baruk Centre recently:

Looking after the children

Regarding the pre-school, there are 105 children attending from the local area, and many of them come from backgrounds of extreme poverty. We are so grateful for our sponsors who help the children financially. We have 12 missionaries working as volunteer teachers, who work extremely hard for the children.

New developments

We are planning to start a computer course for 60 students in partnership with the town council. We are aiming to run the first sessions in May. We are also planning a confectionary baking course for around 16 students to take place in the same month.

Regarding construction, we are working to finish our current building projects, which are a new canteen and management office. We are sorting out finances for this purpose. The need has been



▲ Constructing the Canteen

great, but until now the Lord has provided all we have needed, so we continue to trust in Him.

Adult courses

At the Bible school this year we have 21 students on the theological course and in October we should have our first set of graduates. We have 110 women studying on the literacy course and it has been such a blessing to have them with us.



▲ Students on the theological course

Thank you very much!

These are the main activities that are ongoing and are being developed this year at the Baruk Centre. Once again, thank you very much for standing with us at this difficult time, and for all the support you have given us.

Please continue to pray for us.



INSPIRING WORDS FROM CAM'S ARCHIVES

by some of those who laid down their lives in active service

In the 50th anniversary issue of Contact, these inspiring words were commended to the readers. Nearly sixty years on, these words still resonate with those of us who are serving the Lord, in service, prayer and giving. Their goals are still CAM's goals: to seek to bring men, women and children to Jesus.

Elton Knauf - June, 1938

Martyred with Teddy Hodgson in 1960, worked at Kabongo and Lulungu.

'Dear reader, we would ask you who have been much more privileged than these folk, to pray that Satan may be frustrated in his efforts to hinder the Light of the Glorious Gospel of Christ from shining into the hearts of these in this land, who still sit in darkness and the shadow of death.'

Maurice Hugo - May, 1947

Died on furlough in 1955, worked at Mwanza.

'We can never over-estimate the tremendous value in winning one soul for God's Kingdom, because the salvation of one person in very important, this truth is clearly seen in several instances in the Word of God. We have the Lord Jesus Himself who went out of His way so that a sinful woman of Samaria could be saved. Of course, we all like to see the crowds coming to the Lord Jesus, but if it is only the individual soul won for Christ, the value of that soul is very precious.'

Edmund 'Teddy' Hodgson - taken from his 1946 book, 'Out of the darkness'

Martyred with Elton Knauf in 1960, worked at Kisanga and Kikondja.

'The Lord Jesus illustrated and commended a Christianity that bent its back, soiled its hands and blistered its feet in stooping to help fallen man. Just as positively He denounced and condemned a professional religion that passes by on the other side when man's need is at its greatest. Some are called to be apostles, but every Christian is called to be an epistle - God's love letter, read of men.'

Mollie Hodgson - January, 1952 (the month before she died)

Died of a stroke in 1952. She was Teddy Hodgson's second wife and worked with him at Kikondja.

'So then let us take these things to heart and learn that God is always willing to bear our burdens, great or small; that if we are faithful in our witness, He will vindicate us; and that even our smallest action, our wee word, our small gift, can, if yielded to Him, be made to feed the hungry souls and appease their thirst like the finest wine, by the power of His Spirit. But we must be fully yielded to Him and willing for Him to work out His purpose in our lives, regardless of the cost, not fearing, for He is faithful and will more than make up for all we forgo for Him.'

Alfred Brown - January, 1952

Died of a heart attack in 1964 because his heart was weakened by blackwater fever, worked at Lwamba and Kongolo.

'What then is left to us? The Lord's command is "Occupy" and we can do nothing less. The chances are still with us. Many Africans are still stretching out their hands for God. But it is becoming increasingly difficult. How long is left to us we do not know any more than we know when the Lord shall come. We do know that the latter even is at hand and we feel that the time left to us is short.'



▲ Alfred Brown with his wife Mary



▲ Hettie Burton with her group of rescued girls

Hettie Burton - October, 1933

Died of heart failure at Mwanza in 1952, she was the wife of William Burton, one of CAM's founders.

'It is now just a little over fifteen years since I first came to this country. What happy, full years they have been. How I praise God for the blessed privilege of labouring for Him and with Him in the greatest of all works, that of bringing men, women and children to a living knowledge of Christ, as their own personal Saviour.'

PAST: We praise the Lord for carrying out His purposes through the missionaries who have sacrificially worked with CAM International since its conception in 1915. Many thousands of people have been given the opportunity to learn about and accept Jesus into their hearts and lives.

PRESENT: Please pray for those who are currently serving in Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, UK and Zambia.

FUTURE: Pray also that more men and women will be available to answer the call of God to go on mission where the need is greatest.



SUNDAY SCHOOL IN ZAMBIA



by Robin Kretschman

Preschool children at Nyangombe learning about God's creation ▲

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.' They are precious to Him. Nyangombe Christian Training Centre pre-school children recently took a walking tour around the campus to learn about God's creation. They had smiles on their faces, joy in their hearts, and the flowers they collected in their hands. With the rainy season comes flowers and a pause with the Bible school sessions. The free time gives Nyangombe leadership an opportunity to travel to local villages to share the gospel and worship with fellow believers. At each village, children gather for 'Sunday school.'

Childlike wonder

In just a few weeks, over 300 children heard that Jesus loves them, using rhythm instruments, songs, Bible stories and a colouring page that were all in their native tongue. Their excitement, laughter and curiosity warm the heart. It is no wonder that Jesus had a deep love for children. At Lwekela, a village about one-and-a-half hours further to the north from Nyangombe, 115 children learned a new song, 'Jesus loves me' (Yesu wakukena) and that God talks to us and teaches us through the Bible (Mukanda Wajila Wanzambi).



▲ Sunday school at Lwekela



▲ Creating a masterpiece at Lwekela

There were 78 children at the Sunday school of the new church in Samuteba. They listened to every word preached during the worship service.

These were wonderful times, but it was the visit to Kalendi that caused us to reflect on the remote bush of Africa in a different way. At Kalendi, 83 excited faces learned to use egg-shaped shakers to keep the beat of the music as they learned new songs like 'Jesus loves me' and 'Our God is so big'. They caught on quickly as they were taught about the Bible, God our Father and Creator, and Jesus, His Son.

A novel experience

As the colouring sheets and crayons were handed out, children scamped to get settled and begin adding colours to the sheet that reinforced what they had just learned - all except for a group of about 20 sitting on a mat at the front of the room. They refused the papers. We were told that the children said they could not manage the task. They did not want the papers or the crayons. Perplexed, Mama Robin sat down on the floor with them, and Mama Floyd positioned herself on a bench close by, each surrounded by children. Knowing the children would love the activity, neither woman felt comfortable

having so many miss out. It didn't take long to realize the children had never held a writing instrument in their hand. They did not know how to colour. They did not have drawers full of crayons, coloured pencils, washable markers and coloured chalk, like children in other parts of the world.

Floyda and Robin took one little hand at a time, placed a crayon in it and moved their hand across the paper. Robin sang 'Jesus loves me' in Lunda as the little hands began to colour. By the time the third child had been helped, all the children began asking for papers and a crayon. Some sat, and others lay on their stomachs, but all were creating masterpieces as they coloured the pictures of the Bible, of things God created, and of baby Jesus.

Caring for little ones

The harvest is plentiful! Each village has children who need to know Jesus loves them. Church leaders in each community have been challenged to prioritise Sunday school. Invitations have also been extended for the Nyangombe Sunday school teacher training sessions. Certainly, each child is blessed when they have teachers who care for them enough to share Jesus with them.



▲ Listening to the message at the Samuteba church



▲ The road to Kalendi



▲ Learning many new things at Kalendi

Looking back over 50 years with CAM

Lyn Ramsey

Returning to Africa in later life for a second stint of missionary service can be a challenge, but there is also a positive side.

Congo and Zambia

When Andrew and I went out to Congo in 1973, we were in our mid-twenties. Having returned to the UK for our children's secondary education in 1987 and worked at the Preston office for 14 years, we felt God calling us back to Africa. And so, in March 2002, we set off for Zambia, now aged 54 and 52. Our second innings lasted ten years.

Language problems

Having been missionaries before, we were somewhat over-confident the second time round, thinking we were used to African customs and ways. However, having spent all those years back in England, plus Zambia being a different country, we had to go through some culture shock all over again. At Kipushya, we had picked up Kisongye, the language spoken in that area of Congo, quite quickly. But we were young then! In Ndola, Zambia, we soon discovered that it's much more difficult to learn a new language when you're middle-aged. Despite taking lessons in Bemba, we were never much good at communicating in it. Even the greetings were a stumbling block for us. There are two main ones, which require different answers. On hearing one of these very flowery greetings, we tended to panic and give the wrong response (or even reply in Kisongye, which came more readily to the tongue, even after all those years.)

As English is the official language of Zambia, we



14. Our second innings in Africa

could use our native tongue for all our Bible School teaching, church work and women's ministry, using interpreters when necessary. But we were sorry not to have progressed further with speaking Bemba. Our excuse? You can't teach an old dog new tricks!

Missionary fellowship

However, on the positive side, our maturer age meant that we had learnt many lessons of life and were in a position to encourage younger Christians – both the Zambians we worked with and other missionaries. When we first came to Ndola, we felt rather isolated, not being with other CAM missionaries like in Congo. We knew there were other expat missionaries around – we'd met a few in the shops and offices. We managed to organise a monthly missionary get-together. The first one took place at our house on a Sunday afternoon in



▲ Lyn writing her message for a village church meeting



▲ Andrew helps baptize a member of the expat church in Ndola

February 2004, with about 20 people, including children. We all brought food to share, and our emphasis was on fellowship rather than ‘having a meeting’. We chatted, ate and prayed together and all agreed that this gathering met a real need. The following month, at another home, we had an even larger group, with a crowd of children playing happily together.

Giving encouragement

One day, we hosted 18 adults and as many children, who played football in the garden while we grown-ups talked together. Oh, it seemed such a long, long time since our own children had been that age! We were by far the oldest couple on the Ndola missionary fellowship list - and grandparents by now, too! Andrew felt led to share a testimony of encouragement, especially for those parents of school-age children among us who were going through the same heartaches we’d experienced in our Congo days. We used to worry about whether our children might suffer and be insecure because of all the upheavals of missionary life. Would their education be affected by all the moves from school to school? Now, twenty years later, Andrew could assure these younger friends that our children had not missed out on anything that counts. On the contrary, they had benefited immeasurably from their wide range of experiences in Africa. They

had all gone to university and were now happily married. How we thanked God for His faithfulness to us! There’s no need to be anxious, Andrew said finally, because if we are where God has called us to be, doing His work, then we can trust Him to look after us and our families.

God wants to use each one of us in His service, whatever our age. We all have something unique to offer.



▲ Meeting first grandchild on a short visit to England in 2004



FESTIVITIES & FIREWORKS AT NYANGOMBE



by Gordon McKillop

Singing by candlelight! ▲

Christmas is a busy time no matter where you are. Here is how Christmas and New Year were celebrated at Nyangombe Christian Training Centre in 2023.

Priority work

Preparing fields for the 2024 harvest is the priority on everyone's minds, but as Christmas gets closer the children begin to get excited. The relentless digging, weeding, planting and protecting seed in the ground from rodents involves the entire family, with roles apportioned according to physical strength and age. No one will receive 'presents' as such at home, but excitement grows in anticipation of games with lollipops and sweets in abundance, where all the children leave with ample in their pockets.

We had a small team from the UK who turned up and asked if they could 'sensitise' the local population on how wrong it was to involve child labour in family gardens. Now, if they had taken the approach that it was wrong to deprive children of their education in favour of them working in the fields, the community would have supported them. However, this team of ladies had an uphill struggle. Until then, they had visited places where the Zambians were too polite to challenge

their Western views. However, at Nyangombe, they were asked why they had come 6,000 miles to present ideas which would endanger the future wellbeing of their children. Dozens told them politely, but with passion, that children learn subsistence farming from a very young age, so that in coming days these same children will eat what they grow and in turn teach their own families how to grow good crops.



▲ Games and fun!

Celebrating Christmas, Nyangombe style!

There is a Christmas Eve tradition at Nyangombe where all the children go around with lit candles and sing Christmas carols as they walk. They visit our houses, and all parents have a sweet for each child. Last year it rained a little but the children kept the candles burning, and when they eventually reached the Bible School Hall that became the subject of a short word of encouragement to all who had come - to keep their lights burning brightly.

On my return from town earlier in the afternoon, I stopped to give a lift to a woman and her daughter. When in the car they said, 'Many are coming to Nyangombe tonight'. I did not think much about it, but when I arrived at the Bible School Hall at 8:30pm, there were already over 400 children and young people there. Games were held where children, youth and adults all participated and there were 'scrambles' on the floor when children dived to retrieve handfuls of sweets thrown into the group. However, room was becoming severely restricted as more kept coming, with many demanding 'fireworks'. Some rather rowdy groups arrived, making it increasingly dangerous for the younger children who just wanted to have fun with their friends and parents. Africa is ever dynamic, so we changed plans and had groups singing Sunday School songs, and then Charles Kafweta gave a message on the true meaning of Christmas, followed by soft drinks and biscuits. All went home just after 10pm, with hundreds walking to their distant villages.



▲ Christmas message for the children



▲ Children performing a group song

Not-so-silent night!

When Nyangombe was quiet, around 11.30pm, the fireworks 'mysteriously' arrived, and every local child received a small packet of 'bangers', which began exploding at midnight (Christmas Day!) and lasted until 3am. The 'delivery man' was asleep in bed with ear plugs in! Is it any wonder that the Christmas Day meeting started two hours late? Recitations of memory verses went on for at least 90 minutes, and I was prodded a few times for succumbing to sleep! The meetings ended with a Christmas dinner for everyone who came and, including children, over 300 ate together.

New Year's Eve party

A New Year's Eve party was kept secret until 7.30pm the same evening. We had around 200 present and had a great evening with singing, games, food, a Gospel message by a gifted youth leader, and then some more fireworks. The New Year's Day meeting started late, but the hall was packed as people were challenged to contemplate the decisions they might take in the New Year. In the afternoon, families, now in their working clothes, headed off to the fields again.

FAITH AND MIRACLES

by Dave Garrard



When Dave Garrard visited Ethiopia in late 2022, he interviewed Pastor Tesfaye. Here is Dave's record of the interview.

I met Tesfaye on one of my first trips to Ethiopia in 1997. He is the head pastor of a wide region in the south of the country. He is quite old now and has been in ministry for many years. He said that the last time I was with him was about five years ago, when he had one hundred churches, but now there are three hundred. He said that recently while he was in a new area, he was called by someone to go to a new village, and he went. It was difficult but he knew God had called him. When Tesfaye came to the Pentecostal Training Centre, where I met him this time, he had found someone to send to carry on the work in this new place. I asked him how he chose the person to go there. He said that he heard the voice of God, in the same way he had previously heard a voice many years ago telling him to go to work with a Pentecostal group when he had been part of a church that did not believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He obeyed that voice, went to Addis and joined them.

Miraculous healings

Tesfaye said his experience is such that he knows he must obey the voice of God. When he does, things always work out. Once, a lady called him and asked for him to pray for her. She was married but had no children and no menstrual cycles. This lady had seen him pray for another lady who was

sick, and she was healed, so this gave her courage to call Tesfaye. He prayed for her, and her menstrual cycle started normally. She contacted him not long afterwards to inform him that she was pregnant and was rejoicing in the goodness of God. The same woman had a brother in Addis who had been ill for some time and asked Tesfaye to pray for him. He did so and the man was healed. The power of God manifesting in healings is leading many to trust in Jesus and be saved. Also, these miracles are encouraging many young people to serve the Lord even in hard times and places.

Raising up the next generation

I asked Tesfaye what he does to prepare people for ministry and church planting. He replied that he prays for them, and when he sees that God is working with them, he sends them out. He said that the Holy Spirit guides him in his choices and tells him how they are to be involved. He said that the Lord helps him so that when they speak in tongues, he can understand what they are saying and that way he can tell whether they are ready. Sometimes, the young people try to imitate their friends who have spoken in tongues. He will take the person on one side and counsel them and help them to have the real experience. No one is sent out until they have been baptised in the Holy Spirit.



▲ Dave with church planters

Death, where is your sting?

I asked Tesfaye about the place of miracles in the spread of the Gospel. He said that there was a Christian family whose son, Gebre, was very ill and apparently died. The people in the church sent Tesfaye a message, 'Come quickly, Gebre has died.' His father was able to remain self-controlled, but his mother was rolling around on the floor, crying and wailing. When Tesfaye arrived, there was no sign of life in the boy, he was motionless. Tesfaye stood with one foot each side of the boy's leg, looked to heaven and prayed repeatedly, 'God, is he dead? God, is he dead?' Then he heard a voice say, 'No, he did not die.' He prayed and the body began to shake, and the boy was raised up. From that day until now, Gebre has never had any sickness. He is now at the Training Centre and gave his own testimony to this miracle which took place in 2001.



▲ A group of leaders sharing lunch



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THIS SUMMER IN AFRICA

by Paul Stables

This issue of **CONTACT** takes many of us into the summer months. In the southern hemisphere, where Mozambique, Zambia and most of the DRC lie, this is the cooler, dry season.

This season presents both opportunities and difficulties. The dry weather allows mud bricks to be dried in the sun without the risk of rain ruining them. The thatching grass is ready to be cut and used to mend roofs. As such, it is the easiest time of year to do building work. It is also a popular time to make deliveries or take trips that require long bush journeys. Please pray for our missionaries during this busy time of year. (At Nyangombe, the intensive Bible-teaching programme started in April.)

Conversely, as we heard from Gordon McKillop last issue, many local people who live in villages will struggle to keep warm during the cooler nights, which will particularly affect widows, the elderly and other vulnerable people. Many do not have beds and must sleep on thin reed mats laid across the cold, hard mud floors of their huts. In some areas the temperatures drop down to around freezing – not a problem with insulated homes

and heating but very hard for those without these privileges. Please keep them in your prayers this summer. As much of Zambia and further afield in Africa has been struggling with drought, please also pray that this dry season will not be too harsh and that the rains will come early and be plentiful to refill the rivers and lakes.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



Congo in the dry season – photo taken by Nick Delpont ▲

PDF version

Please note that the **Contact Magazine** is also available as a PDF version. This may be useful for those who travel, or who would benefit from enlarging the print on the computer. If so, please send an email to the CAM office and we will put your name on the PDF mailing list.

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