



Mulishani! Tulifwa bwino (we are fine) – although feeling pretty worn out, ready for lots of good sleep now the team have gone home and the temperature is warming up so it's not as cold at night.

You may be expecting to hear that things slowed down in the past few weeks, but it certainly didn't! After a good visit from Tim's parents we set about our last expedition....

Expedition 3 – Lusaka and Livingstone

This last expedition was mainly spent doing 'School Mission' with Vincent and Elevin Chirwa, a couple who were both KBC students while Gemma was a participant on AQ in 2001/2. Gemma stayed in contact with Elevin ever since that time and so was really keen to work together with her again. This turned out to be many of the teams' favourite expedition. We were so blessed – Vincent and Elevin gave up their flat for us to stay in (thankfully no camping as it was FREEZING!), amazingly they also have cable TV which meant some days after working hard we got to watch a few of the World Cup games, much to the lads delight!



We started each morning with a devotion led by either Vincent or Elevin where we were all challenged by their teaching. One particular message struck the team when Elevin shared from Philippians 4:8; *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things"*. She said that our minds are not dustbins that we let anything and everything be thrown in. Elevin has quite a way with imagery! She said that although there are many birds in the sky that might fly around our heads, that doesn't mean that it's ok for them to make a nest in our hair! It makes you think about all the rubbish in the world that we so easily accept or get involved with.

One thing which hit us about this passage was when thinking about the word 'noble' – it makes you think about royalty and how someone noble might behave. If we're called as Christians to be noble, our standards have to be pretty high. We need to ask ourselves 'how would the king respond/think?' – our response needs to be the same.



Some of the team said that they could sit and listen to them hour after hour and never get bored. Equally we all enjoyed watching Vincent and Elevin in action in the different schools we visited. Each of us also stepped up to encourage pupils in their walk with Jesus. This ministry had such an impact on Hannah that she is thinking of returning to Zambia later this year to work with School Mission.



We also spent a short amount of time working with the YMCA and their street kids programme. Some of them became Christians whilst we were with them. Story after story was heart breaking. Beatrice has

been on the streets for years. From time to time she returns home, but when it all becomes too much because of various things she returns to the street. Life there is hard. The day we met she was limping and had a huge gash on her forehead. The day before a man had tried to rape her. Thankfully he didn't succeed, but he beat her in the process. She went to the police. They laughed and said that it served her right for being on the streets and that she should just go home. Sadly this story is repeated over and over in countless lives – even Beatrice's own life. There was the same situation 2 years ago, she now has a child as a result who she has given to a relative to care for.

Some of the boys we met had burns on their bodies from where they'd been sleeping next to a fire to keep warm during the cold nights, and unfortunately rolled into the fire whilst sleeping.

Many of the older kids we met were high on 'drugs'. Often this was due to sniffing glue but shockingly we discovered that some get high from the fumes of their own fermented excrement. Gross. Despite offering assistance, those who know the kids best warned us that it is hard to help them as they will sell anything you give them and they are very guarded when it comes to anyone they don't know or new ideas. This is an ever increasing problem due to the HIV/AIDs pandemic and children being placed with extended family who don't really want them.

During this expedition Gemma particularly enjoyed being able to spend time with Elewin again. The past 6 months have been hard work and in many ways quite draining so this time proved to be really refreshing and a great encouragement.



After a week in Lusaka we headed south to spend 3 days in Livingstone – arriving just after the England v Germany game kicked off. No more needs to be said on the matter ☹️.



We had a great time in Livingstone. The Victoria Falls were really full, there was so much spray that we were soaked through to the skin. Being the middle of the Cold Season meant the water was freezing and the air had a chill. Thankfully most of us had a waterproof jacket on, but some of us (Tim) unfortunately didn't. Dave H and Michael chose to do the bungi package – crazy people!! This meant they did a 111m bungi jump, gorge swing, and zipline all from the Vic Falls bridge. Gemma's belly lurched just watching!



The final week...

The team went home on Saturday after a busy week of goodbyes. On Thursday Dave S left to go home early along with Shaun (Projects Manager for SoapBox) who had been visiting SAQ for a few days. It was good to see Shaun and actually he came at a really good time (despite original plans to come in April when the volcano messed a lot of people around) being able to thank almost all the people we've worked with over the last 6 months at our celebration meal on Wednesday evening. This was a great time of sharing testimonies, photos and eating kababs which made your teeth want to fall out! The

reason for which is a mystery! Being the end of the first SAQ team it meant a time of reflection – not only for us to consider ways of developing the programme further for next year but also for the team reflecting on what God has done in and through them whilst they've been in Africa. There are many things to praise God for!

What Next?

Most people would think that the team going home would mean some time off to relax, but no. Not yet anyway. We had intended to take a few days off in Lusaka, however, Toyota FINALLY got their act together a couple of days ago and called us to take the Landcruiser to Kitwe to have the windscreen seal (which Lusaka Toyota botched up back on the 30th March) properly fixed so that it doesn't whistle or let water in. Turns out the Toyota dealership in Lusaka in fact fitted the wrong size windscreen in the vehicle – no wonder it whistled and leaked! Meanwhile, while we wait, we've still been keeping busy. We've been clearing the decks after the team's departure, re-plastering cracks and crumbling plaster in various walls and have begun to paint the lounge. On Monday we also paid a visit to the Congo Embassy to get our visas. Clara-Marie Pederson invited Gemma to speak with her at a ladies conference in Kolwezi, Congo from the 13th-16th August. Your prayers for wisdom in what to speak on would be appreciated.

Other than the conference and decorating we are intending to still be involved with Lifeline, hut-to-hut ministry with Pastor Albert (who has been helping us paint the lounge), Road block ministry and visiting St Anthony's. We are going to increase our visits to St Anthony's from once a week to two or three times in order for the cerebral palsy children Gemma is teaching to make more progress – once a week is just not enough as you have to start near enough from scratch each time. We'll see how it goes. They have finally moved into their new 'house' which we painted, so it's great to see them there. Dave H made a toy box with Tim's dad,



Derek, which we filled with toys and gave to them as a gift. We gave it to them last Tuesday – the children were beside themselves with excitement! Our knowledge of Bemba (the local language) is very limited and we would love to know more so that we can communicate more effectively, especially with the children we regularly meet. Hopefully we will be getting lessons!

We are also hoping to take another group of Lifeline orphans to Nsoke camping in August. We have also heard today that we may have some visitors between now and mid-August who are part of a University team coming to do mission for a few weeks.

We are also hoping that now we don't have the responsibility of overseeing a team 24/7 we will have opportunity to make build on relationships and make some deeper friendships. Your prayers in this are appreciated.

We will keep you posted in all we do. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Lots of love

Tim and Gemma

Prayer Points

- Thank God for all that He's done in the past 6 months.
- The team as they readjust to life at home in the UK, that they would build on their experiences and not lose ground.
- Our work with St Anthony's and Lifeline
- Our trip to Congo – safe travel with the Pederson family, smooth border crossings and for the conference generally.
- Time to relax, be refreshed and study God's Word.
- Building/deepening relationships with people.
- For Elisabeth Pederson (The sister-in-law to Peter & Clara-Marie Pederson, who also lives in Ndola) – she was rushed to South Africa for emergency surgery on a rapidly growing lump on her breast – a type of Lymphoma. Please pray for total healing and recovery from her surgery.
- For Ingrid (KBC administrator) who lost her laptop during her flight back to Denmark last week – for its safe return!