

August 23, 2021

Dear friends,

The past few weeks in Zambia have been interesting and there is good news on at least two fronts.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> covid wave has passed and schools are open again. We know many in Zambia who contracted Covid during this 3<sup>d</sup> wave and a few who passed away. Yet, after about six weeks of spread, the virus petered out again. This, without much help from vaccinations. Now we wait and see if a 4<sup>th</sup> covid wave comes along. Resilience is there and we are grateful – though unsure – why!

Meantime, 'learners' are back in class catching up as best they can before year end exams in December.

Another piece of good news regards this month's Presidential election. It was predicted to be a tight race and we wondered if the voting would be free and fair. From the outset, as votes were counted, the opposition leader took the lead and won by a landslide. A few days later the current President, Edgar Lungu, conceded and promised a peaceful transition of power. Thank you, Lord, for this.

It is winter in Zambia and typically no rain falls until late October or early November. Soon, within the dry and dusty landscape, Jacarandas (pictured) and



several other flowering trees will bloom. It is a sight to behold and another mystery! Flowers appearing after months of drought...a divine promise of rain to come. In September the thermostat slides upward and the daytime temperatures reach 30+ degrees many days. October can be insufferably hot and people watch the skies carefully for clouds. Some have adopted the tradition of heading outdoors when the first good rain falls. They sit and get soaked and rejoice that the land will once again turn green.

This is the first year in many that we've not spent time in Zambia and we are anxious to return early next year. I

have missed it terribly!

Thank you for patiently hanging in there with us, and with the pandemic, and with the students, as we all wait for life to be fully restored.

Blessings, Joan and all the team on both sides of the world