



Paraclete Christian Network International

January 9th - 20th 2025

Zimbabwe Ministry Trip

For this trip, Graham and Susanne Hoslett, Jane Seals and Lynda Hulcoop travelled to Zimbabwe where they were joined by Daniel Muwanguzi, Africa Coordinator for SEAN International (**Study by Extension for All Nations**), who came to train leaders to teach new SEAN discipleship courses in Kuwadzana and beyond. After initial meetings with the board on Saturday and participation in the church service at Kuwadzana Presbyterian on Sunday, work at the training centre began.

Bible School Activities On Monday and Tuesday Daniel held SEAN training for over 30 church leaders from 8 different denominations. The sessions emphasising the Kingdom of God and introducing and modelling the SEAN materials were well received with participants seemingly very positive about launching the materials in their groups. We then met with the translators who will work on the Shona translation of the courses and the printer who will produce the course books.

After Daniel's training, Graham led a two-day course on "Introducing Romans", again attended by over 30 students. On Saturday we held our annual Bible School graduation with students receiving attendance certificates for the two-day courses and then the year students - four graduating at ordinary level and ten of last year's graduates passing at Advanced level - a time of great rejoicing.

Paraclete College Lynda and Jane met with our sponsored students, getting updates and taking photographs for their sponsors. Exam results came during the week with teachers very encouraged as they were the best results ever. Most A Level students passed with enough points for university although the costs of such higher education are way beyond the reach of these students. The O level results came on our last day so we were not able to get a full picture but were delighted that one of our sponsored students got 9 O levels. In one of our meetings, the Deputy Head outlined new plans to develop more vocational subjects alongside the existing academic ones, e.g. farming, building, electrics etc., which we wholeheartedly supported. We hope to send kits from Tools With a Mission in the coming year to help the school with some useful tools for such practical subjects.

During the week, we held a school assembly outside with the 500 students enrolled thus far and did a presentation. We also met with the Scripture Union to encourage them and pray with them. One sadness relating to the College last year is that two female students attempted suicide - one tragically successfully and the other surviving thanks to Matron Christine's swift intervention. We met this student to encourage and pray with her. Given this, we are looking at ways of developing links with the Bible School, offering further emotional support to needy students and seeking good materials to enhance young people's wellbeing. On a positive note, we heard that last year the school's girls' football team had been very successful, reaching the finals of the national schools' football competition. Lynda will seek to see if there is any possibility of forming a link with Brighton and Hove Albion ladies to bring encouragement.

Superkids Preschool Suzanne spent 2 days with Superkids meeting in the front room and garage of Tina's house on the outskirts of Kuwadzana in quite a small area without much outside space. She met with the two teachers - Sandra and Nicole - and the driver Kuda, who collects and returns the children each day, all smartly dressed in their uniforms. The children were very responsive and

played well with the bricks Suzanne had taken. Breakfast for the children was porridge on Monday and jam and bread with a cup of milk on Tuesday; lunch was rice and beans on Monday and spaghetti and beef on Tuesday, the children then laying on mattresses with some sleeping.

Suzanne spent Wednesday and Thursday doing similar activities with the children who attend the pre-school at Kuwadzana Church. Overall it is clear that resources are very limited and the biggest resource – adults - need some help to interact better with the children. Future resources from the UK should include posters of alphabets, numbers, colours, animals etc., with picture books of a similar subject matter; also simple story books that can be shared by an adult with the children; small balls and bean bags to throw and roll and catch and maybe a tunnel to crawl through that can be played with by multiple children together.

Other activities Jane spent many hours looking at the 2024 centre finances which was particularly difficult as the bank was updating its systems and could not give bank statements for December. Thus it was difficult to get a fully accurate picture of where the centre ended 2024, but it was encouraging to see that the year ended with a small profit. For 2025, the hope is to give centre staff a reasonable pay increase as they are working much longer hours with the increased number of students. However the biggest factor here is how many fee-paying students are enrolled. The school will need around 600 students to cover this increase alongside other costs. When we left there were only 500 enrolled but more will come back into Form 5 after the O level results and more will enrol in February and March as families find the funds after the expense of Christmas. The school would also like to find funds for a digital projector for use in classrooms to save time writing on the board, more textbooks and computers for the library for student use and a P.A. system for use during assemblies and larger gatherings. It is also necessary to recruit another teacher for the vocational subjects. Jane worked on a budget including such items, but this will need revising as and when the number of students increases.

We all visited the Women's Association on Thursday afternoon which was a lively time of singing and dancing and sharing God's word. Lynda handed over the blanket knitted in the Roman's Care Home in Southwick to a delighted older lady. On the second Sunday, Graham and Jane ministered at Kuwadzana Extension church, a small but joyful congregation; Lynda and Suzanne went to Highfield Presbyterian church where Jonah's son-in-law and daughter are ministers. The church was fairly full with vibrant worship and lots of children.

Jonah Masaka's Retirement With Jonah's retirement at the end of 2024 after many years of faithful ministry, we honoured him with a day visit to Pamuzinda Game Park, spending good time reminiscing and enjoying the game drive seeing lions, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and impala plus interesting bird life. After a lovely lunch, we went to feed the elephants. In retirement, Jonah will be involved in a maize project and intends to grow other crops like mushrooms. He also wishes to continue ministering in the Bible School one day a week and help with the SEAN courses promoting them and checking Shona translations. He will also keep an eye on the administration of the Training Centre as it transitions into its new leadership arrangements under the team leadership of Oripa (Administration), James (Bible School) and George (College).

Summary: Overall this was a very happy and successful visit despite the ongoing challenges of life in Zimbabwe which continues to be a real struggle on all levels. However, the Training Centre seems to be in a good place with efficient staff in place who, we hope, will adapt well to the change in leadership. The school is flourishing and we pray that more students will enrol soon.

Lynda Hulcoop On Behalf of PCNI Trustees January 2025