

## Diane Cusick

**MARCH 2021**

Location: **Lusaka, ZAMBIA**

Mission: **Early childhood education**



*'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'* John 14:27

During March I was able to visit Mazabuka Early Childhood Development centre twice! This is our newest church-based centre which started just before Covid-19 restrictions closed the schools, so I wanted to see how they were doing. Thanks to a new road almost completed, the journey that previously took me between 3½ and 4 hours, now only takes 2½ hours!

There are many issues with the centre – we are having challenges getting it registered, we have two untrained teachers (it is a requirement in Zambia to have at least one ECE trained teacher in each centre), and we only have one toilet. But, we do have enthusiasm and we have lots of children – almost 50!! So the challenge is to help these two lovely teachers deal with 50 children between the ages of 3 and 6 years in a classroom where they have nothing! I am excited to be working with them and hope that by the end of this year, we will have a centre that is doing well and full of children who love to learn about Jesus!

We made an attempt at having an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Board meeting using Zoom! Unfortunately it was not a success – only four members managed to connect and so we had to abandon it. Most of the members are in rural areas where internet access is very poor. I will have to find a way to have a 'real' meeting with the Board.

Still no news of a vaccine for Covid-19 in Zambia although many of my Malawian friends just across the border have

already had theirs. Cases of Covid-19 have greatly reduced in the last few weeks in Zambia, but few tests are now being carried out. However, hospitalisations have gone down a lot, so that is a hopeful sign.

Thank you for your continued support.

Keep updated with my life and work by checking my blog... [www.dianecusick.blogspot.com](http://www.dianecusick.blogspot.com)



Photo: Children at one of the ECD centres

### Prayer points

- Pray for our teachers in Mazabuka as they try to help our young children, and give them confidence to try new play learning ideas with them!
- Pray that the ECD Board meeting might be able to take place soon and that a venue will be found which is suitable.
- Pray for me as I begin to travel to visit schools and teachers, pray for safe travel and good health too. Pray that I might be an encouragement to the church leaders and teachers I interact with.