

Diane Cusick

Location: **Lusaka, ZAMBIA**

Mission: **Early childhood education**



'Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.'

Ephesians 5:1-2

I went on two road trips last month together with Rev S Kabaghe our General Secretary, and Rev L Mithi the Deputy General Secretary. In the Copperbelt province, we met ministers from three Presbyteries to discuss early childhood development. It was a fruitful trip and we visited potential sites to open new Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres.

Following that we left for Southern province where we spent a day in Livingstone with the minister and some members of the congregation. I also had a chance to see the children in the ECD centre. We had another meeting in Mazabuka with members of Mazabuka and Monze congregations. This was a challenging meeting as many issues were being discussed, as well as the way forward for ECD in their congregations.

We had intended to go to Muchinga province in northern Zambia at the end of the month, but the roads are still really bad after the rains, so we postponed this trip until later in the year.

Zambia are having Presidential elections in August, 2021. Campaigning has begun and this will put an end to my road trips for a while as there are many political rallies happening and its probably safer to stay around home.

The vaccine programme has now stalled in Zambia as they have run out! Zambia only received about 100,000 doses

(for a population of 18 million, 9 million adults). Some of the vaccines have been reserved to give the second dose, so I am hoping they still have some when it is my turn.



Children in Livingstone ECD centre



Diane with ministers in the Copperbelt Presbytery

Prayer points

- Give thanks for safe travel to the Copperbelt and Southern provinces, and for good meetings with the ministers and other church delegates about ECD.
- Pray for the elections that will be held in August 2021 in Zambia. Pray for peace as the campaign rallies begin.
- Pray that enough vaccine will have been kept so that everyone who received the first dose may be able to receive the second dose.
- Pray for Diane to have some rest and relaxation as she takes two weeks holiday during the month of June.