



UPDATE from MUTARE

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Newsletter
Vol. 28, No.1
May 2014

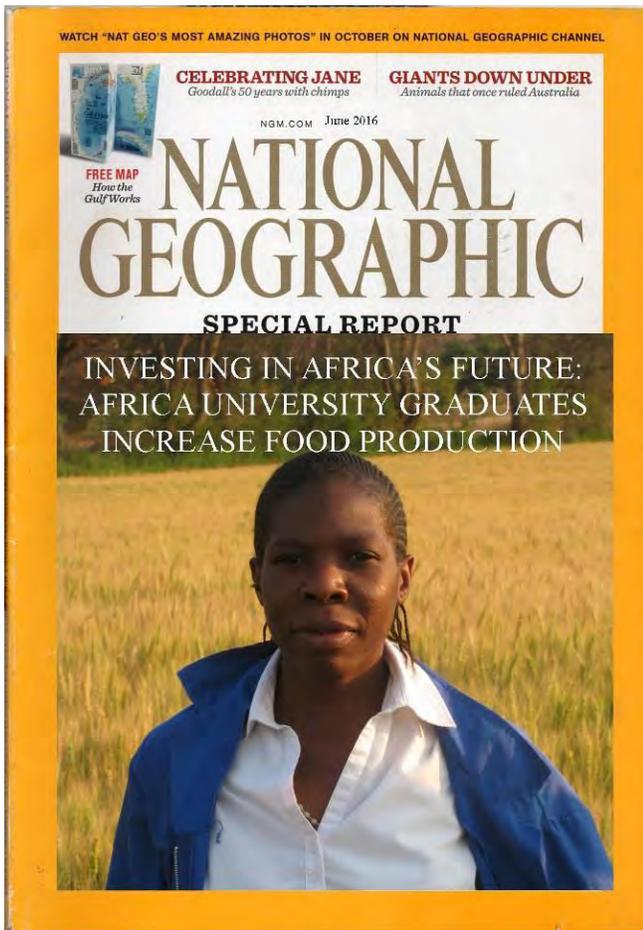
**I was hungry, and you gave me to eat.
Matthew 25:35**

Dear friends and family,
Greetings from Mutare, Zimbabwe!!

The cover article in the May 2014 issue of National Geographic magazine is about food. The author highlights the estimate that world crop production needs to double by the year 2050 to meet increased demands. To achieve this, farmers need to work not just hard but smart- using more efficient practices, improved varieties, even new crops that are better adapted to local environments than traditional ones.

resistance to soybean rust, the most devastating disease of the crop. Farmers without the resources to spray against rust will find such resistant varieties the difference between a profitable crop of soybeans....and disaster.

Grace was able to attend Africa University through the help of several scholarship programs. The cover of National Geographic is not genuine- but Grace's desire to make a positive impact on food production on her home continent is. Thanks to all who have helped Grace and many other scholarship recipients!

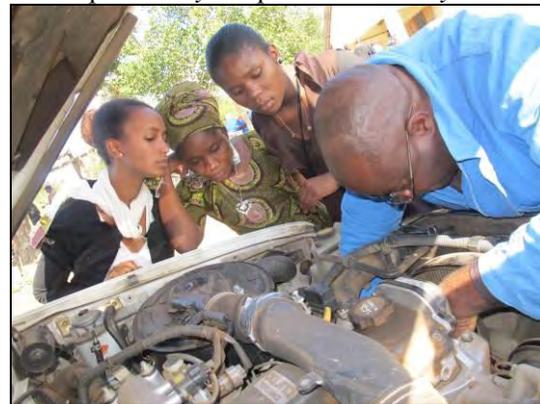


As part of her Honors degree in Crop Production, Grace Dondo (above) did a research project. She worked with a local seed company to successfully screen varieties of soybean for

NOT BY BREAD (OR SOYBEANS) ALONE

Good Friday morning saw us with two car-loads of students from five countries visiting a rural church. Half-way there the alternator vee-belt broke on our Toyota Raider. Fortunately, since the pickup is a diesel, we could continue even without the alternator charging the battery- as long as we got back before we needed lights.

Shortly after we arrived, so did the 'kitchen' (oxcart with firewood and black pots) for preparing lunch, followed by the Pastor, AU student Rev. Daniel Mawanga....who happens to be a qualified mechanic! A nearby village 'bush mechanic' shop had the belt we needed, and after lunch the pastor installed the belt. We felt blessed... but please don't feel deprived if *your* pastor can't fix *your* car!



Agriculture students from Ethiopia, Liberia and Zimbabwe learn from the pastor-mechanic.

CAMPUS NEWS

Jane: My Intensive English (IE) weekly Bible study has given me the chance to see God developing leadership skills in our students. A former IE student, Salvador, has improved his English enough that he could lead the group several times. The time we spend together gives students the chance to talk about the many challenges they face.

FARM NEWS



The economics of growing soybeans has changed, so after a break of a couple of years when we did not grow them we have returned to planting them. Grace's research on soybean rust is especially relevant to us, since we have seen

the havoc the disease can wreck when we could not spray in time.

The Farm Development fund continues to provide funds for projects that help make the farm more efficient, including concrete slabs in front of the broiler house doors that are a big aid to bio-security. Current projects are an improved waste-disposal system at the dairy and continued expansion of the irrigation system- so that we can work hard *and* smart. A **BIG** thanks to those who help!

ON THE WEB

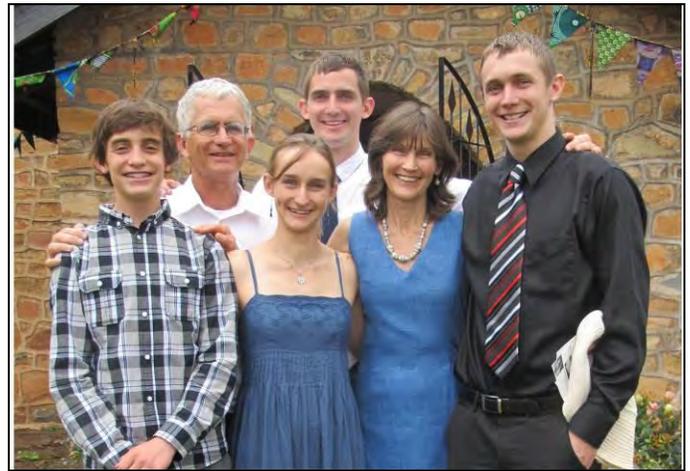
The website www.umcmmission.org has a new video about Sustainable Agriculture in which Larry appears.

Giving to both AU Scholarships and AU Farm Development (and many other projects) can be done on-line on the same website (as well as through your local church) using the numbers at the end of this letter.

FAMILY NEWS

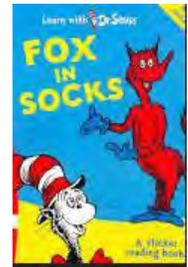
After a lot of prayer, **Carly** turned down other good schools and chose Emory University in Atlanta. She flies there on 30 May. Sigh. Sigh. Sigh.

Michael, almost 15, will miss Carly- but is also eager to move into the converted garage which is the room for the oldest teenager at home.



Pule and **Ben** both made it back to Mutare for Christmas. How sweet it was!!

Morris and Ann Taber in Michigan are helping stock the shelves of mission grade school libraries in our area. If you have some good children's books (not just Dr Seuss) that you can send to help fill their container, please email them directly: morris@taber.net.



Please pray

- That we all find ways, both now and in the long term, to help satisfy the hungry in this world of 7 billion people- including those in our own communities.
- For all graduating students (ours and yours) that they feel God's guidance and blessing on their career and education choices.
- For Carly as she begins the next phase of her life.

Many thanks for your prayers, thoughts, emails, cards and support!

Yours and His,
Larry and Jane Kies

U.M.C. Advance Special numbers:
Africa University Farm Development: 3021027
Africa University Scholarships: 3021028
Salary support: 09572Z (Larry) 10739Z (Jane)