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**Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind.**

Newsletter
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Romans 12:2

Greetings this Easter season from Africa University!



(Above) Palm Sunday at Africa University

Larry: For many years I have enjoyed reading the British news magazine, *The Economist*, and look forward to Fridays when I can download the digital edition on my phone. The back page always has exactly one obituary, and it is interesting to see whose passing the editors feel was the most significant that week.

Recent issues provided a stark contrast: Billy Graham ('All he needed was Jesus Christ. But God had mysteriously planned his life otherwise.') followed closely by Stephen Hawking (who declared in his writings that 'the laws of science explained everything, without any need to bring God into it').

I doubt that many of my students read *The Economist* regularly! However, the contrasts cause me to reflect on the importance of preparing our students to live and work in a world of conflicting world-views. How do these young people maintain their 'African heart' as they face the challenges of the 21st Century?

Jane: As an example, several months ago, I had a language class interrupted by a needy man dressed in an oversized jacket begging for the bus fare back to Harare. After my initial irritation at this challenge to my Western, time-conscious, orderly way of thinking, I started to object, but then laid aside my lesson plan to see how the students would handle the matter.

I was humbled to see members of the class reach into their pockets to bring out what they had available. As the stranger knelt down to accept a particularly generous contribution, the student reached down and drew him up and hugged him, saying in his newly acquired English vocabulary, "no, no. my brother". Glad I wasn't wearing my WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) bracelet that day! I watched as the stranger limped on his way out of the door and into his unfriendly world, and the class had a fruitful discussion (in their limited English) about our responsibility to our less fortunate neighbor, even if it disrupts our ideals of what is and isn't appropriate.

I faced a class of Africa's future leaders, holding onto the best parts of their upbringing and traditions and thought, 'I have a lot to learn from them!'



(Larry)- I have been extra busy with more classes



than ever, as well as guiding five final-year students doing senior research projects. Rising (on the left doing lab work unrelated to his project) wants to be a plant breeder, and is screening cowpea varieties to find the ones that do best here.

Thanks to those

who, through gifts to the scholarship fund, have helped Rising and many others to be here learning.

AU Farm news

We know that all of the developments at the AU Farm will be useless if we don't have competent, motivated people to do the work. A key part of attracting and retaining such staff is providing good housing on campus for many of them. Kudos to a team from Illinois (Great Rivers Conference) who funded and in February arrived in time to help us get started on construction of a three-roomed house.



Thanks to all who have helped the Farm continue to develop. We are excited about planting our first wheat crop under the new center pivot irrigation system. Among new projects on the drawing board are a walk-in freezer and better slaughter facilities for assisting in marketing our broilers; continued development of the dairy (including more heifers); a new house for raising day-old pullets (female chicks) to become laying hens; and continuing to improve housing for our farm workers.

Family News

In May we fly to Atlanta and Cedar Rapids. We thank God for the achievements of our children - Carly graduates from Emory University and Michael graduates from Cedar Falls High school. In between the graduation ceremonies, Pule and Christine have a pre-wedding celebration. Exciting events! In June we are so excited to have all four kids home in Zimbabwe for a celebration of Pule and Christine's marriage.

Please pray

- *in Thanks for the continuing stability after the change in presidents in Zimbabwe, and for calm, peace and fairness during the elections to be held later this year.*
- *In thanks for Africa University as it continues to prepare young people for an ever-changing world*
- *For wisdom and generosity when confronted with situations outside our comfort zones*

Today, and every day, may you be able to celebrate the joy of Easter...He is Risen!!!!!!

As always, thank you for your support, love, cards, prayers, thoughts, and emails!

Yours and His,
Larry and Jane Kies

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