

Chitokoloki Mission Station
Box 50 Zambezi
Northwestern province
Zambia
3rd March 2022

Dear friends,

Greetings from Chitokoloki!

To all at Oak Bay, Compassionate Warehouse and Saanich Peninsula Hospital and the huge group of people who participated in making it possible to send the medical container to us in Zambia –
MANY MANY THANKS.



The container has arrived nice and safely to us at Chitokoloki. We offloaded it last week and separated the various items to go to their end destinations. The container itself and Loloma stuff was packed up and is on its way to Loloma now. WOW – you guys can really pack a container – I don't think there was a spare inch of air left. It was absolutely amazing to see how much stuff you were able to pack in. It was super handy that the container was able to come all the way up to Chitokoloki without needing offloaded anywhere.

Thank-you so much for all the supplies and resources. It will take some months to get through all the medical boxes so I wanted to write and just update you and thank you all rather than waiting until everything is unpacked and sorted.



I'm very excited as I read the labels on the boxes – I've seen one box labelled Kiwis and another Bakari balloons – extremely special and lifesaving things. We are in need of lots of things like gowns and drapes and swabs which are so wonderful to receive from you. Already, we have opened a box containing IV flushes and skin staplers. Yipee! Such amazing helpful items. And this is only the start – there are hundreds of boxes of incredibly useful resources.

Thank-you for all the big items. The operating table in particular is so special. Our current tables all have problems of various kinds – one doesn't hold its height and continually sinks mid-surgery, another is a challenge to get the manual lever in position to adjust the table. We have the new operating table in place already and many surgeries have been performed on it in the last few days. It is extremely exciting that it has a multitude of attachments which we hope will allow us to undertake some new orthopaedic surgery – we would like to start doing DHS hip surgery for example and also the table seems to be capable of xraying through. Currently we have to move the patient across onto the xray table mid surgery in order to use our image intensifier.





The shelves are fabulous – we have most of them in place already. A busy hospital like ours is always in need of good storage options that allow supplies to be kept tidy, organised and easily accessible. We've used the big trolley for storing pillows and IV fluids in our theatre corridor – it is heavy duty and the perfect size for this.

Thank you for the dental equipment. We have placed them in storage temporarily as we are building a new clinic at present and these along with the assessment couch will be ideal for our new facility. The microscope and phaco machine are still crated. Once we get more sorting done and space to unpack them, we look forward to getting them out and trying out the new equipment. All very exciting.

Our physio department were thrilled to receive the various walking aids, wheelchairs, crutches and disability resources. We have plenty of patients for whom these will make such a

massive difference to their rehabilitation and development.

Thank-you for the beautiful new resuscitair – it was hooked up by our wonderful technician and is working nicely. Our other resuscitairs are basically a space for resuscitating sick little ones but none of them work in terms of the overhead heater etc. So it is so nice to have the options to keep our babies warm without the need for making hot water bottles. We hope in due course to get the suction and oxygen elements attached up too.

The last few years worldwide have been full of challenge and change. Zambia has been no different to the rest of the world in this regard. A great shaking up has occurred and we are left to rebuild, strengthen and move forward. A number of building projects are in the pipeline here. We are very excited about the new clinic as we have a number of new staff and our current single room is no longer sufficient for six medical staff all to see patients at one time. They are currently taking down trees and preparing the ground at the moment. This will make a massive difference to our daily work. We also hope to extend our theatre and renovate the theatre block including much needed storage space, a reception area, improved flow of clean to dirty equipment. Covid continues to be divisive as attitudes differ throughout the population. Few believe it even exists. We have been fortunate not to have seen many sick with covid over the past two years.



Despite this, there is a continuous daily number of cases detected. Hospital still doesn't allow visitation and each patient/caretaker has to be tested on admission. Zambia continues to have rules for reduction of transmission such as face masks, handwashing and social distancing but these are not followed within the community. We struggle at hospital as we enforce such measures to deal with the resistance from the public. The frequent repetitive explanations are draining. The need for isolation rooms and single rooms with bathroom facilities has been highlighted over the last two years and we hope to build a block of these in due course. Please pray for us as we build both spiritually and physically.

Covid numbers in general are reducing with about ten positives diagnosed a week at Chitokoloki and an average of four inpatients. Surgery is starting to get back to normal and deal with the backlog of elective cases. As Zambia healthcare improves, the demand for paperwork, statistics and administration has really increased significantly. With such spiritual need, it is frustrating to have to spend so much time on numbers and documentation. As people search for hope in uncertain days, it is a joy to present a faithful Saviour and unchanging dependable God. We praise the Lord for new opportunities to present the gospel and a wonderful team of staff who are enthusiastic. But there are also many challenges, and much prayer is needed. Strength is needed as the spiritual battle wages on.

We appreciate all your kindness and care. Thank-you so very much for your support and encouragement. As we continue to open boxes, unpack and sort supplies and make use of all these lovely things, we will be thanking the Lord for all you dear friends back in Canada. Your love will enable us to help and show God's love to thousands of people here. We could not do what we do without the support of those overseas. The supplying, purchasing, sorting, packing and sending of all these supplies and this container was a huge undertaking.



Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you!

Love in the Lord,
Julie-Rachel



Nehemiah 2:18

Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.