

1991

P. David Wilkin
(718) 271-0084



Home Address:
61-15 98th Street
Rego Park, NY 11374

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 175
Rego Park, NY 11374

June 16, 1991

Dear Muriel,

It is a very warm Sunday morning in June (decided not to go to church today) and I am out on my porch with a friend's tiny portable computer testing it. (Have just done my repair act and all seems well.) During breakfast I reread your Christmas letter and once again really enjoyed it. You really do write lovely letters when you get started.

Sorry I have not written you since, but my letter writing since January has been almost nil. For about five years, I had relied on my long-term, cushy consulting job at Merrill Lynch to give me loads of letter writing time and now I do not have this - explained below.

I hope your back troubles remain under control. I am not surprised that swimming has helped you. Many people report this to be so. My shoulders occasionally trouble me and with that in mind, I try hard to swim at least three times a week. I generally try to do at least a half mile and enjoy it very much indeed. Whenever you get to New York, you will have to join me.

Your description of the wedding was very interesting indeed. I do hope the new couple are happy and all is well with your family in Botswana.

All is well here. The last year has been very busy with Zambians living with me for about seven of the last 12 months. So I have kept well abreast of the sad economic decline that never seems to end and also the movement towards multiparty democracy. I do hope that things continue to remain peaceful, not only for all of you, but as explained in the attached letter, because I plan to bring a group of Riverside friends to visit Zambia (and South Africa) and hopefully to see you, assuming all is well at your end!

James was here for two months last spring and left, in fact, about one year ago this week. He really enjoyed it and in many ways regretted having to go back but with a large family and government job there was no other choice. When he got back his eldest daughter got married and has just given birth to his first grandchild. It seems to have made him feel very old! We spent a week in Florida and he loved the big Disney layout in Orlando and Kennedy Space Center. Personally my big enjoyment was Key West. But we both enjoyed it all and had mountains of fun.

Then Pascal came in August and stayed until January. But he did not go back to Zambia! He is now in Iowa and has finished a semester of school. But what confusion! I never want to ever try to mess with American immigration again. Right after he got here, he got a scholarship at Drake University, an excellent elite private school in Des Moines. But would America let him change a tourist visa to a student visa without him returning to Zambia and then without any guarantee of his getting back? Of course not. We knew it was possible and he went twice to visit an old friend of Zindi's in Montreal and try from there. No luck.

16th June, 1992

(Z)

The sponsor in Iowa finally got a senator to try with Immigration and within weeks of his having to leave and days of the school term starting he got it! It is certainly true that who is you know and persistence pay off this world. The sponsor, myself and Pascal were thoroughly exhausted. Anyway he seems to be doing well and got an "A" in English, no small credit to him. He keeps up a voluminous correspondence with family and friends so I keep in touch with Zambia better than ever these days. But the news is depressing! I just hope Mindolo holds in there amidst the sea of a collapsing economy.

My consulting business going on well. My specialty is personal computers that are compatible with the IBM format (i.e., not Apple). The economy here in New York is very bad (not in comparison to Zambia, however!) and I do get worried at times. Merrill Lynch has cut back tremendously and closed the center I assisted. Now I help in the remaining larger centers but they do not give me a blank cheque of fixed hours even when there is no work. So my really easy days are over. In place of so much time at ML, I spend much more time with research doctors/scientists at the large New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University joint complex. Also, I teach Lotus 123 and WordPerfect for a consulting firm at Chase Manhattan Bank's headquarters. By fall I'd like to do much more of the latter and much less at Columbia/NYS and ML. But we will see.

Having visitors arrive more-or-less penniless from Zambia strained my budget last year so this keeps me working extra hard! Still it was nice having both James and Pascal in that lonely year after Zindi's passing. Made a good transition.

Anyway, since Pascal left in January, I have worked more-or-less non-stop, but in the process my expertise with the computers has grown and I thoroughly enjoy my work. Still I would like to turn my dissertation into a book, but this will have to wait!

Did get a five day break last month and flew down to Puerto Rico which was most refreshing. The only problem of course was the five days. I needed ten!

Okay, enough. Let me, on the next page turn to my new big project of planning a return to visit to Zambia and South Africa.

Copy

**P. David Wilkin
(718) 271-0084**

**Home Address:
61-15 98th Street
Rego Park, NY 11374**

**Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 175
Rego Park, NY 11374**

June 16, 1991
5:00PM

My dear Muriel,

It is now late afternoon and I am working a fairly typical Sunday evening with about five staff members of Merrill Lynch. Unlike most Sunday afternoons, we are not at present busy so I will start my second letter to you; this one about our trip to Africa next March. If you don't mind, I will photocopy your Christmas circular for the people coming with me. Your description of Mindolo will interest everyone I am sure.

Background to the trip. The idea came from an early morning Eucharist service at Riverside group. It tends to be about 15-20 people, often the same people. The service is handled by the minister of Riverside (Rev. Fanny Erickson) that related to and helped Zindi so much in her final struggle. Zindi and I used to get up very early, though very hard for her, so she could attend occasionally. After the service we sometimes have breakfast together. One morning, two months ago, several of the group were discussing a tour that some Riversiders made to South Africa several months ago. I said I didn't need to go to Africa with a tour group as I had too many friends and family and had not visited them for a long time. They suggested I go next year and I take them along to visit you at Mindolo and especially James in Lusaka and Siphoh in South Africa. (I had told them I learned about Riverside through a Zambian friend, i.e., you, and Adele Lieu). They met both James and Siphoh at the service many times. One thing led to another and now we are planning a serious trip!

I have discussed the trip with Adele as I hoped she would join us, but she feels she is truly too old to try. It is true she must be pushing 90, although as sprightly in mind and body as always. Anyway, no doubt she will meet with us in the fall if the trip comes off and tell my friends about her life at Mindolo.

Itinerary and general plans. Attached is my letter to the five people who at the moment definitely want to come. That will answer a lot of questions of what we are currently planning. Also attached is a copy of Ruth Joseph's notes of our formal meeting three weeks ago.

As Ruth's notes and my letter indicate, we will probably want to stay a full fortnight in Africa (half in Zambia and half in South Africa). We would arrive in Lusaka just before the first weekend and that would give us time to rest from the journey. We would then have the weekend to meet James Kanga and as many of my old friends in Lusaka as possible. After a long weekend in Lusaka, we would like to come up to the Mindolo Ecumenical Center in Kitwe for several days and then fly to Livingstone and see the Falls and the cultural museum. After about a week in Zambia in those three places, we will take a train or fly from Livingstone/Victoria Falls to Jo'burg and then Port Elizabeth.

We would, however, happily change our plans if we could convince you to take a few days off and show us a bit of Botswana, either at Chobe near Zambia or at points further south. You have me curious about Botswana from all your interesting letters over the past years. The group will accept my word about any itinerary changes. Anyway, if we can interest you, we'll get an extra ticket for you to join us when we head south!

16th, June, 91

When we reach South Africa, we will meet Sipho Gqomo, Zindi's elder brother, either in Jo'burg or PE. In PE we will spend a long weekend with Zindi's family. The group knows him very well as he was spell bound by Rev. Erickson and really loved this group who will now be taking up his invitation and visiting. (I doubt if he ever dreamed we'd come all at once, however!) Hopefully he can organize a mini-van and we can proceed by the Garden Route to Cape Town where we will stay with Rev. John Stubbs and his Anglican groups. (John is a white South African married to a black South African. They have just returned, rather bravely I think, to Cape Town from NYC with their three children to work once again in the diocese there. From Cape Town we plan to fly back to Lusaka and have a final night or two in Lusaka before returning to America.

Your advice sought! Not only would we like to visit you, but I would appreciate any advice you can give us. Here are a few of the things I'd appreciate your opinions on.

(1) Overall impressions of the trip and itinerary. We are aware of the volatile state of the two countries we are to visit. We do not plan to finalize anything until November, until Zambia's elections are over and we can predict better whether South Africa's new improvements are likely to continue. Pascal keeps me informed on Zambia and Mteto, Zindi's brother here, on South Africa. We will be as certain as possible before proceeding. But what is your overall opinion? You know the political, economic and travel situation very well and have predicted very well in past. Also what general advice can you offer to our little group?

(1) Accommodation. We will stay with James and his/my friends in Lusaka and Zindi's family in PE. If we come to Kitwe would we be able to stay at Mindolo? Or what would you suggest? We can stay in pairs to save on rooms, assuming two or three double beds in a room.

2) Local Transportation. Unlike South Africa where I see no problem with cars, minibuses and local transportation, I fear a more tricky transport problem in both Lusaka and Kitwe. I have heard so much about the transportation literally falling apart with no spares. Thus, please give us any tips possible on local transport in both places.

3) Local sightseeing. Would you think it is feasible for us to see an open or underground copper mine, especially since we will come in March, the latter part of the rainy season? Again, please advise. I suspect, also, that since most, if not all, the folks accompanying me will be women, they might like to hear about women's action programs. But since you and Mindolo folks are an authority on this, who better but you to talk to and tell us about the current situation and who to meet and what to do!!

Just call me. I tried to call you several weekends ago but failed to get through. Should it take too much time to write, just call me collect -- Saturday is a good day. If you can't reach me at the number above, try me at (718) 271-3566. This is a private number and also has an answering machine. Unlike my business phone that I list on my stationary, it rings all over the house and will catch me on the porch or awaken me in the night - - my emergency number that I only give to friends! (But do call me in the late night/early morning [NYC time] if you can 't get clear lines otherwise.) If possible, I will try calling you in several weeks after I think you may have received this letter.

I am afraid I may have exhausted you by now! Hopefully the political situation will stay calm and our visit will come off as we dream it will. Also hopefully you will feel we can visit Mindolo and see you, our honorary Riversider! And can we even dream of your joining us for a visit south?! Anyway, do give us your opinions and suggestions -- good, bad or otherwise! We will value them!

Much love as always,

Kitwe, Zambia 27 Aug. 1991

My dear David,

I really meant to have written before now. I arrived back just 3 weeks ago today, and I can't believe I was ever away! 9 days after my return I was appointed Acting Director of Mindolo, and I'm still Finance Counselor, so life is hectic. This acting job will last at least 5 months.

It was lovely talking to you on the phone. Our mail charges has gone up again — 50% — so a friend will post this from England.

I would have loved to go with you to Botswana, but March is the month of our annual audit, and that can't be changed.

I think 2 weeks to cover Zambia and S. Africa is a terrible rush! Does it have to be so rushed? You won't have even one full week in S.Africa. There is a no problem finding accommodation at Mindolo, and you are welcome. I'll find out about seeing Chingola open pit; security is much tighter these days, but there are some trips taking place.

Now for your specific questions. Politically, it should have quieted down by March. November is expected to be the difficult month. But, I would not want to stick my neck out over S.Africa!

There are cars to be hired in Lusaka, but they are very expensive. I'll try to find out from TG Travel, my former travel agency job.

Mindolo can easily organise one or 2 days on the campus. There are other places to visit. I'll try to get some days free — while you're here. For instance I can see you can get to the Chingola if open pit if you don't bring a car from Lusaka.

Have you thought of visiting Luangwa Game Park? Or will you visit a park in S.Africa?

I had a very good holiday in Britain, and was away for 10 weeks. I needed a break badly. The weather was foul, but I eventually adjusted. I caught up on some culture, visited the opera, 4 theatres, 2 concerts, and watched good plays on T.V. I just loved being at the sea again and stayed on the coast whenever I could. I also watched Wimbledon tennis on TV, and golf tournaments, and really became relaxed. I spent 3 days at the end in Geneva, at WCC.

I have just one relative who is 90, last of her generation; while I was there the doctor confirmed she has Alzheimiers, so altho' I couldn't do much to help, I gave support to the friends who have taken charge. She moved to a nursing home just after I left, from a very nice retirement home. I visited her every 10-14days, she knew me, but was deteriorating weakly. It's all very sad.

I visited cousins of my generation, who I had never met before! They are my father's nephews, and my dad quarreled with their father. Last year when the film of Ruth and Seretse's marriage was shown on ITV (with me in) they wrote to Ruth at Christmas, so we have now met. I enjoyed their company, and we'll stay in touch now.

I'd better close, looking forward to hearing more details.

Cheerio, love and blessing,

Muriel

27-Aug 91.

My dear David,

I really meant to have written before now. I arrived back just 3 weeks ago today. I can't believe I was ever

away! 9 days after my return I was appointed Acting Director of Wildlife and in still France Conwell, so life is hectic.

This acting job will last at least 5 months.

I was lovely talking to you on the phone. our mail ^{charges} has gone up again - 50% - so a friend will post this from England.

I would have loved to go with you to Botswana but March is the month of our annual audit and that can't be changed.

I think 2 weeks to cover Zambia and S. Africa is a terrible rush! Does it have to be so rushed?

You won't have even one full week in S. Africa.

There is no problem finding ^{27~~th~~ Aug 91} accommodation at Mindolo, and you are welcome.

I'll find out about seeing Chingola open pit; security is much tighter these days, but there are some trips taking place.

Now for your specific questions.

Politically, it should have quieted down by March. November is expected to be the difficult month. But I would not want to stick my neck out over S. Africa!

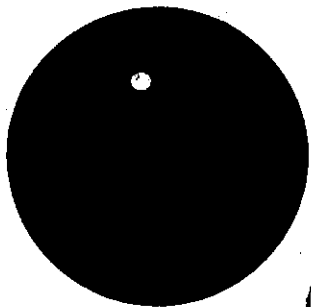
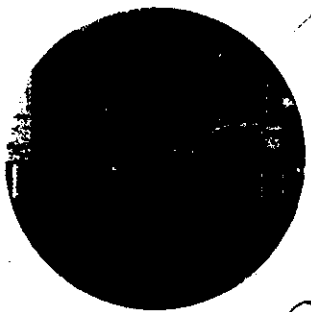
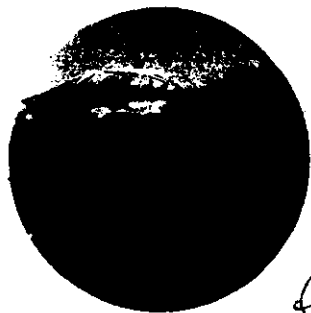
There are cars to be hired in Lusaka but they are very expensive. I'll try to find out from TG Travel, my former travel agency job.

Mindolo can easily organize one or 2 days on the campus. There are other places to visit. I'll try to get some days free while you're here. For instance I can see you

can get to the Chingola open pit if you don't bring a car from Lusaka.

Have you thought of visiting Luangwa Game Park? Or will you visit a park in S. Africa?

21 Aug 92



I had a very good holiday in Britain, & was away for 10 weeks. I needed a break badly. The weather was foul, but I eventually adjusted. I caught up on some culture, visited the opera, 4 theatres, 2 concerts, and watched good plays on T.V. I just loved being at the sea again & stayed on the coast whenever I could. I also watched Wimbledon tennis on TV, and golf tournaments, and really became relaxed. I spent 3 days at the end in Geneva, at WCC. I have just one relative who is 90, ~~and~~ of her generation; while I was there the doctor confirmed she has Alzheimers, so altho' I couldn't do

4th much to help, I gave support to the friends who have taken charge, ^{27th Aug 98}
She moved to a nursing home just after I left, from a very nice retirement home. I visited her every 10-14 days, she knew me, but was deteriorating weekly.
It's all very sad,

I visited cousins of my generation, who I had never met before, they are my father's nephews, & my dad quarrelled with their father. Last year when the film of Ruth Jackson's marriage was shown on ITV (with me in) they wrote to Ruth at Christmas, so we have now met. I enjoyed their company, & will stay in touch now.

I'd better close, looking forward to hearing more details.
Cheerio, love & blessing

Tim

P. David Wilkin
(718) 271-0084

PDW

Home Address:
61-15 98th Street
Rego Park, NY 11374

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 175
Rego Park, NY 11374

September 13, 1991

My dear Muriel,

Thanks for your long letter received last week on the same day I heard from James/Geoffrey in Lusaka, and Robert Molteno in London! Lovely coincidences. Glad you had a wonderful time in the U.K.

Congratulations on your acting appointment. Or is it sympathy wishes for survival until you can relinquish one of the two posts?! Sounds like you don't get bored for lack of something to do. And you comment on my being overworked?!!!

I have just written a letter to James in Lusaka and will enclose a copy plus photographs of three of the women coming with me. That way you can see what I am saying with regard to Lusaka and general travel without my repeating myself all over again.

Both the advice you and Robert gave me has caused me to suggest to my co-planners that we slightly replan the trip. Truly we had an "action" packed trip that would have - as I also told James - led to a move, move, move trip - typical American - without time to breathe. Thus, I am suggesting possibly cutting out Cape Town, although no final decision can be made on anything until air travel for the whole trip sorts itself out. Any further suggestions will be appreciated.

With regard to our trip and Kitwe, I am willing to be putty in your hands! You know so many people and places I have never had a chance to meet or see since I always lived in the NW Province "bush!" I would be as enthralled as my co-travellers in seeing more of both Mindolo and the YM/YWCA's work with the poorer communities in the Copperbelt. As time comes nearer I will tell some of my other friends in the Copperbelt and friends in Kitwe than I will be at Mindolo. I will also write Dennis and Lillian Sikazwe in Luanshya to see if they can help us get in on a tour of the mines in case you have any problem. Hopefully by then, security may be a little more reasonable as far as visiting the mines goes.

I hope all is still going peaceful as far as planning for elections. From what Pascal Bwalya hears from his listening post in Iowa(!) and from what I gather from sources here, all seems to be looking good. But you on the spot can best inform from the Copperbelt angle.

With regard to game watching, seeing Africa without game would be unfortunate. So I am betting on Hwange (I still think "Wankie") to serve our purpose. We will be near Livingstone and hence could stay several nights in Zambia and a night or so on the other side or in the park. Pascal feels that unlike the NWP, that area will be dry by mid-March so we will not get stuck in mud. But I look forward to your opinion as to the best place to have at least a night of game watching.

I am dying to see you in the movie on Seretse and Ruth, "A Marriage of Inconvenience." Cannot lay my hands on it in NYC. So trust you will have a copy and have a movie night for us!

Look, I wore myself out writing two long, small font pages to James, so let me keep this shorter. For details see that one attached!

23rd September, '910

I cannot tell you how excited I am to see you, Zambia and even the Copperbelt again. Rest assured that even if all the women (unlikely) give up on the journey, nothing short of bankruptcy or ill health could stop me from seeing you, James and everyone else again! It means reopening a whole, other part of my life that has been largely closed. Nairobi was wonderful, but words will fail to express me if I can see Zambia and South Africa again.

Even Mteto (Enoch), Zindi's brother in NYC called this morning and is excited, for him, not me! He has been reading my letters to his family and all of you and is really considering visiting PE at the same time that I visit. Today he was trying to get his employer to give him six weeks off in February/March to visit southern Africa. This would mean he could be in PE at the time we arrive. Could be exciting and fun for a lot of us!

This week I have had a South African staying with me who has spent the last 10 years in Saudi Arabia teaching English. (His family is in London.) His stories are almost unbelievable and totally spellbinding, especially on the horrible status of women. If women in Africa have problems, they are still nothing compared to this feudal kingdom. Anyway after saying I am tired, I have rambled on. This is it!

Much love, as always,

Addendum to five page form letter dated 19th Nov. 1991

Muriel to David

Since we spoke on the phone, all is quiet. I hope your plans are going well for your trip. I'm really looking forward to seeing you here in Mindolo.

No doubt you've heard a lot about the miracle of Zambia! It's still hard to believe. It's also hard for UNIP — and KK — as it all happened so fast. Chiluba seems to be adjusting easily. I wouldn't want his job — heaven knows where to start. —

I'm coping with the job. We had to expel an ANC student last week, and she's really giving us trouble. She has stacked up with all illegal Senegalese emerald miner, and has threatened to kill her co-ordinators. As she's a trained freedom fighter, she's quite capable. Heaven knows where she is, and the ANC has abandoned our students.

Cheerio and all the best, Love Muriel

Other short addendums: a) The vote was definitely anti-UNIP and anti KK, rather than pro MMD. Anything for a change.

b) I am the only white person on the staff at present



My dear David,

PO Box 21607 KITWE
Nov 9th 1991

What a year - wow. Mostly for Zambia, but also for me.

The transition from one party to multi party is much more complicated than most of us had realised. So many UNIP money and assets were all mixed up so during the campaign UNIP had tremendous advantages over the other parties, as they used government vehicles, public address systems, the media - newspapers, radio and TV. The Jimmy Carter team here to monitor the elections protested many times about these unfair advantages, but nothing was done. The campaigns were much more slanging matches than talking about national issues. It was impossible to tell who was winning. You see, life is so dull and boring, than anybody's rally is a break in the monotony, so people attended them all. UNIP gave away lots of T shirts and hats (all illegal) , but almost everything they did worked against them. For instance, they went round daubing paint on everyone's walls,; well, hardly anyone can afford to paint their houses, so this infuriated voters. KK kept on bragging at his rallies about everything UNIP had done, such as building schools and hospitals. It is obvious he never went near any of these buildings. Schools have no desks, chairs, books, papers, they are just shells. Hospitals have no drugs, water, equipment, not enough beds, no linen. So you see he would never have mentioned these things had he known the awful state they are in.

27 years is an awful long time to be in power, and the whole government had run out of ideas. In any case, most of them were not competent.

The week before the election, the MMD newspaper forecast a 62% victory, which most people thought was rather reckless. In the end they won 80% in every province except Eastern, where the figures were exactly reversed. Unip ended up with 25

seats in parliament, MMD got 125. And the calibre of the UNIP members is pretty poor. One of them is one of KK's sons, who is not bad, but only has 2 years experience. Another son got defeated.

As this all happened last week, nobody knows what KK will do with himself. Most people feel he should have retired gracefully a year ago.

There were several other small parties, but they had no money and did not win one seat. There were a few independents, who got nowhere. In Livingstone two former Prime Ministers were standing, for UNIP and an Independent, but the MMD candidate won easily.

In the new cabinet are several of my old friends. One, the Minister of Finance, owns TG travel where I worked. He is a former perm. sec of Finance. Emmanuel Kasonde. Then there is Arthur Wina as Education minister, who was often in Mindolo in the sixties. Vernon Mwangi is Foreign sec., he formerly held that post in the sixties too. The President, Frederic Chiluba, was the ZCTU gen sec., and is 48. He would never have been my choice, I feel there are much better candidates. But he is a Bemba, from the biggest tribe, so they will always win. And his position would have helped him a lot. He seems extremely confident, so we will see how he does. I could go on for ever, but the biggest surprise was the peaceful way everything went. Most embassies and Aid groups flew out to Zimbabwe or Botswana for the week, anticipating trouble; most shops closed for 2 days, so we all stocked up for a siege. It was almost

bad as that is to say. To me, the real joke was the fact that several embassies had contingency plans to keep planes on the Copperbelt to fly their nationals out to Zaire- haha. Here at Mindolo we have about 20 missionary refugees from Zaire. They could not believe how peacefully it all went. Unfortunately this new government is going to have to take some very unpleasant decisions, such as lifting subsidies on essential foods, - the IMF law. And then the riots could start.

The vote was definitely anti - UNIP
and anti KK, rather than pro MMD.
Anything for a change.

3.

19~~th~~ Nov 92

And now to me. On 16th August the Executive committee appointed me as Acting Director of Mindolo. I was not completely surprised. The existing Director had resigned earlier in the year, and several suggestions had been made as to who would take over. At first they thought someone local could hold the fort, but this was ridiculous, trying to show someone the ropes and then having to do the same again with a new Director. So they gradually came round to me. You see I break all the rules. (1) I have no degree, and no theological training whatsoever. (2) my age - our retiring age is 65, and I was 69 last week. (3) I am the wrong colour. It's all very well saying we are multiracial, but the person at the top should at least be black. Anyway, here I am ^{the only white person on the staff at present}. At first, it was to be for 3-4 months. Interviews were held last month but the committee decided not to appoint anyone, so I now look like staying here at least until the end of 1992. Taking into account that I am still the Finance Controller, life is rather hectic, and I am terribly conscious of the fact that when I get home, I am too tired to write letters most days. I am looking for another Finance Controller, (any offers out there ?) but that takes time. So that job is being rather neglected. Part of me really enjoys doing the job, the other part knows I am not the right person for too long. My biggest problem is people'. I do not have the patience I should always have and some problems really are big - particularly clash of personalities. Fortunately there is a good team and I call for help on my close colleagues. Thank heavens most of the students finished their courses in October, so it will be a bit quiet for the 3 months up to the end of January. One lovely job I have to do is make sure all 140 staff are assessed for salary increments. Some of our supervisors do not like assessing staff, so put them all the same level. Then the haggling starts.

The executive wanted me to visit Europe in November to visit donors in Germany Holland Norway Sweden and Britain, but I managed to convince them it would be much better to go next year in early summer. Europe in November - ugh. Also we had a Board meeting in October and my action sheet had 31 items on it. The thought of going away and leaving all that to return to was not acceptable.

Oh well, we shall see how it all turns out.

4-

19th Nov 98

I only hope this letter is more legible than last year's. I have borrowed one of the electric typewriters, and I will get this photocopied on our lovely new Xerox donated by the Danes. We are being dragged into the 20th century, Jackie told me that offices never use stencils any more, its very old fashioned. It's too bad we don't have a computer, we keep talking, but nothing happens. We need a young keen accountant to show us the way.

Life here seems to go on as usual, that is apart from all the excitement of elections, drama on campus, etc. etc. I get older and stiffer; I swim every day in our lovely pool, we sometimes have barbecues round the pool for things like birthdays. That's where I celebrated mine last week. As it was election day, and I had given the staff the afternoon off to go and vote, we were able to start it earlier than usual. I still have my 3-4 trips a year to Lusaka for YWCA executive meetings. In Sept. our new National building was opened - one year after it has been in use - and I still stay with my friends there, the Russells.

The cost of living leaps up and up., The kwacha devalues by 100% each year, I think this is the 4th year, but other countries are much worse than here. But it's not much comfort to hear that if you can't buy food. Most people who can make money on the side, at any old thing they can manage. AIDS gets a bigger and bigger problem. Several of our staff have died in the past year. There is not much advice or action, but even people who know about it appear to ignore it "It won't happen to me."

I plan to go to Botswana for Christmas again this year.

We close down for 2 weeks, so I'll take that period. I always mean to say how nice it would be to get some mail there. So, if it fits in with your timetable, -I have no idea when these will be posted ; I shall look out for people going to Britain - my address there is c/o Lady Ruth Khama, PO Box 56, GABORONE, Botswana and I shall be there from Dec 22nd to Jan 5th.

So for now, goodbye, and I am sure you understand why I am so busy that I can't write many long letters, Excuses, excuses - - - - -

19~~th~~ Nov, 910

Some of you know that I had a two months holiday in Europe this year. I left here on 25th May, and returned on 7th August, after spending 3 days in Geneva, one enjoying the boats on Lake Geneva, and 2 days at the WCC offices. I had the most appalling weather. Just the time I left it turned good and there were 2 months of real summer. Oh well, as KK said in his farewell speech, "you lose some, you win some". I am extremely glad I had this break, as I had only been back in the office 8 days when I was appointed Acting Director. My 90 year old cousin Kath was confirmed as having Alzheimers soon after I arrived. I couldn't do much about it, but at least I was around to give moral support to the very good friends who are handling the situation. She moved into a nursing home from the extremely nice Abbeyfield home in Oxford just the week I left. So my timing for that problem was good. I had all sorts of wild ideas about going to Scotland and Norway, but decided the cold in the south was more than enough to live with. I also found I was too ambitious in planning to dash around quite so quickly. So the furthest north I went was Birmingham. I did not visit the East and the Southwest, and all stations inbetween; and of course went to my cousin in Oxford every fortnight. I went to an opera in Covent Garden for the first time, "Cinderella", and went several times to the theatre, in the Barbican and on the South Bank, and the West End. I saw a film I have wanted to see for many years "Citizen Kane", went on the railway from Tower to the Isle of Dogs and back up the river to Charing Cross; and visited the sea on every opportunity. I am always surprised and thrilled that I can come over and pick up friendships just where I left them years before. Oh yes, I met my 2 great nephews, Dale and Marcus, for lunch one very wet Saturday in Folkestone. Dale had just finished O levels at Sevenoaks and is going now to a Dutch International School to do his International Baccalaureat. Marcus and his dad came over from Brussels just 2 days earlier, Johann was putting the boys on the plane to Botswana 2 days later, so it all worked out perfectly. Marcus has now transferred to a boarding school in Botswana, he did not like Brussels. They told me that Margaret and Tony had produced a son 4 days earlier. So I look forward to seeing him at Christmas.


Since we spoke on the phone, all is quiet. I hope your plans are going well for your trip. I'm really looking forward to seeing you here in Mindelo.

No doubt you've heard a lot about the miracle of Zomba! It's still hard to believe. It's also hard for UNIP - & KK - as it all happened so fast. Chituka seems to be adjusting easily. I wouldn't want his job - heaven

knows where to start -

I'm coping with the job. We had to expel an ANC student last week, & she's really giving us trouble. She has backed up with an illegal Zengeze diamond miner, & has threatened to kill her Co-ordinator. As she's a trained freedom fighter, she's quite capable. Heaven knows where she is, & the ANC has abandoned our students. Cheers & all the best, Steve Daniel

19th Nov 91



December 16, 1991

My Dear Muriel,

Thought you might like the UNICEF card with an artistic rendition of the awesome Manhattan skyline. I never get tired of seeing it every night at midnight on my way home.

I have just reread our letters since mid-year and especially your Christmas letter. It arrived when Danny McCallum was here from Solwezi and my mind and conversation were totally on Zambia and Africa. (Danny is a Solwezi businessman, originally from Scotland, and his wife is a black Zambian. He was in Scotland for his mother's funeral and came over to see his brother who lives in the NYC area.) He read your letter to me on the way to Riverside Church where we met Adele, who had also just heard from you, and two of the women coming on the trip! So you and your exciting letter were most talked about that day. Oh! We had lunch at an Ethiopia restaurant near Riverside (the second one we have tried), so all the women are keen on finding out about Zambian and southern African cooking as well!

All is well here. Three days ago, when I also devoted myself to card writing, we were having a heavy warm rain with temperatures in the 60s! (Except for brief spells, and 1/4" of snow one night, we really hadn't had any winter weather as of that time and I keep taking my plants back out on the porch!) But then this weekend when I was busily working at Merrill Lynch, real winter weather came in, although no snow yet.

As I am quite good with my computer software, this helps letter writing. Without starting to handwrite or type something all over again in a letter to another friend that says the same thing or similar things, I can personalize each and then include some common paragraphs about my last year that most friends and family want to know about. I am tempted to bring you a small computer and printer but would not have time to set it up and show you and a colleague how to use it. Maybe if you can get me inspired(!) I can come over in 1993 and help you set up at least a minimal computer system for basic word processing and also accounts. Jackie is right, you are in the Middle Age in the new world of office procedure and communications!

In fact, let me use my copy feature to drop in a couple of paragraphs about things you have heard me mention part of already but might like updates on! And after that I will tell you about our current trip plans. As you will note I am excited!

"As you know in 1990 I had two very good friends here from Zambia for extended stays. James Kanga, the person who was here in May and June 1990, is a senior administrator and is currently in India on a government development course. Pascal Bwalya Ndakala was here from August 1990 until January of this year. Since his greatest desire in life was to finish his B.A. here in America, we found him a sponsor and he is currently studying in Iowa. He got an "A" in English in his first semester and correctly feels Americans are poor writers, in general! Although he is in his late 30s, he has adjusted well. We did have quite a hassle with the government changing from a tourist visa to a student visa, but all was successful and they let him stay. He is planning to visit Fiji this Christmas with his main sponsor.

"In contrast to 1989 with Zindi's death and 1990 with visitors, this year has been a quiet year of rebuilding my life. No long visits or excitements, just working hard to keep my business going in the recession. Did get to Puerto Rico for a week but that is all except for a long weekend in Maine with four women, see over. Have been learning more about the Big Apple and getting to like its excitement more each year.

Dec. 16th 91

"Our subway accident last summer sort of stunned a city that is not easily stunned! It was a train that I take often and seeing the damage, not to mention confused subway traffic, a week later was awesome. The unions had been stupid. They had resisted having tests for all drivers regarding alcohol and drugs and as they quickly discovered it only takes one crazy guy to put all to shame. People nearly spit at subway workers the next week! Needless-to-say, drug/alcohol testing has now been accepted! Actually I like the subways and they certainly get me to places quickly where driving and/or parking is quick impossible or hopelessly expensive.

"The big news are my plans to visit Zambia and South Africa next March with four wonderful women from Riverside Church. We are all getting excited about the trip and, of course, are delighted about the great news about Zambia's recent free elections with no violence. (Jimmy Carter was there for a long time and Kenneth Kaunda graciously gave up office, after 25 years, when overwhelmingly defeated 80% to 20%.) We also hope that South Africa continues to change in a positive way. Nothing breathtaking there at the moment but so far no regressive steps. Let us hope and pray all stays on the forward path. We hope to get as far as Solwezi, the Copperbelt, Lusaka and Livingstone/Victoria Falls in Zambia/Zimbabwe. In South Africa, we hope to visit Zindi's family in Port Elizabeth and travel by car to Cape Town.

Enclosed is our itinerary as it stands at the moment. We have expanded the trip to over three weeks. We really need an additional week as our time all along the route needs an extra day, and I am not sure it would make much difference in the cost of the trip as we will spend much time with family and friends, but I am not sure this will be possible. Still I would like your opinion about the whole plan -- its strengths and weaknesses. We can still make changes, up to early February.

As you will note we have allocated five days for the Copperbelt and Solwezi. Danny assures me that if we have no other transport, we can get to Solwezi from Kitwe by the PTC bus if we book a day in advance. He and his wife would like us to stay two nights so we can go to St. Francis mission and Chief Kapijimpanga's palace. I have not made a final promise, but if so, this would mean three nights with you at Mindolo instead of four. I will take the liberty of giving your number to several Copperbelt friends I would like to see, especially Peter (Petulo) Njovu in Kitwe and Dennis/Lillian Sikazwe in Luanshya. I will leave it to you when it would be best to get together with them (possibly at Mindolo?).

I cannot describe how excited I am at the prospect of seeing you in Kitwe, James and family in Lusaka, Danny and Lena in Solwezi, and Siphoh and the Gqomo family in PE. It will be like a dream come true. I had more-or-less abandoned the idea, at least for several years, until the women who are coming with me stirred up my wonderful memories of the past. They also seem very excited about the trip and none have ever been to Africa before! We all like the Riverside church connection with you, James, Siphoh and others.

I have re-addressed my Christmas card to send this to Botswana since my cards are getting out late this year. I will also send a copy to you in Kitwe in case this does not get to you in time in Botswana.

All the best. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

1992

Kitwe, 30th January 1992

My dear David,

Many thanks for your letter which I received in Gaborone and here.

Sorry I haven't written sooner, but I've been very busy.

I hope your plans for the big safari are going well.

It sounds very exciting. I think it's a good idea to go to Solwezi for a couple of days, as your other 3 visits in Zambia are all in towns.

I had wondered if your friends would contact me, but my phone has been out of order at home. There's always one MEF phone working. Did I give you my direct office number? Its Kitwe 211001, and usually works. I don't think I know Peter Njovu or the Sikazwes, but I'm bad on names these days.

We're hearing a lot about your bad economic situation these days. It must be hard to accept. Poor old Chiluba is having lots of criticism, people expected instant success. We have our budget tomorrow, heaven knows how we'll make out. I had a 4 hour strike to contend with in December, but it's all quiet now. At least 50% was due to the hype and excitement leading up to the elections, and then being disappointed at the unrealistic expectations not being met.

What do you want to do here for 3 days? Certainly a tour of the campus, and programmes.

I can take some time off to visit other CB towns, or whatever else you want.

Cheerio, all the best, the time will hurry by now — look forward to seeing you.

Love, Muriel

30-1-92.

My dear David

Many thanks for your letter which I received in Gabarone and here.

Sorry I haven't written sooner but I've been very busy.

I hope your plans for the big Safari are going well.

29 sounds very exciting.

I think it's a good idea to go to Swaziland for a couple of days as your other visits in Zambia are all in towns.

I had wondered if your friends would contact me but my phone has been out of order at home. There's always

one MEF phone working.

Did I give you my direct office number? It's K156

211001 & usually works.

I don't think I know

Peter Njovu or the Sikazwes,

but I've had on names

these days.

We're hearing a lot about

your bad economic situation

these days. It must be


hard to accept, Poor old
Chiluba is having lots of ^{30TH Jan 1990} criticism,
people expected
instant success, we have
our budget tomorrow, heaven
knows how well we'll make out.
I had a 4 hour strike to
contend with in December, but
it's all quiet now. At least
50% was due to the hype &
excitement leading up to the
elections, & then being disappointed
at the unrealistic expectations
not being met.

What do you want to do here
for 3 days? Certainly a tour
of the campus, & programmes.
~~I can take some time off~~
to visit other CB towns, or
whatever else you want.

Cheers, all the best,
the time will hurry by
now - look forward to
seeing you - love David

P. David Wilkin
(718) 271-0084

Home Address:
61-15 98th Street
Rego Park, NY 11374



Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 175
Rego Park, NY 11374

February 21, 1992

Dear Muriel,

Got your note of 30th January early last week. The ladies and I are looking forward to seeing you in about four weeks: on the 16th of March. Everyone is very, very excited. Thanks for your private office line: 211001. I will try hard to call you before we leave America on the 11th. But unless a total disaster hits, you will see us as planned.

Our plane will arrive in Ndola at 10:55am on the 16th. I am assuming unless you tell us otherwise that you can arrange transport to get us from the airport.

I hope to talk to Danny McCallum in Solwezi in the next few days. He was of the opinion that we should come up on the PTC bus on Tuesday the 17th and come back Kitwe on Thursday the 19th as, at his visit here in November, there was no Friday bus. If this is still the situation, we probably should adhere to this plan. If we follow this plan, we may need someone to get us tickets on the day we arrive (Monday) before they sell out. And again, if we adhere to this plan, it means we will be with you at Mindolo on Monday, Thursday and Friday nights.

I specifically asked the ladies if there was anything they wanted to do in the Copperbelt and they said "Anything you planned would be wonderful" as they had no idea of what they wanted to do except see the Copperbelt. I suspect they will like what you and your staff are doing in Kitwe: relating Christianity to the practical needs of African society. And they are probably interested in what the Centre is doing to help women in African communities, a topic you and some staff and people around you are the top experts on. They also stressed that you should not feel you need to take much time off from work - just point them to the places and people you feel they would love to meet.

I feel the same, plus I will want to touch base with the UNZA Extramural office and see Jason Kazilimani, who is now head of the Copperbelt Education Trust. (I will tell him to contact you.) So, Muriel, please don't feel you have to do a lot of planning. Most things will happen naturally!

Feb 21st 1920

P. David Wilkin
(718) 271-0084

Home Address:
61-15 98th Street
Rego Park, NY 11374

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 175
Rego Park, NY 11374

The only thing certain I want to do is see "A Marriage of Inconvenience!"

Enclosed is an official photograph of our group and what we hope is our final itinerary. The only change is that one woman, Zenobia, has abruptly had to cancel because her mother has just had a stroke - the black woman on the left in blue in the photograph. So it will be three women, hopefully James Kanga, and myself.

Anyway, enough for now. We will see you soon!



May 4, 1992

My dear Muriel,

You have been much on my mind so much since we parted ways at Ndola Airport over 7 weeks ago, and I do apologize for not writing before this. But as you can appreciate, re-entry to America and work, after a month away on such a holiday full of wonderful old memories, was awesome! But I am now settled back into routine and trying to catch up with correspondence.

The Trip after I left you. Our journey to Livingstone via Lusaka was uneventful and the planes on time, but when we reached Livingstone, there were no taxis for an hour and I thought we'd have to walk to town! We spent two nights in Livingstone at the Fairmount Hotel, two nights in the wonderful Hwange (Wankie) Game Park in Zimbabwe, and one night in Victoria Falls at the Spray View Hotel. (As you indicated, the latter proved to be better value for our money than the Fairmount Hotel. Neither were major tourist hotels but had a tourist element to them.) On our second night we had a most delightful international "Italian" meal at the Musi-o-tunya Hotel. Although the crowd was quite affluent, it was the most nonracial and relaxed group at such a place I have ever seen. I hope that such a relaxed social atmosphere can move south towards Harare, Jo'burg and Cape Town. Zambia's colonial days are far more faded than to the south.

We had time to spend at the falls, which are always awesome. We saw the Falls from the Zambian side and then the Zimbabwe side. Following this, we headed to Hwange (the town) and stayed at the Baobab Tree Hotel, which is still a lovely hotel (excellent value for your money, maybe the best on the trip and to be highly recommended) and the next night at Sianamatela Camp within the game park (again cheap, comfortable and pleasant). During the night in the park, a lion had a fight with a porcupine just outside our window! We saw lots of game, most close up, such as lion, buffalo, zebra, giraffe, impala (and other such deer-type animals). We saw only one elephant close up but several in the distance in the valley below the game lodge. Being the end of the rains, the elephant were quite dispersed throughout the veld.

We had rain everywhere we went, including South Africa. Thus, we called ourselves the "rainmakers." The rain made temperatures cool and pleasant.

Harare and South Africa. After five nights in the Victoria Falls/Hwange area, we spent a night in Harare with old friends of Zindi and I from our Syracuse days in the early 1970s. Dr. Rose Ndhovu heads the School of Nursing and Dr. Sikanyiso Ndhovu runs the largest private correspondence school in the country. Our one night stop was too short to see much, but enjoyable. Unfortunately, when we tried to leave, Elise discovered that she had lost part of her airplane tickets, the parts from Harare to Jo'burg and on to Port Elizabeth. Fortunately, she was allowed to buy new tickets on a credit card and all was saved in the niche of time and we proceeded! (She is now sorting out the whole matter with the credit card companies!)

After a change of planes and clearing customs in Jo'burg, we went on to Port Elizabeth where Zindi's people, the Gqomo family, treated us with traditional African hospitality and kindness that defies words. To say the treatment was "royal" would be an understatement. They killed a sheep for me, brewed beer, and then had non-stop meals until we left PE. (I think I gained 3 kilos!) Mother Gqomo is quite elderly and was quite nervous about meeting her white son-in-law and his three friends, but by the time we left all shyness had faded and we were indeed one big happy family!

Sipho (Zindi's brother who spend 6 months here in NYC after she died) rented a "combi" for us. With his cousin as honorary driver (Sipho did 99% of the driving to ensure our safety), six of us proceeded to Cape Town. As foretold, but still to my amazement, we had no "political or social" problems, despite our being quite visibly multi-racial. In fact we had a delightful holiday. We stayed one night at the gorgeous Plettenberg Bay's Beacon Island hotel (where the waves hit the rocks beneath the hotel nonstop), then one night at the Holiday Inn in Oudtshoorn (near the fun-to-see ostrich farms) and finally several pleasant nights in the Holiday Inn in Woodstock, Cape Town. The women thoroughly enjoyed shopping and sightseeing. We made a delightful visit to the Cape of Good Hope, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. On the way out to the point, we stopped in Simonstown, the gorgeous port to the north between the point and Cape Town.

May 4th 1992

South African hotels and major restaurants and other public facilities are now definitely non-racial, but as you know, apartheid has made most Africans very poor and all African communities are relatively poor. The shanty towns of South Africa are even worse than those in Zambian towns. A few new African townships, mainly for professionals, are quite nice, but the economic gap is enormous. By local African standards, the Gqomo family are considered affluent, but by nearby white suburbs, they still were poor.

Journey back. After we left Cape Town, the women and I had a safe (but very exhausting and unduly tiresome) journey back to America. While Zambia Airways got us safely from Jo'burg to Lusaka and on to London, their enormous delays were quite unfortunate! And the state of the Lusaka International Airport, which international passengers see, is deplorable to the point of being a national disgrace.

The AAD Family. At some times on the trip, such as Victoria Falls, the women's tended to be a bit too demanding or a bit unwise (Heidi lost her musical recorder in Port Elizabeth and vastly inconvenienced us all). But still all went well and I greatly enjoyed seeing all places in Africa once again and having friends along. And equally important the four travelers arrived back in America as friends! They now think it was the greatest trip ever!

Future plans. I was so pleased with the trip and what I saw in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa that I am seriously considering returning in several years to spend several months in both South Africa and Zambia to survey the situation. If I do make it back, my goal would be to bring several computers with me, buy a car in South Africa, drive north through Zimbabwe and spend a month or so in Zambia.

If all was favorable, I'd try to pick an area to eventually live in and leave the computers and car in Zambia for future visits.. In other words, my fantasy is to work again in Zambia, preferably in the winter months from November to March when America is so cold! I feel Zambia's economy could start rebounding if South Africa still continues to move in a positive direction, and the computer revolution has to hit Zambia when it does. Maybe my computer business will be just what is needed in Lusaka and/or the Copperbelt. I would try to get Peter Njovu to work for me again (he once again gave me very valuable assistance on this trip) and find other people who have the technical and business savvy to handle the new computer revolution.

Whether all of this will become reality or is just a fantasy, only time will tell! Or maybe I should come and spent a month or so helping Mindolo set up a working system of personal computers!

Anyway, do give me your impressions of this fantasy or dream or value plan - whatever it is!

I will try to write soon again. Thanks for your hospitality at Mindolo; it was truly appreciated. Elise will probably send you an assortment of pictures and the others may have also written by now. (Should you not get pictures soon, let me know.)

With love,

All the best,

Home Address:
61-15 98th Street
Rego Park, NY 11374

P. David Wilkin
(718) 271-0084

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 175
Rego Park, NY 11374



July 23, 1992

Dear Muriel,

You have been much on my mind. Hope you received my letter cum chronicle of 4th May. Several people I sent a similar note to felt I was too optimistic, but I guess only time will tell. If you did not get it let me know and I will locate it on my computer and send you another copy!

All is well here. Last weekend, the AAD Family met in Maine in Elise's very beautiful home on Lake Sabego. Along with Elise, Heidi, Ruth and I, Zenobia and Alice also joined us even if they could not come on the trip. We collectively had a good time and even saw a marvelous Zimbabwe singing troupe that was playing in Portland, Maine at the time.

Elise, Ruth and Heidi all send you their best wishes. We not only spoke of you many times but tried to call you on Saturday. We reached Mindolo on one occasion but lost the connection and could not get through again. We wanted collectively to say "hello" as a family. All of us hope you are well.

The women felt I had not done my homework. I had forgotten to write you and specifically ask who we can send donations to here in America that can be designated for Mindolo Ecumenical Centre. And also what specific Mindolo causes are especially worthy of our, and others, support at present.

Here in NYC, my work is going well, for which I thank God and also my health is good. I am getting very good at roaming around the Big Apple with an increasingly sophisticated eye.

In August I will have five visitors all at once for one week: Bwalya back from Zambia, a guy from Fiji, another friend from Iowa and two friends from Columbus, Ohio. All this while I am working a 40 hour week, so that will be fun.

Our electoral campaign is going strong. As you may have heard, Ross Perot has dropped out of the race and it is now Bill Clinton vs. President Bush. The economy is still very slow, but of course not nearly as bad as southern Africa.

I am very anxious for Bwalya's up-to-date report on 6th August. James Kanga in Lusaka just wrote to say things are still not good and the economy still declining. Can only and hope for a bottoming out soon.

Hope you are still not so busy at Mindolo with an impossible amount of hats to wear! Do write when you get a free moment.

Much love and best wishes, both from me and the AAD Family,

Kitwe, Zambia

Addendum to five page form letter dated 8th October 1992

Many thanks for yours of July. I'm sorry you couldn't get me on the phone — but that Saturday I was still in Botswana, I came back the next day. Try again! Did you try my direct line — 2-217971?

I appreciate your offer of a donation to Mindolo. You could send a cheque directly here! Otherwise via the National Council of Churches, but they sit on our donations for months before they forward them on. As far as which project — well you were here and saw. The rural development programme does not get very much, strangely I think.

I must say your election campaign is interesting, even if I personally wouldn't want to vote for any of them! Do I remember you supported Bush?

Greet Elise, Heidi and Ruth, and thank them for their post-cards. How did you survive your August visitors?

Love Muriel

PO Box 21607 KITWE

Zambia

~~September~~, 1992

8th Oct

My dear

David

I really am trying to write earlier this year, the last time I have been very late. I finally handed over as Acting Director a month ago, after almost a year doing the two jobs, so I feel much happier at the load. Canon Clement Janda came from a job in Geneva, with WCC, and is originally from Sudan. He has worked at the All Africa Conference of Churches in Nairobi, for the Sudan Council of Churches, and has studied theology in the States, so he is eminently suitable to be our Director. I like him very much, he is very strong and has vision. I can see Mindolo growing and being a real power again.

Just after I wrote last year, I had the miserable experience of having to cope with a 4 hour sit-down strike. In fact, we were locked out of the offices. The causes were mainly the disillusionment after the elections when miracles did not happen immediately. The lack of political and economic education is frightening, and even though the new government had not promised instant miracles, people still expected it to happen. The other problem was the Head of Administration, who was very weak, and frustrated all the workers, so I had the lovely task later of asking him to resign. This black day was early in December. Later in the month the subsidy on the basic food, mealy meal, was removed, as it should have done much earlier. This more than trebled the price. But fortunately I had done something right - I had suggested that when the subsidy was lifted, MEF should give a free bag of mealy meal to each worker. So overnight I suddenly became the most popular person on the campus. I must admit that when I took over acting as the director, I had not anticipated such an emotional month. I was so grateful to get on that plane to Botswana for Christmas. This country has had many strikes, so I was in good company.

Most of us are disappointed with the new government. OK - they had an appalling task, but corruption at the top seems to be just as bad, and no doubt, the President is very weak. I realised that after 17 years of one party rule, many people only know one kind of government. As 60% of our population is under 18, and probably 80% under 30, this whole 80% do not remember any other kind of government, so they think that is the norm. The President is still ruling by press conference on State House lawns - hiring and firing, lecturing us just like old KK did - it is so sad. One very good improvement is in the freedom of expression, there is plenty of public criticism in the press, radio and TV. I can't see the economy improving, but that was always going to be a long slow haul. The kwacha has dropped from 87 to 215 to the dollar since January, but plenty of other countries are far worse off. Crime is on the increase, mainly because there are no new jobs, and many are being lost as companies close down. I realise only too well that this is the European story too, but we have no government social security, so people have nothing to live on.

8th Oct. 1920

I have done quite a lot of travelling this year. After my Christmas trip - oh yes, I was so delighted to receive about 30 Christmas letters in Botswana, thanks so much for those who responded - I had the usual Easter break in northern Botswana, at Chobe, with the family. I drove again with the same colleague from here who has family in Livingstone. As we got to the ferry, just about to drive on, we were halted - they had to repair one engine. This took over 4 hours. There is nowhere to sit, it was extremely hot, and my friend could see some of my nephews standing on the other side with binoculars wondering what was happening; I waved madly and they saw me. When we finally got over, Ian told me he was just arranging to come and collect me in their little motor boat. Travelling in Zambia is never dull.

I was back in Botswana again in July, for 9 days, this time to be there for a ceremony of unveiling a statue to Seretse, in Serowe, which the tribe had commissioned. Seretse's old friend, Charles Njonjo, former Attorney General of Kenya, was the guest of honour, and he came with his English wife and 2 of his 3 kids. Also invited was Mrs. Graca Machel, widow of the former President of Mozambique. I found her delightful, and very interesting. The unveiling lasted nearly 4 hours, with the usual speeches, and dancing, singing and reciting, but we were seated in the shade, in fact it was very cold, and I was dressed up in my warmest attire. We certainly enjoyed our lunch afterwards, for about 250 people, then drove back to Gaborone. Ruth had to farm out the family for sleeping, but we all ate together in the house - all 14 of us. Great fun. We were there 2 days.

And in October I go back again. On 31st, as most of you know, I will be 70. I told the family I expected them all to come up here for the occasion, when I was there at Easter, and they agreed - some rather reluctantly. But, when I got there this time, I discovered that Margaret, Tony's wife, is pregnant, and driving to Kitwe in our hottest month at 5-6 months would be very tiring. Then while I was there Ian told me that President Masire had asked him to take him round the borders that very week. So, I did some quick thinking, and offered them a choice. After 32 years I have never visited the Okavango Delta, one of the most unusual spots in the world, where 3 rivers run into the sand, and create this delta with birdlife, fishlife, and wild animals living in this unique environment. So I told them they could take me there. They have agreed, and the lodge is already booked. One has to fly in to these lodges in small planes, in fact no lodge takes more than 24 people. So it will be a most unusual birthday, and I am sure most enjoyable. One very annoying thing with the present economic crisis is that people can't afford to fly. So instead of 4 direct planes a week from Lusaka to Gaborone, there is only one, and that stops in Francistown. It takes me the whole day for about 3½ hours flying. If I go

27th Oct 92

via Harare or Johannesburg, I have to spend a night en route, which is ridiculous, so I have decided to go for 2 weeks. It is right after our student graduation, and bi-annual board meeting, so at least the dates fit OK.

Europe was my big trip, and organised at such short notice I had little time to plan. I was asked by the Board to visit our partners in Europe. As I did not want to fly and have short visits, I decided to travel overland and have little breaks each week and enjoy myself instead of running myself into the ground. I had 3 days in London on the way, seeing partners and my old friend Wilfrid Grenville Grey, a former Director of Mindolo, then I went by train to Newcastle, stayed one day with Tipples, then got the ferry to Bergen. You all know how I love the sea. It was windy and cool and marvellous, until 2 hours before land, when it became very hot. Believe it or not, my week in Norway was the most incredible experience, because that week it was the hottest country in Europe. Was I lucky! I had one whole day in Bergen, then took the most lovely scenic ride from there over the mountains to Oslo - about 8 hours. We were above the snow line for a couple of hours. I was in Oslo for 2 days, then took the overnight train to Trondheim, where I spent the Whitsun weekend with 2 former Mindolo colleagues, Gunnestads and Palma. And I still can't believe it, but I actually had a swim in the fjord, and survived. The sun was so hot I had to move into the shade. I just loved these 2 towns, but realised how different they would have appeared if I had experienced the usual rain. A total contrast to last year. I then flew to Stockholm as I had an appointment and stayed longer than I had thought in Trondheim. lucky again. The European cup football competition started my second night in Stockholm. I had not booked hotels anywhere, so I had to move out that night and go to Sollentuna to stay with Marta Simonsson, where we watched the opening game. In Swedish, of course. I went to visit her husband Bengt in hospital for a couple of hours, he is needing a lot of attention, but we chatted about all sorts of things during the visit.

I then took a day train to Copenhagen, which dragged out rather a lot, the scenery was not quite up to what I had expected. I was disappointed in Copenhagen, it is not anywhere near as beautiful as Oslo and Stockholm. 5 years ago it rained for the week I was in Stockholm with Doris and Jö, this time I had super weather. I really enjoyed my harbour trips in these Scandinavian harbours. However, the partner in Danchurchaid was very hospitable, and great fun, so it made up for my feelings. I took a one day bus trip and went round the northern peninsula, visiting castles, and enjoying the Danish spread at lunch. The weather continued to be perfect. I wandered round the Tivoli gardens, but was not too impressed. All along the route I managed to see all the soccer games on TV, and I saw plenty of supporters in Copenhagen, as they took the $\frac{1}{2}$ hour ferry ride to Malmo. Staying in Denmark was much cheaper.

8th Oct., '91

Holland was my next destination. I went overnight, and slept through the transfer on and off the ferry. I stayed in Ammersfoort for 6 days with the Ippenbergs, who used to work for MEF. They were most hospitable. The agencies I visited in Holland were scattered around, but as the country is so small and I was staying very centrally, it worked out very well. I took one day and went round the harbour at Rotterdam, which is much bigger than I had ever imagined. I would have loved to go the 25 miles to the sea, but there was no time - I got up too late so missed the one daily trip. What I saw was quite fantastic. This was one of the 2 days where the weather wasn't so good. On the Saturday I met my great nephew, Dale, who is now in boarding school in Holland doing his A levels. He was going to visit his Dutch grandparents and had to come through Ammersfoort on the train, so he got off and we had lunch, then travelled together to Utrecht, where I had to change to go to Germany. I spent the rest of Saturday and Sunday in Solingen, where my friend Magda lives. She was in Ireland, but her sister Elizabeth hosted me.

I visited agencies in Bonn and Aachen, and I was shown round Bonn, which has grown a lot since I was last there. I saw 2 new museums, commissioned before the events of 2 years ago, so the government has quite a problem sorting out what to do when some Ministries move to Berlin. I understand there is a lot of pressure to house some EC buildings, including the new Bank. I went by train to Stuttgart, where I had one agency to visit, and stayed with my old friend Anita Hausermann for 2 days. We had a lovely day, swimming in some mineral baths, and driving around the lovely countryside. I then had to go north again, all along the Rhine, to Aachen, as I had not finished the business there. My last day was spent in Cologne, with Magda who had come back from Ireland, and once again we took a short boat ride along the Rhine. One day I would like to have a week's holiday on the Rhine.

I had gone to a lot of trouble and expense to get visas for Holland and Germany, but I was not asked once for my passport. Even from Denmark through Holland to Germany, I did not pass through any customs or immigration post. So in future I know I need not bother. As a Zambian, I do not need visas for Scandinavian countries.

Finally I flew back to London for just 4 days. I visited my cousin in Oxford, whose Alzheimer's is progressing slowly but surely. I even took her for a walk in a wheelchair - much harder work than I had realised, up and down steps. I had a day with Phil, and a day in Folkestone, and by this time the weather was breaking up, so I really counted my blessings. I had tried to extend my stay by 4-5 days, but the flights had been booked and waitlisted ever since I had arrived, and the situation did not change. If I had not gone to Botswana for the statue unveiling I could have stayed an extra week, but that would have been too tight for catching up on correspondence for Mindolo.

8th Oct, 1920

The drought is of course our biggest problem here right now. We have 8 big rivers, so all our electricity is run by hydro-electric. There is water in the rivers, but not enough, so I think it will all grind to a halt, since we are not being rationed as had been threatened. Here at Mindolo our lake is drying up fast, but we are just finishing a borehole. Nobody is quite sure how much water this will provide. We are now rationing, having it cut off 3 hours each morning and afternoon, and all night. But ~~many~~^{many} areas are suffering dreadfully, and there is a lot of cholera, and we have over 2 months before any rain will fall. It has been forecast that this is the first of a 3 year drought spell - I only hope the forecasters are wrong. It is crazy that Botswana, which is far worse than here, will not suffer with electricity cuts, as theirs is all powered by coal.

I very unwisely agreed to host an engagement party recently at my house. I said I could only have 30 guests, but we ended up with 64. Fortunately it was in the garden, but it was the usual Zambian non-organised event. The 2 chaps supposed to be cooking the barbecue were totally useless, not enough charcoal, no paper nor matches, so I cooked about 2/3 of the meat in my kitchen, in the oven, grill, and frying. It was supposed to start at 6pm, but the invitations said 7pm, and most people arrived at 8pm, so it didn't end until 11.30, after I had insisted on them clearing up the garden! By far the worst part was the so-called music. Every 10 minutes I turned the volume down, but it always got back to very loud. The bridegroom to be is an accounts clerk, the fiancée a South African student on one of our courses - quite a few people were not too happy. I don't think it will ever get to a wedding, because Fred's girl friends change frequently. We will see.

I still continue with the YWCA, but we have had traumatic experiences with 2 Canadian volunteers in Kitwe - a husband and wife team. Such a shame, as we had 2 extremely good women volunteers in Lusaka. The 2 here just took over everything, and tried to chase away all the old guard - including me. I have said many times that it was time for me to withdraw - Young Women? But not in the way they tried. I think we have finally solved it by getting them transferred, but there is a lot to pick up. The National Y had its annual conference at Mindolo in May, just before I left for Europe, and I was still acting Director. They managed to put on a secret lunch for me having served 28 years as the only Treasurer, and gave me a lovely gift of women bedspreads. I arranged a welcome lunch for the new Director recently and to my surprise there was a thankyou speech and gift for me, so I've done well this year. They gave me a clock. Just before I returned I had burglars again, and one of the things they took was my clock - a farewell gift from the travel agency.

I could go on and on for ever, but will close this part, and add some private bits to each one of you. I will send this surface mail, hoping they will decide to include it in the air bag, which they do if it is not full.

Many thanks for yours of July. ^{14th Oct 92.}
Sorry you couldn't get me on the
phone - but that Saturday I was
in Botswana, I came back
the next day. Try again! Did
you try my direct line - 2-217971?

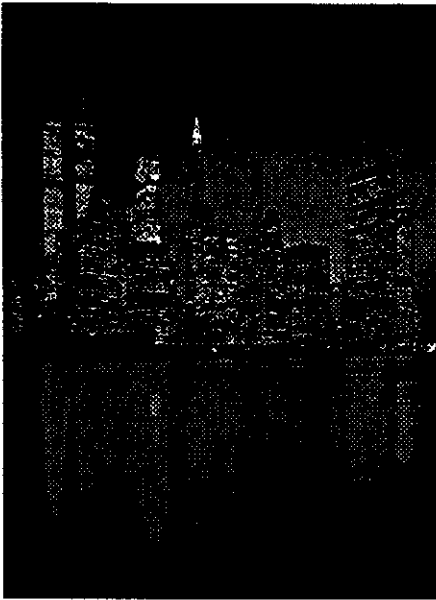
I appreciate your offer of a
donation to Mindelo. You could
send a cheque directly here!
Otherwise via the National Council
of Churches, but they sit on our
donations for months before they
forward them on: As far as
which project - well you were here
and saw. The rural development
programme does not get very much,
I naively I think.

I must say your election campaign
is interesting, even if I personally
wouldn't want to vote for any of
them! Do I remember you supported
Bush?

Meet Elise, Heidi and Ruth,
and thank them for their postcards.
How did you survive your August
visitors?
Love
Carel

Revised 1/4/92

1992 in David's Big Apple



This nightly view of Manhattan makes small town Christmas lights seem as nothing!!

1992 in David's Big Apple has been created by David Wilkin for all his wonderful friends and relatives and attempts to have something of interest in it, all of you around the world from Canada to Europe to Africa and even South East Asia. Most of it is not about New York, but it is all about David Wilkin and his life within the Big Apple and travels outside the Big Apple.

David takes full responsibility for all errors, omissions, irresponsible observations, and cranky opinions. He invites you to respond with letters, notes and cards if you are not inclined to desktop publishing and creating newsletters. To friends in Zambia, please acknowledge receiving this newsletter in the next few months since far too much of everything is still going astray in the mail. This newsletter was started during a Merrill Lynch Pagemaker 4.0 class. For the technically inclined the leadings are Lucida Calligraphy and the text is New Century Schoolbook of some form or other.

"The tired parts of the mind can be rested and strengthened, not merely by rest, but by using other parts."

Happy Holidays to all!

Happy Holidays 1992 and Happy New Year 1993 to all of you, my relatives and friends. I hope that 1992 has been a good year for you, with health and happiness yours in abundance. (I would also say "wealth" but this eludes most of us, and certainly 1992 has not been a banner year for the world economy in general.)

Work and Health

For me, 1992 has been a year of much activity. Regarding my work, I have remained busy in my new professional life as a computer software applications person. The big new word in 1992 is "Windows," a new "environment" for IBM type PCs that makes them look and act more like Macintosh computers. My main work is still at Merrill Lynch. But I still conduct training at Chase Manhattan headquarters for Speer Computer Software Enterprises and help research psychiatrists at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and several other small businesses.

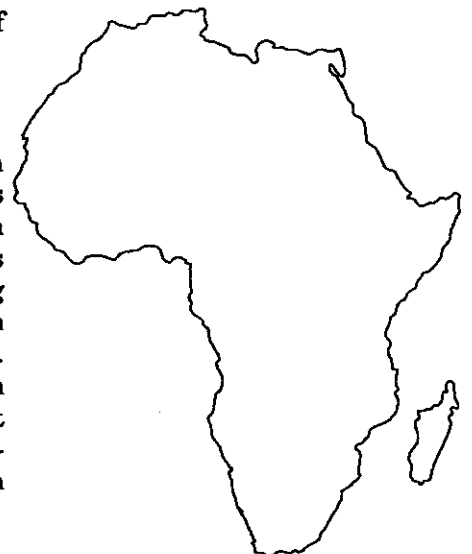
This year I discovered that aging is such tiresome business! Despite my virtual hyperactivity in 1992, I truly knew I was mid-aged. My old ulcer teamed up with the start of rheumatism and/or carpal syndrome in my hands/arms. On a positive note, I have used these symptoms to remind me to swim more often and keep my weight down. So for those of you who are older, I now have a more personal feeling for your problems, and for those of you who are younger, God be with you!

Travel in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa

Travel to Zambia and then south through Zimbabwe and South Africa was a homecoming for me and the year's high point as you can clearly tell from the focus of this newsletter! The trip planning started after an early morning meditation service at Riverside Church in May 1991. Planning continued more concretely in July 1991 on a long weekend in Maine at the home of one of the four chief conspirators. Finally we began the trip on March 11th and returned on April 5th.

The "AAD Family," the "HERD"

When four "classy" people planned a trip to Africa, we took an official name, the "AAD Family" (African Adventure). Our group consisted of Heidi Campbell, Elise Goldman, Ruth Joseph and me. Since the initials of the three female conspirators spelled HER, the newcomers to Africa became the HER contingent and since all of our initials spell HERD, we collectively became the HERD! Had Zenobia Gray joined us--she cancelled when her mother became ill--we could have been "Z.HERD!"





Butterflies in Africa during the rains are incredible:

Reflections: Living in southern Africa, 1963 to 1968

A lifestyle developed in my childhood in my home-town Newark, Ohio, and post-adolescent city experiences in Cleveland served me well as I adjusted to rural, small town and urban Africa. Politeness and hospitality to strangers; acceptance of and respect for other's customs, traditions and general differences; and a love of working with diverse peoples on common projects were learned from my relatives, church and communities. I tried never to forget these but to apply them in different cultures.

But the key words in my new life were "change" and "adaptation." I loved the seasonal pattern: hot and dry from mid-September to mid-November, warm and wet to April and then cool and dry. I loved swimming outdoors on Christmas and New Year's. But with no heating I was less fond of the temperature hovering in the 40s in my bedroom at night in July and of my having to move outside to get warm in the daytime.

I found it challenging to be a part of a racial minority (albeit privileged) in place of being part of a white majority. Being a bigger frog in a small lake was a distinct change from being a small frog in a huge lake. I enjoyed helping Zambia form from the colonial territory of Northern Rhodesia against a backdrop of international intrigue in the cold war, apartheid at its peak in South Africa and then civil war in what was Southern Rhodesia. (Unfortunately, while Zambia now shines politically with its new democratic government, the long-term stresses and strains have ruined its economy.)

Certainly I learned to try new ways and innovate far more than ever before. Although I was to return to Kenya in 1970 and Zambia again in 1971 and remain until 1979 as a University of Zambia lecturer, probably this initial period became the most challenging if not liberating time of my life.

African Arrival, March 13th

The memories of the trip are too many to fit in these pages. The following is but a summary of the highlights. For me the trip was a journey down memory lane, while for Heidi, Elise and Ruth (HER) the trip was a totally new experience.

Thus members of the AAD Family responded differently with their different backgrounds. I barely slept four hours a night for the first ten days, the least in my life. Ruth kissed the soil of Zambia the moment she left the aircraft. Elise and Ruth avoided drinking any untreated water for the first ten days no matter where they were, while Heidi could barely be constrained even where the danger was considerable. But all this became our collective arrival song. (Blessings aplenty, we had no ill health or accidents.)

Wonderful old and new friends of my past surrounded us and graciously adopted HER as my family. Joe/Ann Sikazwe, Patrick/Ann Sapallo, and James Kanga and children all enveloped us. Geoffrey and Grace Kanga, whom I remembered as children, now handsome young people 19 and 21, acted as guides. (Grace's husband and adorable baby were delightful additions to the large Kanga family.) The hours flew by in Lusaka.

Similar welcomes also awaited us in Kitwe. Muriel Sanderson and her staff graciously housed and fed us at Mindolo Ecumenical Center in Kitwe.

From Kitwe we headed to Solwezi by bus. Peter Njovu took time from work to accompany us as interpreter. Danny and Lennah McCallum hosted us in Solwezi. The staff at St. Francis Mission fed and entertained us with gracious charm and verve. We deeply appreciated an afternoon of traditional dance performances in our honor.

The 300 km. bus journey was impressively on time. On our return, HER chose to sit in front. Peter and I joined them. We hesitated saying why most passengers preferred the back. They soon found out! The driver drove very fast to keep on schedule while engaging in an unending conversation! I thought they would collapse. Still we arrived safely. A special adventure.

14th Dec 1992

Solwezi was our northerly point. From here we moved ever south. A short flight via Lusaka brought us to Livingstone and Victoria Falls.

Victoria Falls and Hwange

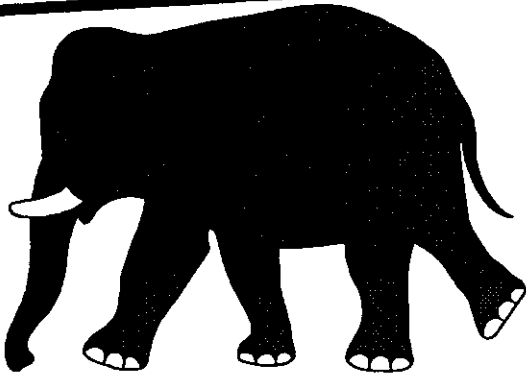
In 1963, while driving a tiny Morris Mini, I had the pleasure of spending my first school holiday in Livingstone looking at the falls and then visiting Wankie (now Hwange) Game Park. Spending two hours "trapped" in my mini with a herd of 15-20 elephants around me at a water hole is a lifelong memory of wonder and enjoyment.

From 1964 to 1967, I repeated my visits to Vic. Falls and also drove twice through South Africa and Zimbabwe to Cape Town. But apartheid tightened its noose and then civil war in Southern Rhodesia started. Thus this return with Heidi, Elise and Ruth brought back old memories that at times made me pensive and inward-looking, desirous of being alone, an impossibility with our fixed plans!

The Zambia/Zimbabwe border crossing is still awkward but not unpleasant. So we walked across and saw both sides. The heat was bothersome but one of my first students in at what was then Balovale (now Zambezi) Secondary School, David Musesa, kindly drove us over when we moved our "camp" (i.e., our hotel) to Victoria Falls from Livingstone.

We drove to the Hwange Game Park. As expected, elephants were dispersed into the bush since since it was the rainy season. But buffalo, zebra, hippo, giraffe, lion and endless springbok, eland and other members of the "deer" family put on an appropriate show for the AAD Family!

I spent my 53rd birthday at a lodge within the game park: a memorable way to spend a birthday that I most recommend! The night before, we stayed at the Baobab Tree Hotel, a charming old colonial-age hotel overlooking the coal mining town of Hwange. We received early tea, shoe shining service, etc., at a most modest price. After leaving the Hwange area, we drove back to Vic. Falls for one night before heading south.



Hwange Elephant? No, tucks too small! Probably Southeast Asia.

A Family Visit to Ohio in June

Dad, Margaret (my stepmother) and I made a 10 days' jaunt south and north from North Bay in northern Ontario to Newark, Ohio. (I flew to North Bay from New York.)

The drive itself, as always, is the best and worst of the open road. There is little to say about modern air travel and express highways except that you go wherever you are going, fast.

Conversely, the traditional overnight stop north and south is a true joy. Lillian Wiseman, an old friend of Margaret in Fort Erie (Niagara Falls), is truly a wonderful hostess who within minutes makes the boredom of the highway vanish.

And when we got to Ohio the home cooking of Aunts Dorothy and Doris, and other relatives, was as always unbeatable. New York may have great world gourmet cooking but I'd give it up any day for the down-home cuisine of my aunts! I came back fat but not rested. (See the article on American Customs.)

In short, Paris in the springtime may be unbeatable and New York can be delightful, but central Ohio's countryside offers hard-to-beat rural charm that is gorgeous.

The Future: A Personal Perspective

My hope for 1993: to work quietly in New York and really get to know the city and to pay off old debts. If I travel it will be to see old friends in Scotland and England or within North America. In late 1994, I'd love to go back to Zambia to survey the possibility of a longer-term business return for part of each year; they need help reconstructing.

In the process of exploring the Big Apple, I have started socializing much more lately. While not looking to remarry or even having a live-in relationship (I enjoy my own space), I look forward to some sort of long-term, intimate relationship(s) involving a good dose of creative energy! (Whatever that means!) Time will tell what will evolve!

Port Elizabeth (PE); the Gqomos

After a night stopover in Harare at the old and elegant Jameson Hotel, noted for nonracial hospitality in days of yore, we flew to PE (a seaport on the Indian Ocean) to spend four nights with Zindi's family. (We cleared South African customs in Johannesburg but did not leave the airport.)

Sipho--an elder brother of Zindi, who had visited NYC after her death--served as our host, assisted by her two other brothers, Samson (eldest) and Rodgers (youngest). The family collectively wine and dined us until we would have burst had we eaten more! To say the treatment was "royal" was not an overstatement. Mother Gqomo, now quite elderly, was quite nervous about meeting her white son-in-law for the first time after 25 years. But by the time we left all shyness had faded and we were indeed one family! Zindi, the cause for our meeting, was much in our minds. (It seems impossible that three years have passed since her death.)

To Cape Town and Home

We drove south with Sipho to Cape Town. On the way our highpoint was Oudtshoorn, truly the "ostrich capital of the world." A hot, dry valley that ostriches do well in. All farmers raise ostriches! Genadendal was a quick second highlight: a "coloured" community that I had spent New Year's 1964 in. As in Livingstone and Hwange, a lot of wonderful memories flooded my mind.

Cape Town ended the trip. Simons-town, an old port, and the point where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet made a fun outing. Meeting John/Nommo Stubbs and Frank Molteno was a pleasure. Finally, the last night we dined on Table Mountain overlooking the city with its indescribable view, an appropriate finale.

Leaving Africa meant a tedious all-night trip from Cape Town to London via Jo'burg and Lusaka. But one last delight awaited us in London: meeting Robert and Marion Molteno, old comrades from my UNZA days. Leaving the HER contingent resting at our Heathrow hotel, I took the Underground to their house. They then joined us for a final, relaxed meal. The next morning on April 15th, we reached the Big Apple ending the ADD Family's trip and a walk down memory lane!

American Customs and Me! My negative experience of the year.

Many have a negative fear of Africa, but fear not after you have faced the negative side of American customs. Never in my 25 plus years in/out of Africa did I face anything as daunting as American customs in August.

I was to drive back from North Bay to New York City. Dad gave me his car to drive and then keep. We had it repaired and approved by NY State and Ontario. But had neglected to contact US Customs.

Seemingly Canada had different EPA regulations the year the car was manufactured. After a very unpleasant time at the border, I was denied entry until I got rid of the car. Canadian customs and immigration welcomed me back to Canada. I won't bore you with more details, but despite Lillian's extreme kindness and hospitality at Fort Erie, the !@# experience is hard to forget. Nothing in Africa ever compared for unpleasantness! Consequently, I decided to give up owning a car in NYC, a difficult experience anyway.



Philosophy

"Anyone I have loved, I will always love.' My friends and my lovers know that I never part from them."

Jeanne Moreau quoting F. Scott Fitzgerald, Newsweek, 4/19/1976.

This quote became my favorite many years ago. Love (in whatever form) is a wonderful concept that we need more of in a world plagued by ageless person-to-person cruelties and social cruelties such as racism and the horrendous hate concept of "ethnic cleansing."

Let's take time to reflect more often on what we can do as individuals to bring some positive form of love into the world of 1993.

14th Dec 1992



Not a baobob tree! Just couldn't get the right "clip art" with a baobab tree in it!

A Wide View Commentary: 1992

American Elections. I had reservations about Clinton in the spring, but none by November! Besides the bad economy, Bush failed to use his remarkable personal relationship with many world leaders. For example, Zambia's ex-leader, Kenneth Kaunda, offered to give Saddam Hussein exile at the end of the Gulf war. Bush refused to let Hussein leave Iraq. Zambia was much maligned for the offer and the USA passed up an easy way to get rid of a despicable dictator. Thus the rest of Bush's term meant unsuccessful plotting. My world view condemnation of Bush! A Democratic House and Senate should help Clinton, but we shall soon see!

The Current South African Racial Situation. To say I was nervous in planning travel within South Africa was true. And to say that Siphos was nervous the first night out of PE at the Beacon Island Hotel, an elegant, once "whites only" hotel, was also true. But things in South Africa have and are changing. Although quite visibly multi-racial, our party of six experienced none of the official racism of the past. Even a few years ago, we would have been kicked out such hotels and physically abused for trying to stay together or dine. I heartedly approve the "new South Africa" but if the sad past lingers in my mind how much more must it live in Siphos's mind and millions of others who suffered gravely!

Zambia's Economy. The infrastructure has been damaged by years of neglect. The worst drought of the century has gravely hurt the country along with Zimbabwe and Mocambique. Nor can the economy truly develop until South Africa resolves its political/economic dilemma. The situation remains uncertain.

World Tragedies. Will the year's suffering be our world's future? The common man suffers and suffers terribly in Africa's tragedies of Somalia, Sudan, Liberia and Zaire; Asia's tragedies of Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia and East Timor; South America's Peru; Europe's Bosnia and Herzegovina; Russia's Tajikistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan; and the Middle East in general. Whence go we? May we strive and pray for peace.

Visitors to the Big Apple in August

I was pleased to have a number of visitors, but two groups in particular motivated me to look at the Big Apple in new ways:

(1) **Pascal Bwalya Ndakala** in May was on his way to Zambia and in August on his return (along with friends from Iowa who came to collect him). His journey reminded me so much of my trips halfway around the world to Africa in the 1960s and 1970s: much excitement, good doses of reality and mountains of luggage. (How he ever got the airline to take so much luggage through, even with several pieces regarded as overweight, indicates his charm!) He anticipated a holiday of fun and games, but reality was less glamorous. His elder brother was very ill and Bwalya spent the holiday nursing him back to health. On the other hand, his son, mother, and the rest of the family were well.

When Bwalya passed through in May we saw "Cats," a creative, well-known Broadway musical. We also enjoyed world class jazz in the (Greenwich) Village at my favorite place, Sweet Basil at Sheridan Square, and a remarkable movie, *Mississippi Marsala*, that focuses on relationships between Africans and Indians in Idi Amin's Uganda and African Americans and Indian (from India) Americans in Mississippi. (Whites stay in the background.) Lastly, we saw the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center. When he returned, and friends drove from Iowa to meet him, along with mutual friends from Fiji and Columbus, Ohio, we did the tourist circuit, especially the UN, our world's best hope for the future. (If visiting NYC, always mail your postcards and letters from there! Special UN stamps show you are physically in NY but legally in international territory.)

(2) **Bart Romine and Kreig Prior** in late August helped me view my home turf through the eyes of young men, about 20 years old, from my old Ohio background. I imagine that they looked at their strange (to them) temporary environment much as I would have done in the Big Apple at their age. This proved refreshing and enlightening to me! As they explored the Big Apple with my help, I reviewed assumptions now taken for granted about my life in New York City.

We did not get to swim at Jones Beach but their calendar stayed full both with and without my help! We dined on Indian and African food, strolled in the Village, listened to jazz at Sweet Basil, saw opera at Lincoln Center and watched three southern African groups perform at a well-known cabaret, S.O.B.s (Sounds of Brazil); the main attraction, the *Bhundu Boys* from Zimbabwe, recently appeared on NBC's Today Show when Bryan Gumbel broadcast from Africa. The initial group, *Zimbabwe Legit*, are sons of Rose and Sikhanyiso Ndlovu from Harare, Zimbabwe - old Syracuse friends of Zindi and me. (The AAD Family dined at their home last April, and Sikhanyiso spent three or four nights with me in July.)

In 1992, "May the Good Lord bless and keep you, whether near or far away. . . ."