

**1993**

**Kitwe, Zambia. 8<sup>th</sup> May 1993 three page form letter: two addendums, one very short.**

**Short addendum about her surgeon:** "He was away again, of probably October"

**Long addendum at end of letter:**

Many thanks for your Christmas letters. Your mini newsletter was most interesting. I wasn't sure what you meant when you said "the desktop publishing centre closed altogether 2 hours ago". Was that a permanent closure?

I haven't heard from Adele Lieu for some time. Is she still around? I was sorry to hear of Heidi being surrounded by water. Once a week we get CNN news, so I heard all about your awful storms, and actually saw pictures.

I suppose you heard all about the disaster of the Z. football team crashing in the see off Gabon last week. You can imagine the effect here. No doubt the ZAF plane was not airworthy.

Very emotional funeral. What a coincidence that in S. Africa, Chris Hani, Oliver Tambo and T\_\_\_\_\_ all died within 2 weeks. And here in Kitwe I've lost 3 friends/acquaintances in the past month from AIDS. 2 were doctors, 2 were members of my church. What do you say to the doomed survivors? I'll never know.

Sorry this sounds so gloomy, Greet your "gang".

Love Muriel

8th May 93

P.O. Box 21607 Kitwe

March 1993

Tel 2 - 217971  
(Kitwe)

My dear, David,

At last I have written my account of the Okavango safari so this is to put you up to date, with the other news.

I was back in Botswana for 2 weeks over Christmas and New Year. We had the usual trip to Serowe for 4 days. The country has had some rainfall, more in the north, but the south has not had very much. Ruth's farm looked very green while I was there, but she has written since to say it's brown again. We had the usual round of New Year parties.

I had hoped to see a surgeon there as I took Xrays from here, and the doctor here confirmed that I now need a new left hip. But this man decided to prolong his Christmas holiday, so I left the Xrays with Ruth. I've since had a letter from him, and he confirmed that I need the operation. I originally thought of going in May, but had second thoughts. Botswana's cold season is much worse than here, and I can still remember the difficulty in dressing after my last operation. The more clothes I have to wear, the more difficult. So I'm putting it off. When I go to Chobe, N. Botswana, at Easter, I've decided to go on to Gaborone with the family and hope to see the surgeon this time. He was away again

op. probably October again  
On 4th February, Margaret and Tony had their second son, name unpronounceable! As it was Caesarean I knew when to telephone, so I spoke to Ruth. This is her fourth grandson - I think she hoped it would be a girl.

The cousins I discovered after the film appeared on ITV of "Marriage of Inconvenience" have decided to visit us, so George and Pam will arrive the week before Easter, and drive with me to Livingstone. We'll have one night at the Falls, then meet the family at the Vic Falls border post.

Another visitor recently was Dr Colin Morris. The BBC is making a radio programme of his time here 30 years ago. He was here on the campus with 2 BBC crew for 3 days, and they had half their meals with me. It was marvellous seeing Colin again, he has mellowed a little, but is still the same stimulating person. I went to the Chingola church where he was minister with them for the morning service, where he preached. He had visited K.K in Lusaka, and had flown to Lubwa.

Several of you wrote at Christmas and assumed I have retired. What a joke. I am still Finance Controller, the 1992 audit finished today, and for 2 weeks I've worked upto 7 pm each day, including Saturdays. Whatever would I do in my retirement?

However, as I have a cataract developing, I may well have the decision made for me.

Rains- we all prayed hard, much too hard. The Copperbelt has had the highest rainfall in the country - nearly 1.200 mm (48 inches) and there's no sign of it stopping, 2½ weeks ago Mindolo was struck by a whilwind, and we lost many trees, 8 buildings were damaged. Unfortunately one tree fell on the electricity cables, and one line of 10 houses in one sub-station was so affected that we had no electricity for 10 days; It was finally repaired, after the transformer exploded, just one week ago.

Cont. . . . 12

8<sup>th</sup> May, 1930

- 2 -

On the Sunday we flew up to the pan-handle, where we stayed in a much more simple fishing lodge for 2 days. Totally different scenery, as we were on the river bank. The family visits this area every year and have rented a little island in the river, so we went to inspect it, and I was told of all the plans. They want to put prefabricated chalets there. I think it's crazy, as there are 2 or 3 nice places to stay, on the river, but Ian talked them into it.

The day we arrived we heard that President Chissano of Mozambique was coming for lunch next day. He and his wife were in Botswana for the 30th anniversary celebrations of the main political party, started by Seretse. He had been surprised not to see Ruth and Ian in Gaborone; so when he arrived Ian met him at the airstrip and told him the reason, resulting in my getting a very friendly birthday embrace. I sat next to his wife at lunch; she speaks little English and I spoke no Portuguese, so French came in very handy.

I must say my little great - nephew thoroughly enjoyed everything - planes, boats, strange people, different beds - no problem at all. At that time he was nearly 16 months. At this camp we were the only visitors in the main part, but there were 2 Canadian couples on the camp site, spending their winter far from home, in very sophisticated caravans. One couple said they may visit me here in Mindolo in May - they had no plan to return to Canada in a hurry.

We then returned to Maun, the boys driving round the outside of the delta, and the ladies and Anthony flying with the camp owner. This really was incredible. We were only 100 feet above ground, and could see herds of Zebra, buffalo, and the odd elephant. I am still puzzled as to how they could be supported, as I thought it was all water, but there are sizeable islands inbetween. As we approached Maun it was just as if someone had drawn a line across the ground. It suddenly went from green to greyish-brown, as we left the water behind.

Maun is an unattractive little town, as nothing grows there. It is the tourist centre of the Delta, and very busy. To me it looked as if it belonged on the moon! But there is the usual group of bush-lovers, delta-lovers, who live there, making a living out of the tourists.

We left at lunch-time, and got as far as Francistown. The memorable thing for me was watching TV at breakfast, next morning announcing Clinton's <sup>?</sup>incredibly easy Victory.

Ruth and I stayed over to meet old friends of hers from her Serowe days in the sixties. They live in England but her parents live in Zimbabwe. It's only a short drive from Francistown to Plumtree, so we all had lunch, and then went our separate ways.

I still can't believe it all happened - it's like a dream. And I must go back one day. I've read several books about the area and I had not realised it is part of the Rift Valley - a little diversion. There are frequent minor earth rumblings, and the water courses are continually shifting. Due to its difficult accessibility, it will never be over-run with tourists. Certainly a birthday to remember.

Many thanks for your Christmas letters. 8<sup>th</sup> May 93

Your mini newsletter was most interesting. I wasn't sure what you meant when you said "the desktop publishing center closed abruptly 2 hours ago". Was that a permanent closure?

I haven't heard from Adelle Fieu for some time. Is she still around?

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were doctors, 2 were members of my church. What do you say to the doomed survivors? I'll never know.

Sorry this sounds so gloomy,  
Meet your 'fang'. Love Tim

8<sup>th</sup> May 1930

## OKAVANGO HOLIDAY

Ruth has all the local "coffee-table" books on the Okavango, which I've read and drooled over, as they have pages of magnificent photographs. I have seen parts of a BBC video. I have attended a colour-slide-illustrated talk. BUT - although partly prepared, I was still totally surprised and delighted with the actual experience.

After flying to Gaborone and spending 3 days with Ruth, we met at Ruth's farm turn-off on Thursday morning, 29th October. Ruth and I in her car, with one of Ian's army drivers; Tony, Margaret and young Anthony in their car; and Ian with another driver - mechanic in his latest Land Rover. We drove to Mahalpye, about 200 Kms north, and there had a coffee stop in the guest house at one of Ian's army camps. The next stop was lunch at another army camp in Francistown, - a further 300 Kms north. From there it was all new territory to me, as far as driving is concerned. We drove about another 400 Kms to Maun, through desert, a dried-up grey landscape, very dull indeed. Our third army camp that day was our night-stop, and we were spoilt and fed and entertained in comfort.

Next morning we drove to the Maun airport, which is incredibly busy, with many small planes. There are about 50 camps in the Okavango delta, and most have their own airstrip. Here we met up with T.K, arriving from Namibia, and Tracy, his girl friend, arriving almost the same time from Johannesburg and we then boarded our 2 chartered planes, 4 in each, with Ian flying one of them. The two soldier - drivers were staying in Maun for a day, then taking 2 vehicles to our second camp to await our arrival.

The first lodge, Cuxanu is very luxurious. There are 6 chalets only, fairly normal for the area. We landed on a green patch, then boarded a little motor-boat to be taken round to our lodge, which is on a lagoon. I have pondered many times, wondering how I could ever describe this area. The Okavango river, from Angola and then Namibia, enters Botswana in the northwest, widens first into a pan-handle then spreads out into several big channels, and then runs into the Kalahari Sands. There are millions of little waterways, many clogged with pampas grass, so from the air one does not see so much water.

We spent two days at Cuxanu, living in luxury, going out on boats morning and afternoon, watching birds and fish. I am not a keen bird-watcher but felt I had to try and fill up my bird check-list. The guide on the boat and staff were very knowledgeable, so I managed to identify about 40 species out of over 200. Of course I couldn't remember many now - the fish eagle is the easiest.

It could have been very hot, but it was cloudy and showery, so we were fortunate. My birthday, on the Saturday, was quiet in one way, but at dinner in the evening I was toasted and fussed over, and we had turkey for dinner (main course) and prawns as a starter. All the food is flown in, thus it is not a cheap holiday. Considering the problems they do fantastically well.

The lodge owner, a South African who visits every month, was there, as well as visitors from Britain; the number 3 in the French Embassy - and we were 8 - so it was an interesting bunch.



**P. David Wilkin**

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Rego Park, NY 11374

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 740175  
Rego Park, NY 11374

July 16, 1993

My dear Muriel,

Many thanks for your long newsletter about the Okavango journey and then the more personal note on the back. I enjoyed both very much and even made a copy for the AAD Family ladies about your safari into the Okavango.

All is well here. I am busy as a bee, as usual. The only change is that I asked Merrill Lynch to give me two or three days week and the rest of the time I spend with my own business. Working with a full time colleague who is a "techie" expert on the IBM type of computers so we hope to make a good combination with my end user applications and training of end users (average people who use the software!). We also have a third guy who is a jack-of-all-trades while trying to learn more about the rapidly expanding world of computers.

The weather here at present is hotter than anything I have ever experienced in the NWP or all of Zambia I have spent time in, including Livingstone! Last few days have been 100 F in the shade, when there is any, with very high humidity. Not a pleasant time on the streets!

Just spoke to Adele. Had been meaning to call her for several weeks and just did so since you mentioned it. She says she will try to write very soon. She is okay but worried about her retirement and is considering moving to Amarillo, Texas(!) to be near her daughter. What a god-awful place for a sophisticated woman like Adele. Hope she finds another solution.

The above was written on the 9th and then my letter writing ended for a week! The heat wave has let up but really was tough to handle. Bwalya is here from Iowa/Zambia and has one air conditioner in his room, I have one in my room and the big one for the office. My two workmates who do not have air conditioning in their homes decided to sleep on pull out beds in the living room, which is air conditioned when all the bedroom and office doors are left open at night. It was that bad! Hope an August heat wave does not hit again. The Midwest has been hit by record rains, so much of the U.S.A. is feeling the affects of extreme weather!

July, 16<sup>th</sup>, '93.

**P. David Wilkin**

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-2-

The AAD Family is okay. I don't hear much from Ruth at present but Elise took her whole family rafting down the Colorado River a month ago and they loved it. She is now in her summer home in Maine. Heidi recovered from the flood, sold her house several months ago and moved back to Germany to be near her family of birth. Hope to see her in the fall. Should you visit Germany, I will send you her address and phone as she'd love to see you.

The Merrill Lynch office closed only that night abruptly when bad weather hit in December. Sorry I implied otherwise. And as you have probably heard, NYC has been hit by two other extremes besides the December storm and our heat wave this last week. We had the bombing across the street at the World Trade Center. (Officials were much to complacent. Had they used sensible security techniques, it would not have occurred.) Then a few weeks later in March, we had an extreme winter storm with incredible snow and ice. With the current heat wave behind us, most people will settle for normality!

Sorry for Zambia that the AIDS epidemic continues to go from sadness to ever more sadness. The economy also seems as horrible as ever. Bwalya and I keep in touch by phone each weekend and keep hoping and praying that it reaches bottom and starts improving. But so far few encouraging signs that we hear of. If you know of any, let us know!

Please keep in touch. Hope the cataract does not prove too hard to hand.

Much love,



Kitwe, Zambia 28<sup>th</sup> August 1993

**Addendum to one page form letter.**

Many thanks for yours of last month. I read and saw on TV news of your extreme US weather — heat and floods. Really our weather is pretty good.

As you have read, I appear to be disintegrating, so have decided I will retire next year, probably between April-June. I will see the audit through. Then I'd like to stick around for 2-3 months, reading in the library. I am "allowed" to stay for 3 months. in my house. I don't intend to take many things with me. They are all so old.

Our director is visiting the USA for a conference, so he'll take this and give it to a friend in Carolina to post. Our mailing costs are now so high.

The political situation here is very tense, as you must know. I know most of those who have resigned. I'm not sure if they've done the right thing or not. We have so many small impotent parties.

Give my greetings to Adele, and share this with her, please,

Cheerio and all the best,

Love Muriel

David Wilkin  
Box 175, Regis Park  
New York.  
11374 28/8/93

~~Kitwe~~  
P O Box 21607  
Kitwe  
ZAMBIA

My Dear David,

This is just a quick letter to let you know about my plans this year.

In mid-August I spent a week in Botswana with the main object of seeing the Surgeon who will operate on me. He arranged for me to be X-rayed again. I knew my hip was much worse because I now suffer a lot of pain, and hobble around with some difficulty so there was no doubt, I am quite surprised at the rapid deterioration in the past 3 months. Unfortunately my lower spine has also got worse and that doesn't help my hip. And to cap it all, my right knee has been playing up and the X-rays confirmed that is wearing away. Thank heavens my right hip is still doing fine.

So I have arranged to fly down on 31st October, give my 2 pints of blood on 1st and 8th November, and have the operation on 16th November. I wanted to be here the last week of October as we have a meeting of donors, the Board meeting, and student graduation. Ruth is away all October, and gets back just after I arrive. So I will be in Gaborone all November and December and hope to return after New year.

My address for those 2 months will be:- C/O Lady Ruth Khama, P O Box 56, Gaborone, Botswana.

Ruth will be 70 on 9th December so I'll be there for that occasion as well as Christmas and New Year.

During my week in Gaborone I had two unexpected bonuses, 1) Ruth's youngest grandson was baptized, and 2) both Dale and Marcus were there on holiday. Dale is going to Cardiff University in October, Marcus is still at School in Boputoswana. So we enjoyed a full family gathering.

We had a long weekend holiday at the beginning of July, 4 of us decided to visit Siavonga, on the Zambian Shore of Lake Kariba. We also arranged to add 2 days to the 4 day weekend as it takes 8-9 hours driving. We broke the journey going down outside Lusaka where there is a new Game Lodge.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the weekend; it's beautiful on the Lake, and we also visited the Zimbabwe side.

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Give my greetings to Adele, &  
share this with her please.

Cheerio & all the best,  
Love  
Irene

28<sup>th</sup> Aug. '93.

P. David Wilkin  
(718) 271-0084  
P.O. Box 175  
Rego Park, NY 11374



September 20, 1993

Dear Muriel,

Thanks for your letter. It arrived rather damaged in an envelop provided by the U.S. mail service, along with a letter (which I forwarded) to a friend of yours in Virginia.

Thanks for all the news. Sorry to hear about the leg/hip/knee problems and hope the surgery goes well. Sounds like indeed you are deserving of retirement. Even with your energy, one's body does age.

Elise and I had lunch yesterday after an extremely lovely fall homecoming service at Riverside. (She sends you her greetings.) Adele did not go as she does not like the new minister, Jim Forbes, at all. Indeed he is a bit long winded.

My work with the homeless in the Riverside Homeless Shelter continues. It is proving to be a most rewarding experience. Several have done very well in moving back into society.

All goes well with me and I will try to give you a summary with my Christmas letter in weeks to come.

As I reread your letter, after addressing the envelop on the card, I realized you would not go to Botswana for almost another six weeks. Hence I will send this surface mail so that it will hopefully reach you % your sister. If I can I will still send you a note to Kitwe.

Much love and best wishes,

Kitwe, Zambia 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1993

**Addendum to same one page form letter as the previous month but different personal m/s.**

Many thanks for yours of July. I actually answered it, gave the letter to our new Director to post in N.Y. recently — and he lost it!

I'm glad your company is doing so well, it must be most gratifying.

I heard about your heat wave and saw CNN TV pictures of the floods. Isn't Zambia lucky to have more reasonable weather? We also saw the Trade Centre bombing. What an awful world — the latest Jewish — Arab piece? Moves are encouraging. Let's hope it survives. But as for Somalia, Angola, S.Africa, and ex-Yugoslavia and the old Russian colonies, it looks as tho' most humans must have a golly good war going on.

I'm enclosing a recent pull-out from the "Weekly Post". Bring back happy memories?

Cheerio and all the best. Love Muriel

Did you know Wilfred Grenville Grey is living in New Rochelle?

I had a letter from Adele last week. Tell her I'll write soon.

P O Box 21607  
Kitwe  
ZAMBIA

21/9/93

My Dear

David

This is just a quick letter to let you know about my plans this year.

In mid-August I spent a week in Botswana with the main object of seeing the Surgeon who will operate on me. He arranged for me to be X-rayed again. I knew my hip was much worse because I now suffer a lot of pain, and hobble around with some difficulty so there was no doubt, I am quite surprised at the rapid deterioration in the past 3 months. Unfortunately my lower spine has also got worse and that doesn't help my hip. And to cap it all, my right knee has been playing up and the X-rays confirmed that is wearing away. Thank heavens my right hip is still doing fine.

So I have arranged to fly down on 31st October, give my 2 pints of blood on 1st and 8th November, and have the operation on 16th November. I wanted to be here the last week of October as we have a meeting of donors, the Board meeting, and student graduation. Ruth is away all October, and gets back just after I arrive. So I will be in Gaborone all November and December and hope to return after New year.

My address for those 2 months will be:- C/O Lady Ruth Khama, P O Box 56, Gaborone, Botswana.

Ruth will be 70 on 9th December so I'll be there for that occasion as well as Christmas and New Year.

During my week in Gaborone I had two unexpected bonuses, 1) Ruth's youngest grandson was baptized, and 2) both Dale and Marcus were there on holiday. Dale is going to Cardiff University in October, Marcus is still at School in Bopotoswana. So we enjoyed a full family gathering.

We had a long weekend holiday at the beginning of July, 4 of us decided to visit Siavonga, on the Zambian Shore of Lake Kariba. We also arranged to add 2 days to the 4 day weekend as it takes 8-9 hours driving. We broke the journey going down outside Lusaka where there is a new Game Lodge.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the weekend; it's beautiful on the lake, and we also visited the Zimbabwe side.

I had a letter <sup>2/.....</sup> from Adele last week. Tell her I'll write soon

Sep. 24~~th~~ 93.  
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I'm enclosing a recent pull-out  
from the "Weekly Food". Bring back  
happy memories?

Cheers & all the best.  
Love  
Daniel

Did you know Wilfrid Crowell Croy  
is living in New Rochelle?

P. David Wilkin  
(718) 271-0084  
P.O. Box 175  
Rego Park, NY 11374



October 1, 1993

My dear Muriel,

But I did receive your first letter, via your director! And I replied by surface mail to Botswana on the 20th of September with an encouraging letter and card that should reach about the time of your operation! The letter arrived most mutilated in an envelop from the postal surface apologizing for the state it was in. And, to boot, a letter for a friend of yours in Virginia was enclosed which I forwarded! So your fears were in vain. Still it was nice to hear from you again and get the clipping on the poor, ole' NWP, with poverty and ethnic tensions! Things never seem to change! So sad.

In fact enclosed is a copy of my letter to you sent to Botswana. Good luck with the surgery! May God bless.

I leave for eight days in Iceland, Luxembourg and Germany on 11th October and will be back on the 18th. I will be on my own in Iceland and Luxembourg, but with Heidi for five days in her new home east of Frankfurt. Am looking forward to the trip very much.

Very sincerely,

David Wilkin



**1994**

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P.O. Box 740175  
Rego Park, NY 11374-0175

February 15, 1994

Dear Muriel,

Just wrote notes to two friends in Lusaka and now an "Hello" to you in Kitwe. I just realized it has been a long time since Christmas when I sent you my long Christmas letter with a few added lines.

I hope the new year is treating you well and that you have returned to Zambia feeling "fit as a fiddle" after your operation.. I am sure you are still busy at Mindolo and will probably so remain after you retire!

There is not much new personal news here since Christmas, but here are the highlights.

**Weather.** On the New York scene, the big topic is weather. We have had incredibly cold, snowy weather since Christmas. If I can I will send you pictures of cars buried in snow drifts, etc. The temperatures here in the city have plunged to -18° C and upstate in Syracuse have gone down to an astonishing -45° C! At times, it is very dangerous weather to be outside in.

**AAD Family.** Heidi is here from Germany. Today, all four members of the AAD Family met for lunch together for the first time in over a year. A most delightful time talking of mutually interesting topics. As I said in my end-of-year newsletter, Heidi -- not to mention Ruth and Elise -- are as busy and energetic as ever!

**Travel in April.** I plan to meet a friend in Morocco (who lives in Switzerland) and see the northeast corner of Africa. Should be a lot of fun if all goes well. Will send you a card if I get there as planned. Will probably start in Casablanca and go down to Marrakech.

**Zambia a year from now.** In this next year -- probably January or February 1995 -- I hope to get my bills paid off and have a month's trip to Zambia. I will be keeping close touch with what happens in the complex South African situation and the Zambian convolutions at present. Hope you will help keep me informed as well.

**New York, work, etc.** I still do most of my work at Merrill Lynch but am also conducting training etc. at Chase Manhattan Bank. I do try to get out and explore new, interesting places in the city and have a lot of fun doing so.

Must close. Please do write and keep touch.

Very sincerely,

Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: 1979 — 2008

Kitwe, Zambia 17<sup>th</sup> April 1994

My dear David,

How are you? Hope you had a nice Easter.

Last month I received a letter from you — but it was not for me! It was addressed to Patrick, so did Patrick get mine? So, if you will send me Patrick's full name and address, and I will forward it to him.

I'm sorry for the delay. As soon as I returned here on 11th Jan., I had to start preparing for the audit. I found it hard to push myself after 10 weeks away. For about a month in Jan-March I felt I wasn't progressing enough, so went for physiotherapy, and swimming and the improvement was fantastic. This weekend I threw away my walking-stick — just five months after the operation.

I intend to write my resignation this month, so will leave here at the end of the year. I can't really believe it. But, I'm still convinced it's time to go.

Wasn't it fantastic that Zambia did so well in the Africa cup (soccer)?

Cheerio and al the best.

Love Muriel

TELEGRAMS TRAVELLERS  
TELEPHONE 74372

17/4/94

YOUR REF \_\_\_\_\_  
OUR REF \_\_\_\_\_

LUANGWA HOUSE  
CAIRO ROAD  
P.O. BOX 2691  
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

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SPECIALISTS IN TRAVEL BY AIR, LAND AND SEA

OFFICES IN KITWE, CHINGOLA, MUFULIRA, NDOLA, LUSAKA & LONDON  
MEMBER OF THE JARDINE MATHESON GROUP OF COMPANIES

April 9<sup>th</sup> 1960

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Wasn't it fantastic that Zambia did so well in the Africa Cup (soccer).  
Cheerio & all the best,  
Steve Small

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

[Redacted] & Co. (Zambia) Ltd.  
[Redacted] SE  
[Redacted]  
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURES IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

SECOND FOLD HERE

BY AIRMAIL  
AIR LETTER  
PAR AVION  
AEROGRAMME



Mr David Wilkin  
P.O. Box 740175  
Riego Park  
New York 11374  
USA 0175

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

P. David Wilkin  
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April 29, 1994

My dear Muriel,

Just a brief, quick note in reply to your letter of 17th April. Patrick Sapallo in Lusaka is next to your name in my Rolodex. Sorry for mixing up your letters! Assuming a copy of Patrick's letter that I sent to you was also dated February 15th then the letter I am enclosing is the version that I had written to you on the same day. The nice thing about computers is the easy storage of copies!

After your letter I printed out a copy of both yours and Patrick's. I will write Patrick today and ask if he got a letter addressed to Muriel! And enclose a copy of my letter of 15th February.

Glad your operation has been successful to the extent that you have thrown the cane away. Glad swimming and physiotherapy helped.

I agree you deserve your retirement. What are your current plans after you retire this year? Hope I will get to meet you in Zambia or somewhere in southern Africa if I get back in December.

We have followed the South Africans elections keenly here and hope this means good news for all of southern Africa.

My Morocco plans were abruptly canceled as well as a prospective relationship, so instead I am leaving tomorrow for ten days in the Nevada Mountains. Will travel by myself and move where the spirit moves me. Need some rest. Still lots of snow in the mountains so will have to be careful. And as you probably heard the winter here was something else. Approximately 60 inches of snow in NYC!

Got a touch of spoiled food yesterday, at ML of all places(!) and through I am at work this evening, I feel really lousy. Will need the first two days in Las Vegas before heading north just recuperating!

Adele and I had lunch together a fortnight ago and had a delightful time to chat. Riverside is still important to me.

Must close, Much love,

Kitwe, Zambia, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1994

**Long addendum and short addendum to four page form letter**

My dear David,

Many thanks for your long newsy Xmas letter, and your recent one. I hope you enjoyed your Nevada holiday — too bad about Suzanne. Your quick holiday to Europe in October was certainly packed — I've never been to Iceland. I've also been to Frankfurt, but only on a brief visit.

I hope you come to Zambia while I'm still here. I won't be leaving before December. But after that... will you come alone? As I'm sure you'll visit S. Africa, you could always travel via Botswana. I just can't imagine life outside Mindolo.

Your work with the homeless is most rewarding. I am appalled at that problem in Britain — thanks to Margaret Thatcher. She has so much to answer for. I think Adele mentioned it in one letter.

I must say your weather extremes are tough. I can always adjust to heat, but not to the cold. The water has to be quite warm for me to swim, and I've already stopped as our 12 hour long nights are quite chilly, and the water doesn't warm during the day. And I need the exercise.

Do you know that Edith Grenville-Grey's sister Zanele is married to Thabo Mbeke? I spotted her on the CNN programme.

Cheerio for now and all the best, hope we can meet this year.

Love Muriel

Very short addendum: Back to basics! Our photocopies have packed up and there are no spares!

Back to Basics!

Our photocopiers have packed up & there are no spares!

My Dear

Dave

24-5-94

I had hoped to get this letter sent before now - as usual I'm late!

The really marvellous news is from S. Africa. I have said so many times that independence there would never come in my lifetime. Well, for once I am really glad to be wrong. As I listened to the BBC from Johannesburg the night de Klerk conceded, and Mandela replied, (it was the 11pm news) the tears of joy were streaming down my face. How I would have loved to be there rejoicing on the streets. In a more sober mood the next day I knew there would be so many problems to face - poverty, housing, no jobs, education, etc. It was unbelievable just how peacefully it all went through. So many of my friends and acquaintances are there as monitors or observers, I'm looking forward to hearing their impressions.

I watched Nelson Mandela's inauguration ceremony on CNN. They could certainly take a few lessons from the BBC on how to televise such a ceremony. It was dreadful. There was an hour's delay as they kept switching back to other news items. Their Commentator didn't know who were the guests, so we were not told. He just kept waffling on about the run-up to the elections. It was great to watch the actual ceremony and the fly-past.

On a more mundane note, my hip is progressing well. My reactions to the treatment are mixed. I was glad to be in hospital right in the centre of Gabroone, most convenient for family and visitors, but in spite of the very high cost, parts of the hospital administration were sloppy. I was glad I had experience with the other hip. The physiotherapy staff were rather casual, so I took myself off to walk up & down the corridors. After I left I was not told which exercises would help. I had not realised how incredibly lucky I was in 1987 with my recovery. Then I left the hospital using only one walking stick, and within a month I could walk a mile. This time it was using 2 crutches, then after a month I used only one, then about 2 months later I transferred to a walking stick. After 5 months I did not need that any more. But after 3-4 months I felt I was not making enough progress, so went to my local private Clinic and for 2 weeks they showed me some daily exercises. The improvement was immediate and dramatic. I also started to swim around that time. But I still need Indocid every day.



24<sup>th</sup> May, 1940

My convalescence was not what the Doctor ordered, but did me lots of good. I came out of hospital on 30th November. Ruth celebrated her 70th birthday on 9th December. Some friends gave a party on Saturday 4th December - dinner for 60 guests in their garden, from the Vice President and Cabinet down to me!

I'm not sure how I survived, we got home at 3am! It was fun, I was sad I couldn't dance - Ruth loves it and is very good, and the party only ended when she couldn't dance any more. I must admit my impressions are rather blurred. I stayed in bed most of the next (same!) day.

On Thursday 9th, nine days after I was discharged, the family flew in two private planes to Kasane, in the north, for a two-day house party in the Chobe Game Park lodge. The Management gift to Ruth was the suite where Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton celebrated their record honeymoon - it is quite a suite, 2 double bedrooms and a lounge. So I shared it with her. This time 40 people came - Ruth, 3 sons and their wives/girl friends; Jackie; 3 small grandsons and me, totalling 10 family, and 30 friends. This time the President and his daughter came - he had the only other suite. The lodge is situated on the Chobe river. We had an early evening booze cruise in a thunderstorm, - real fun. I was partly carried down the path to the river, by Ian and the British High Commissioner. Later that evening there was a birthday dinner, with speeches from Ian, Ruth and President Masire, frequently interrupted by the twins and Jackie. It was an advantage staying where the dinner was held, so as soon as the President left the party around midnight, I slipped out to my luxury suite, exhausted.

Next day most people went on game runs, but I passed, as sitting on a bumpy truck for 3 hours is not my idea of comfort. We visited Kubu Lodge for coffee - the place we have spent Easter together for the past 8 years. It was fun chatting up Ruth's friends most of when I already knew. I was sorry to leave and return to Gaborone the following day.

The next week was quiet, and then on 23rd December we all drove to Serowe for Christmas, for 4 days. Much livelier with 3 young grandsons, ages 5 months, 10 months, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The family is growing -- Jackie's 2 sons, now 16 and 19, were in Europe with their father. We were there for 4 days, leaving another 4 days to gather strength for the New Year weekend. We dined out on New Years Eve at the usual Mine Coen. Managers' fling, about 150 were there, including my surgeon, who is very popular. The next day we had lunch and the British High Commissioner which lasted until about 8 pm., and the next day we were at a birthday lunch for one of Ruth's friends. Now! Next day Ruth and I flew to Mombasa for a week. I had expressed my desire to be at the sea for a week. The twins had already booked for a holiday in a beach complex there, with a Kenyan friend, so they managed to rent another house. At such short notice, this was a miracle. I managed to get into the sea, the twins helping me down the beach, and I just floated in the warm Indian ocean. We had tea with Charles Njonjo, ( an old friend of Ruth and Seretse) and his family at their house nearby, and had a day out on a dhow, including a very special lunch on an island near the shore. I came back on 11th January much refreshed. Needless to say, life did not continue at the same hectic pace. In spite of all this activity, the surgeon said I was progressing very well.

24<sup>th</sup> May 1994

I started work after one day off- after all, there's nothing wrong with my brain!

I have been thinking for months about retiring - I finally handed in my 6 months notice, and my last working day is 31st October. I'll stay on here for 2 - 3 months to pack up, but won't take any furniture with me. Most of it is nearly 30 years old. Of course if Mindolo finds someone who can't start by September, my time is flexible. But I will urge the powers that be to act on this. I want to live in Gaborone, in a flat, and hope it all works out.

Mindolo is having a struggle this year. The poor economical situation everywhere has affected the number of scholarships. In 1992 we had 80, in 1993 we had 70, and this year only 60. So we are trying to fill up the empty rooms with more outside conferences. In April we had 17 Mothers Union leaders for a month, from Africa mainly, very high powered women leaders, on a training course. One was from Rwanda, who left home one week before the Presidents' killings. We all felt so sorry for her - there is absolutely no news. Her husband is a Bishop and they have 4 kids. They were in the North but had to leave a year ago when the RPF invaded. They had lived in Kigali for a year, and were hoping to return after her course. She decided to fly to Kenya and hope she would get some news. I fear they are probably all dead. The appalling thing is, she may never know. We also have a student this year from Rwanda on a 9 month course.

One wonders why such a situation arises in some countries and not others. When I think of all the miseries Zambians put up with, so peacefully and so resignedly, I wonder why all hell isn't let loose here. Thank heavens it isn't!

Our economy gets worse and worse. Cheap goods now come in from S Africa and Zimbabwe, whose governments give large export subsidies. So our factories close, as we have extra duties on imported materials and no export subsidy. Our industries are told they must fend for themselves. So jobs are lost, and we continue to slide down hill at a rapid rate. We are trying to privatise all the parastatals, but hardly anyone wants them. The mining Company needs billions to find new mine deposits, as the old ones are running out. They have laid off thousands and thousands. Everyone I greet at my church has either just had their "blue" letter or expecting it. The oldest mine at Kabwe is being closed at the end of June. As the 2 clothing factories are already closed there, it will become a ghost town.

On top of all this gloom, we had poor rains again this year, just 2 years after the last drought. The main farming areas in the south had no rain in February - normally a very wet time, and our rain stoped at the end of February - nothing in March. Then in April there were some downpours on two occasions, which drenched the maize that had been picked. It also means that dams and boreholes run dry.

24<sup>th</sup> May 1940

This year I am expecting at least 3 friends to visit me. Sigrid Cave (England) and Magdalene Griusbeg from Germany are coming in July, and Josephine Fulton from Chicago plans to come later in the year. This is your last chance to visit me here at Mindolo! So come ----

We had our usual family reunion in Chobe - Kasane again at Easter. Those of you who know the Kazungula ferry crossing will be surprised to hear there is a brand new pontoon, taking 100 tons, with a lookout post on top. The crew did have problems getting it into the bank; I couldn't believe that there was no queue of lorries waiting to cross. Last year there were 40+, with a 4 day wait. Once again there is talk of a bridge being constructed there.

Football - what a glorious run Zambia had in the Africa Cup. There were 22 games and I watched 16. I missed 4 over Easter as I was in Botswana. Nobody expected us to go so far, and the team received a hero's welcome on their return. I was also delighted that Arsenal won the European cup. Manchester United won the league, and the Cup and that Spurs did not go down!

I may not be able to compete with Ruth over her exalted political friends, but I've been entertaining a few Bishops recently. One, Jim Thompson, (the Bishop of Bath & Wells) broadcasts frequently. His diocese is paired with our Zambian ones, and he, his wife Sally, and Chaplain Lesley were on campus for a day, during a 3 weeks visit to Zambia. I was lucky enough to sit next to him, as he is a most entertaining and delightful character. Mindolo has 3 bishop on the Board, and they usually have a meal with me when they are around. In addition, our United Church of Zambia Moderators have decided to call themselves Bishops.

Some of you know the Onious. Well Jane finally dies on 28th February, in her sleep, aged 90. At shook Ray very much indeed, and he is very frail and confused. I visit him at least 4 times a week. He doesn't have many friends left, and the only regular visitors are Murray and I. We invite him to lunch on Sundays. Unfortunately he only has one subject of conversation - the state of his bowels - rather limiting.

I have been writing this in dribs and drabs for nearly 2 weeks, so will finally close. My church continues to flourish, getting fuller and soundier! I usually sit on a settee in the vestry, as it is so cramped everywhere else, with the doors open I feel part of the service, and the overflow usually join me. The YWCA struggles on, here in Kitwe. To me it is a miracle that anything works, with all our problems from the government down!

I was as shocked as everyone at the news of John Smith's death. To be cut down at the height of ones career is really sad. It must also be traumatic for the Labour Party. Being so far away I know very little about any of the potential replacements.

Usually when I write mid - year I have to wait until Christmas for an answer from at least 90%. Why not surprise me this year? The last few months will be very uncertain, I'll let you know when I move, - somehow!

CHEERIO. -----

P TO

Clay, thanks for your long newsy. I was  
letter, and your recent one. I hope  
you enjoyed your Nevada holiday -  
too bad about Suzanne. Your quick  
holiday to Europe in October was certainly  
packed - I've never been to Iceland.  
I've also been to Waukegan, but only  
on a brief visit.

I hope you come to Zambia while  
I'm still here. I won't be leaving  
before December. But after that -  
As I will ~~you come along~~ Africa you  
could always visit S Africa. You  
I just can't imagine life outside Tundob.  
your work with the homeless is most  
rewarding. I am appalled at that problem  
in Britain - thanks to Margaret Thatcher.

She has so much to answer for. I think  
Ndele mentioned it in our letter.  
I must say your weather extremes are  
rough. I can always adjust to heat, but  
not do the cold. The water has to be  
quite warm for me to swim, & I've already  
stopped as our 12 hour long nights are quite  
chilly, & the water doesn't exercise.  
The day. And I need the warm during  
the day. And I need the exercise.

Do you know that Edith Crenville -  
Crey's sister Zande is married to Thabo  
Mbeke? I spotted her on the CNN programme.  
Cheerio for now & all the best,  
hope we can meet this year. 24<sup>th</sup> May 1990  
Love Paul

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July 11, 1994

Dear Muriel,

Thanks for your lovely, chatty letter dated late May and received just before my visit to Ohio in late June.

First, I am so glad that you are well and your operation in late '93 was a success. Sounds like you also had quite a end of year holiday with family, both in Botswana and in Kenya. I am glad you did not just lay in bed and think about the surgery! Both the game safari and the visit to Mombasa sounded delightful.

I had a lovely ten days in Nevada knocking all around the desert and mountains, and also the gambling casinos, which are even in small mountainous towns. Traveled by myself and enjoyed the independence! Then after six weeks more of work made my annual pilgrimage to see family in the midwest. Flew to North Bay, Ontario, north of Lake Huron and drove my father (88) on a 850 km. odyssey to Ohio so he could attend his church camp. We drove via Niagara Falls and stayed with friends of my stepmother there and then on the way back via the west side of the lake and stayed on Lake Huron, again with friends. Had a lovely time seeing many old friends and relatives.

Rushed back to attend the big computer trade show the last week of June, which was enormous!!! Filled Jacob Javits convention center, one of the world's largest. Now back at work. The last weeks have been humid and very hot! Near record- temperatures on many days!

Last week Danny McCallum from Solwezi stayed for four nights. In the middle of his stay a young woman from Cape Town visited. So I have pigged out on reading newspapers from southern Africa and more-or-less chatting about Africa full time! Like you, I can't believe all that is happening. Many times during the elections I was on the point of tears of happiness. Oh Lord, may this positiveness continue!

If South Africa can still develop, economically and politically, I feel Zambia might recover very fast. Large sums of money are to be invested in by American investors in southern Africa before the end of the year. I have hopes that this may mean economic growth and may start development northward!?

Still hope to visit Zambia, **ALONE**, for a month early next year. If you are not in Zambia, maybe I can stop by Botswana. Let us see . And if you decide to visit NYC, remember you have a home! By the way Adele says "hi!"

A friend from Taiwan is now here so I am becoming a tour guide!  
Must close. Much love.

Kitwe, Zambia 22<sup>nd</sup> October/November 1994 form letter

**Addendums to form letter**

Many thanks for yours of July. Your little trips to Nevada and then with your father. You didn't say how business is going. Now the recession is slowly lifting. I hope things will look up.

K.K. is trying to return to politics and is stirring everything up. He has a cheek. — —

Look forward to your visit early in 1995 — I'll still be here!

All the best,

Love Muriel

P.O. Box 21607

Kitwe

Zambia

28 October/November 1994

My Dear,

David

You have to imagine this is a Christmas Card - there are so few cards around and none that I would buy. Last year I really enjoyed shopping for them in Gaborone, of course, I enjoy receiving them and hanging them up. I shall be in Gaborone again this Christmas, C/O P O Box 56 so it would be lovely to hear from you here.

Thank you for the 35% who answered my letter in April/May. In fact I am still receiving replies.

Those of you who queried my departure date from Mindolo were prophetic! There is absolutely nobody on the horizon, so I have agreed to stay on at least until the end of March, after the audit is completed. We'll see! I have mixed feelings. I do not want to leave Mindolo - never - but I know I'm running down and some days I wish I need only work mornings only. This year I have handed over more jobs to the Accountant, and he's struggling - but I now work almost normal hours.

Sigrid and Magda came for 3 weeks in July and we had an enjoyable time together. I met them in Lusaka, where we had a lovely day at Lilayi lodge. We were able to walk with a guide round the bush to see the buck, Zebras, monkeys and birds. This was my longest walk since my operation. We spent time with both the UCZ synod officers and the YWCA - for whom both Sigrid and Magda worked here in Kitwe. We had about 10 days here, in Kitwe, visiting Sigrid's old haunts and friend of Magda and Chembe Bird Sanctuary, before leaving for our planned 4 days in the Luangwa Game Park. It's one thing to plan - and another to fly with Zambia Airways. We spent the whole of the first day Monday at Ndola Airport, because one of the planes had broken down, and they have no spares. We arrived in Lusaka in the evening,, and after some grumbling and pleading, we were put up in one of the two best hotels. Of course we had missed the flight to Luangwa, and the next one was Wednesday, so we spent Tuesday in Lusaka, thus losing two days in the game park. Very disappointing. We did however see plenty of animals. The YWCA National Council was held that weekend, so on our return to Lusaka we went straight to the motel where Sigrid and Magda met some old Y friends. I saw them off on Saturday morning, then returned to the Council meeting. Our new National President is Inonge Wina, wife of Arthur. We met at their Barn Motel, which has been marvellously improved. Mary Kazunga and I shared a chalet with Kitchen, lounge etc- a far cry from our 1960's Council meetings at the George V Youth Camp, doing our own cooking.

We had a good meeting, and as there is no obvious replacement for me I shall continue as Finance Chairman until the day I leave.

President Mary Robinson, Ireland was at the National YWCA at the end of September, opening a building that Irish Aid had paid for. It was quite an occasion, even though she only stayed half an hour. The new building is to be used for small entrepreneur training. 4 of us greeted the President at the gate, President Director, another Trustee and me showed her round. She had been on TV most of the week, and I was very impressed

22nd Oct. 1994

with her - so charming, relaxed, well-informed, and interested in everything. A real privilege to meet her.

The YWCA centenary is being celebrated around the world. The Zambia Y was born right here at Mindolo, so we had a service with two founder members present. We had the best choir on the Copperbelt, from Mindolo Church, and I found that the planning was as much fun as the actual day. 10 new members were enrolled, and the Kitwe branch is looking up. We now have a weekly lunch time study group and we tackle every problem that confronts us.

Ray Onious survived Jane by only 3 1/2 months. He was totally lost without her. The third Sunday in June I collected him for lunch. He ate well but complained of being cold. I took him back after tea. Some time that evening he collapsed, and it took his house Servant next morning a long time to try to force an entry, but he failed. Eventually some neighbours broke in and found him on the floor, still alive. He developed pneumonia and died on Tuesday evening, at home. Muray and I, 2 masons and 2 neighbours were there, and the doctor. I was quite surprised at the speed of his death, but it was a mercy he didn't linger. Another friend, her gardener, and I dug up some of his roses and they are now planted in a rose-garden here at Mindolo, where the ashes are now scattered.

You will be pleased to hear that the Mothers Union lady from Rwanda found her husband and children and they are now in Kenya. But our student here on a 9 month course has heard nothing from his family since he came here in February.

I am thinking of visiting S. Africa for a week or so in November. I need a holiday, by the sea. There are excursion fares from Lusaka to Durban and Cape Town. I'd love to visit both places, but haven't decided yet. I have decided to visit England next July for the bi-centenary Celebrations of C W M - the missionary society I once belonged to. These days I have to be careful on attending meetings from a comfort point of view. I have to sit on a firm, big chair, and can't sit for too long - but I decided to give it ago.

Three rather harrowing books have been sharing my life recently. Two from the Beirut Kidnapping era, "Some other Rainbow" by McCarthy and Murrell, which I found most interesting, but too long. The Irishman Brian who shared John's call wrote a much better book. The third was "Schindler's Ark". Now of course I want to see the film. I find it difficult to analyse my feelings. So I borrowed a book to relax - "The religious diary of Adrian Glass" very funny. I have also bought "A suitable Boy" by Vikram Seth, but with 1600 pages I'm keeping it for Christmas reading.

Our T V gets more and more repetitive. I am currently watching "Yesterday's Dreams" for the 5th time, "The Charmer" and "Mind your Language" for the 4th, "Shaka Zulu" for about the 10th! I borrow videos when I can, recently I saw "Pole to Pole," which would have been marvelous without Michael Palin; "Don Carlo" from la Scala, which was musically gorgeous but woodenly acted. Friends sent me 4 videos of Wimbledon highlights and the finals, which I've watched 3 times; and we had the world Cup, on T V and I watched every game except about 6 which started at 1.30 am our time. Much better football than the Italian games 4 years ago.

My hip is as good as it will be, but it is not as good as the first operation. My left leg has shrunk very slightly. The real problem is my back, which is much worse. I can only walk about 2 km, and I have to choose my chair. I am swimming again now it's warm - even hot - but I can't swim as far as I did 2 years ago

I will now bring this letter to a close, wishing you all a very joyful christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Look forward to your visit early in 1995 - Sep. will be here!

All the best, Love Annal

Many thanks for your July. Your little hip do Nevada then with your father. You didn't say how business is going. Now the recession is slowly lifting. I hope things will look up.

KK thing up! He has a check - and is driving



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November 1, 1994

My dear Muriel,

Just got your letter yesterday and haste to reply. Have trouble envisioning it as a Christmas card, but have enjoyed it as an early Christmas note! Will try to follow this up with a card to you later this month %Gaborone so you get it at Christmas.

Do hope you are indeed planning your trip by the sea this month, or hope you may have even left by the time that you get this note. If you go hope you'll get a personal update on changes in the new United States of Africa(!) as the young of Cape Town seem to call it.

Sounds like things still don't move fast in Zambia. Quite the opposite of New York City - especially in the world of computers and computer application! More changes in a month than I was used to seeing in several years in my prior careers! I just pray that all stays peaceful and Kaunda and others don't become destructive.

**Summer's ending.** After dreadful heat in July, August was very lovely here. I really enjoyed the cafe's, etc. in Greenwich Village and NYC in general. Unfortunately ---->

**Two traumatic months!** The last several months have been very unpleasant. I spent the month of September preparing for a total painting and renovation of my apartment. And a week before started feeling very tired and "achy". Then a pain in my left jaw took me to the dentist, who proclaimed I should go to a dental surgeon as I had a serious abscess in the jaw due to some old root canal work. I made an appointment on the second day of my house renovations the 29th/30th.

In the five days before the renovations, I moved heavy furniture and worked hard at ML and Chase Manhattan Bank plus the house. I kept feeling worst by the day. Then after the first day of painting the weather turned very cold and I had to shut the windows at night and got up in the night very nauseous from the paint. The next day while the workmen were finishing I went to the dental surgeon who said surgery had to be done the following week. Then on Saturday, 1st October was quite ill. Worse yet in the next days I was sicker yet but worked a very heavy schedule at Merrill Lynch and Chase.

Following the surgery on Friday the 7th I worked a normal shift at Merrill Lynch, just taking the strong form of penicillin. That night I took a strong narcotic pain killer and the next day was flat on my back. Every cell in my body hurt bad and I was as weak as a baby. On Monday (Columbus Holiday weekend) I saw the dental surgeon who realized something was wrong besides an abscess! By then I could eat or nothing. On Tuesday after the holiday, I saw my regular doctor who made tests, told me I was quite dehydrated and on put me on a special liquid diet. He took off all other medicine despite the surgery. The next day he called and said to get to the hospital immediately. (It was five days before I could eat anything.)

To cut this over-long story short, two days in the hospital and the tests were a "real drag!" but it was discovered that I had Hepatitis A and the medicines taken for the abscess (which proved to be a smoke screen) had flattened me because they were processed through the liver. The doctor feared Hepatitis B or C and serious liver damage, but thank God this has not proving to the case and I am recovering very fast and tentatively now back at work at Merrill Lynch. No training at Chase for several months weeks, as it is requires more energy. I am,

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1994

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however, still very, very weak. I say "thank you Lord" for A and not B or C, and yet wonder how horrible those must be in light of all my pain and extreme weakness.

**Plans for Africa in February.** These have become uncertain as the doctor still questions if I will be strong enough for a long journey and holiday. I think I will be but am leaving it open until the first week of January, one month before the proposed trip! If I can't then it will have to be November 1995. But I still have hope. If I do come, I must still decide whether to come through Nairobi and spend a week there with a friend or come through Jo'burg. So, many decisions must still be made and can't be made until about the end of the year. If I do get to Zambia rest assured, I will plan five days to come to Kitwe (since you are still there) and also try (with Peter Njovu in Kitwe) to see Danny and Linnah McCallum in Solwezi. Maybe you'd like to come along for a mini-holiday.

**Work.** This has been a lovely year, until this week! Until I got ill, I had a pleasant mix of evenings at Merrill Lynch and a day or two a week of stand up software applications training at Chase Manhattan Bank h/qs. I have not even looked for new clients for most of the year and have given up Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

But, despite the strong economy, Wall Street has had a disastrous year in general. (Will enclose an article from *The Economist* that explains the situation as simply as possible for a lay person.) While I was in the hospital, Merrill Lynch began chopping vendors and staff alike. They probably will let over 1,500 go by Christmas. This was a stiff shock! Anyway, I must get out my marketing materials quick. It might be a good thing as I have become a pseudo-employee at Merrill Lynch and this may not be good for me in the long run. But if things don't become clear this could indeed destroy my African homecoming until next November I as will not dare leave! Still I am hopeful things might settle down.

This is the time for **American electioneering** at its worst. And this year a lot is at stake. Clinton's excellent idea of health care for all was destroyed and if the Republicans win big it will not likely be successful next year. This is tragic for a country so wealthy to abandon its poorest and most needy people. Over 20% don't have adequate health insurance! My shelter work at Riverside Church leaves me appalled at how we as a nation have abandoned our most needy and especially our children. (The elderly in contrast come off well these days with Medicare, Social Security, etc.) The Republicans under Dole and Gingrich want to take us back to the days of Reagan. God help us if they win really big!

*Amari*  
Adele is leaving NYC for good before Christmas. She can now sell her flat and will move to Abilene, Texas. I will be so sorry to see her go. Cannot imagine her really happy in Abilene! What an isolation from all her sophisticated friends and lifestyle here. Still she may enjoy a quieter ending to her remarkable life. So glad you introduced us!

Must cut this overlong letter off. Again have a wonderful holiday by the sea and a wonderful Christmas Holiday. Still hope to see you in late February.

Much love,

David Wilkin

Kitwe? Post marked in South Africa

Dear David, 12th Dec'94

Many thanks for yours received just before I left. I was sorry to hear of your hepatitis,— do take care and don't overdo it. I hope you keep your job at Merrill Lynch. There will be interviews for my job on Jan 11th, so I won't be stopping work before 31st March the earliest, and then I'll be around for at least 2 months after that. So if you come in Feb, I'll be there. If in November, I'll be in Gaborone — probably! I've now stopped saying definitely when I'm leaving.

The weather here is horrible — COLD! I came prepared for bad sticky weather. My second day here, a cold spell hit this part and it's too cold to swim — most disappointing. I'm visiting 2 sets of friends here. At least I'm relaxing. I fly to Gaborone on Friday for Christmas and New Year. Have a good time yourself,

Cheerio — love Muriel

12th Dec 1984

Dear David

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just before I left. I was sorry to  
hear of your hepatitis, - do take  
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Friday for Christmas & New Year.  
Have a good time yourself.  
Cheers - Love  
Churuel

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P. David Wilkin  
(718) 271-0084

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 740175  
Rego Park, NY 11374-0175

December 24, 1994

Dear Muriel,

A Christmas eve note -- literally! I agreed to work from 6:00 pm to midnight Christmas eve cleaning up all the big deals that ML gets involved in. But lo and behold all our bankers have truly gone home for Christmas Holidays. So an unusual evening for writing letters!

Trust by the time you get this you will have had a wonderful Christmas season in Botswana. Sorry I could not write you there but assume you will enjoy getting my card and this note back in Kitwe.

After I wrote you in early November I believe, I had a rather unpleasant relapse. I thought I was resting but was defining "rest" differently than the doctor and medicine define it! They meant flat on your back rest for long period! And I meant a general slow down! I became so achy and weak I could hardly do anything and my blood tests went the wrong way! Anyway, I had to reduce my work load drastically only weeks after I had resumed work which was very awkward as everyone felt I looked great and should be back full time.

Fortunately, I am now feeling much stronger. I thank God for a slow but hopefully complete recovery. I will see the doctor next week to make sure all is well.

If all is well, in January may try a more-or-less full schedule again. Have several exciting business opportunities that I'd like to explore. Will tell you about them if they work out!

Have learned some hard lessons about my health, and approach 1995 with anticipation. Had to definitely postpone my travel plans for February. But do hope by August or September I can once again not only plan but execute the trip to East and South Africa. Who knows, maybe you'll still be Kitwe. If not, maybe I can get to Botswana and "pop" in to say "hello!"

Happy New Year. Hope Durban warmed up before you left!

As always,