

**2003**

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

Gaborone, 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2003 (Rec'd 01/23/'03)

Dear David,

Happy New Year, many thanks for the note and photos. I loved the ones in the pool! And, I'm glad there is one of the table being assembled. I hope you had a good Christmas. I flew with Ian to Serowe on last Monday, the rest drove up on Tuesday, and we left on Thursday. We were 14 in the house — all family.

Last night I had dinner with 3 men-friends, in the house of 1 of them. Most unusual!

How your dear friend, Bush, can treat Iraq, N. Korea and Ireland so differently defies reason. But then why should I be surprised?

Cheerio and all the best,

Love Muriel

Good news for Kenya. I'll give the copies you sent to the relevant people.

Rec'd 1/23/03 Box 46515  
Gabrielle  
to Jan 03.

Dear David -

Happy New Year,  
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15<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2003

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Cheerio - all the best,

Love  
Muel

---

Good news from Kenya.

I'll give the copies  
you send to the  
relevant people

P. DAVID WILKIN

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Xtra



1<sup>st</sup> February 2003

By popular demand (from 2 or 3 of you), by general endurance (probably most of you), and by total disapproval (only a few of you, I hope!), herewith my message that simply says I haven't forgotten you. Most of you sent me lovely Christmas cards and letters and I thank you. If you are among the few, who like me were too busy or preoccupied, do be inspired and write sometime! Both Christmas and New Years were peaceful and placid for me here in NYC. I simply hibernated and relaxed. Also as I note below, the Season was preceded and followed by wonderful travel that left me in no frame of mind for writing.

**11/00 to 2/02: A troubled time in my life.** As probably all of you can relate, our lives have cycles, some wonderful and others less lovely. February 2002 until today has been a wonderful time of rebuilding but only after a horrible time from late 2000 to early 2002, second only to the period of Zindi's sickness and death. In late 2000 I took a bad case of bronchitis (plus conjunctivitis!)

with me from NYC on a three week trip to South Africa. As you can imagine, even with wonderful friends around me, it was a nightmare being sick in a foreign country. Worse yet in 2001 the deep cough would not go away. Tests showed nothing. The problem was diagnosed by default as unidentified allergies. Endless allergy medications followed to no avail. Finally in October 2001 tests (after 9/11) showed I had a hiatus hernia. Once this was treated with aciphex for several months (for those who want the details!) the persistent cough slowly disappeared. Other discombobulating problems in this period included several episodes of excruciating dental distress, remodeling my home



Mokolodi Game Park – A paradise for me  
Upper right: Voëlkop – Paradise no. 2  
Far right – Sun City; top: jacaranda tree

just when 9/11 happened, plus 9/11 itself and the disappearance of my career on Wall Street by November. Other disasters, I spare you! I am sure many of you can relate to all this, as this period has in general been a hard one for many even without 9/11.

**2/02 to 2/03. A time of psychological and physical rebuilding: New job, new work hours, and new lifestyle.** As I have said to many people, Wall Street has died. By this I mean the plenteous, well-paying jobs are now very scarce. I gave up all my years of work at Merrill Lynch when I walked away from the disaster on 9/11 and my work at Credit Suisse slowly disappeared in the following months due to the resulting "recession" — I'd say "depression" — in NYC. The threat of a unilateral war on Iraq and terrible governmental economic policies keep the Street depressed.

**New Job.** At 9/11, I had been working a few hours a week for years at the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene (RFMH), which is a tripartite organization formed by the Columbia University Medical School, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Complex and New York State Psychiatric Institution. (I was on my way there via the "A" train when the first plane hit.) Since then I have worked at the RFMH four days a week. The current job is uncertain as it depends on medical researchers grants, but I hope that work at the RFMH will see me through to retirement or until Wall Street resurrects itself from the dead! I currently work as a specialist (using my computer skills) to maintain and edit records and publications for a large epidemiological study of 16 year adolescents (over 600) who were low birthweight and have been periodically interviewed. In many ways it takes me back to my university career 20 years ago. Medical research is not that much different than my previous scholastic research. Very interesting work.



**9:00 to 5:00 am.** Wall Street's main technical work was in the evening or at night to get things ready for the next morning's presentations. Now I am strictly a 9-5 man. I really loved working nights and made it a total lifestyle in sleeping 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm every day of the week. I saw the terrible effects (especially on young mothers ) of working nights and then reverting to a normal day; like jet lag every week, over and over. (On a personal level, I'll always believe that Zindi's working nights for 10+ years while not having a systematic sleeping pattern triggered her lupus.) Consequently, I did not let this happen to me. I planned to continue working nights until I retired, but that idea is history. I've asked myself what hours do I want to sleep now and into retirement. The answer is to go back to my youth when I got up at 4:30 am and worked at 5:00 am before going to school and then to bed at 9:00 pm. I resumed this schedule when I lived in rural Africa in the 60s. I loved the early hours and seeing the sun rise and hearing the birds sing. **And so it has come to pass!** Since last fall I have gone to bed between 8:40 and 9:00 pm and am up at 4:40 AM. I love it. The "urban jungle" of the Big Apple is as mysterious and wonderful as the so-called jungles of Africa at this hour. I look forward to the increasingly longer days of spring. This is for me!



Mokolodi's mahout from Sri Lanka proves African elephants, contrary to myth, can be trained.



Hippos kill more people in southern Africa than any other wild animal. They are very aggressive and so huge and are generally submerged during the day in water. Getting a photographing them is very difficult. I ended up taking this in the excellent National zoo park in Pretoria, South Africa.

**Weight loss, working out (exercising) and careful diet.** Proud fact: I've lost 10% (20lbs) of my body weight since this time last year. After I get up at 4:40 am, I immediately work out on equipment that I have in my home until 5:35 am. After that I bath, shave and try to be at my desk at 6:00 am until I leave for work about 7:15. As exercise can be terribly boring, I record the Lehrer Newshour (Public Television) the night before and watch it as I exercise. My internist has convinced me that weight loss is simply not diet but also exercise. This combination must be a permanent lifestyle. Because of large portion sizes and fats, even in health-conscious NYC, I avoid restaurants as much as possible. At work they have a hot buffet that you pay for by weight. Thus, I have two tiny hot meals at 10:50 am and 1:50 pm and choose only non-fat foods. If I pay over \$5.50 for both together, I know I am eating too much! At night I have something very light, often a single slice of pizza – probably the healthiest fast food. Above all, I

feel good and look better. My fellow New Yorkers are by-and-large weight conscious and give general support. Fortunately New Yorkers by necessity have to do a lot of walking! In the Midwest one must struggle harder and even more consciously with super gigantic portions (one meal = 2 healthy meals), fatty foods, and the tendency to roll in and out of cars. Your struggle is harder!

**Travels in June (Canada and the USA Midwest), December 2002 (South Africa and Botswana), and January 2003 (Las Vegas) and travel plans in the near future.** It was really fun seeing many of you this past year in the Midwest and southern Africa. Though it was wonderful, I found the combination of road and air travel extremely tiring and I will not try again until I retire. So all of you will have to visit me for a change — remodeled home at your disposal! For the next few years, with my time from work being limited and my energy more so, I will limit my travel to places within two hours of the nearest airport where I can fly to with a maximum of one airplane change. Thus, as my time and finances allow, I look forward to some sunshine during the American winter in Johannesburg or Cape Town; relaxing in Las Vegas with its dry desert air — even January is pleasant; or if nothing else, just weekends in Atlantic City — walking on the boardwalk or the even beach in a snowstorm is beautiful beyond words. In the summer if more time/money permit, I will fly to Ohio or Iowa, but no long drives! One of you my age said in your Christmas letter: “we continue to work full time, and sometimes have little energy for anything else once the workday is over.” I'm finding this true for travel as well. Air travel is now more of a hassle; combined with long drives, exhausting!

**My passion for assisting orphans in southern Africa has no boundaries.** In southern Africa literally hordes of children whose parents have both died of AIDS are beginning to roam the countryside. It is one of the greatest modern tragedies in our AIDS-inflicted world. The appalling numbers are rising beyond belief. In Zambia during the 60s, extended families cared for children; street children were rare. Now in the towns and cities they come out of the sewers and drainage ditches where they sleep and by ages 8 or 9 are ruined for life by loss of parents and constant semi-starvation. When we see such images on TV over and over, we can get immune to such suffering. Seeing the children themselves, is quite a shock.

**Denys and Margaret Whitehead in Livingstone, Zambia, and the foundation of Lubasi Home.** My focus has come to center on a new home for orphans in which is largely the brainchild of Margaret Whitehead. She is a white Zambian whose husband, Denys is a retired Anglican priest. Denys and I knew each other when we much younger men at the time of Zambia's independence in 1964. Their children have now grown. She is politically active as a member of the Livingstone City Council.

**Lubasi Home.** With the support of a marvelous multi-racial, multi-diverse group of concerned citizens, a wonderful home for children, 6-10 years of age, opened last March. A local businessman provided lovely renovated premises. Unlike many orphanages, it is community-based and not connected to a specific religious organization. They raise most of their money locally but salaries are generally about 1/10 of what they are here. Thus, they have only raised money to enroll about 15 children despite the great need and potential for 60. They need extra money for a borehole for a steady supply of water. They have local township mothers with the children 24 hours a day — ratio of less than 5 to 1.

**New website.** Last November, Margaret created a free webpage on Orphanage.org — an interesting site itself. The web address is: <http://orphanage.org/africa/zambia/lubasi>. Now a friend of mine here in NYC is creating a complete new website for Lubasi. It is still incomplete but looking wonderful: <http://www.lubasi.org>. Please do check these sites out. Obviously we hope the new websites will help the orphanage raise money, but we have a more immediate problem.

**Needed desperately: A reliable American sending agency, a church or public group with 501-c-3 classification by the IRS.** Some of you may not be aware but if you give money to an overseas charity, it has to be funneled through an IRS approved church or organization if you want to deduct the moneys given on your tax forms. We need a reliable organization, whose name we can use on the website, to collect and forward moneys. Currently, if anyone is interested in giving, I have the name of an organization who will forward money to Lubasi and give you the needed receipt for tax purposes. But its focus is children in another country. It would be inappropriate for us to use their name on the website. Hence, we need some group to handle this on a long-term basis if we are to raise enough money in the USA. If your church or organization could help as a funnel for moneys, please let me know.



This very aggressive guy in Mokolodi took the spiritual too literally "children keep in the middle of the road!"

**When to retire if in good health?** Clearly my time is coming in the next 2 to 7 years. Due to Zindi's lingering illness and my many travels since then, however, I cannot currently retire with an adequate amount of money beyond social security. This was a lifestyle choice that some of you have criticized me for, but I don't regret it. I don't have children, nor a wife now (and don't intend to remarry), and love living alone with my telephone, the Internet and mail to connect me with all of you worldwide. No regrets! I live with my numerous memories of exciting places and wonderful friends therein on three continents. Thus, I will continue working for a minimum of 2 years and hopefully up to 7 years, as long as my health is good, and build up my retirement moneys. Still, money is not everything, I also love the interchange of ideas with people of all ages at work. I love batting ideas around and letting the "youngsters" know not all people in their 50s and 60s are technologically brain dead! (The Wall Street crowd was much younger, to a much lesser degree my Research Foundation colleagues.)

**A personal irony: an American pariah of the world!** Saying you are an American has always had its dangerous side in parts of the world. When in Zambia or when there are several of us from several countries, I always answered obliquely when asked, "We are coming from Zambia." But this year, it was impossible. Our current American leaders seem to think the American concept of diplomacy is telling the world "do it our way, or else" or "we'll do it anyway" and that this is acceptable. The world's (including our closest allies) sympathy with us after 9/11 and our original anti-terrorist goal is gone. Saddam Hussein is regarded as a joke, but our policies, tinged with self-righteousness and religiosity, are truly hated and feared because of our overwhelming military power. In the last decade, South Africa has undergone a dramatic national conversion with its new constitution from being the world's pariah to, into the English-speaking world's moral voice, along with Canada. (South Africa also has a number of other languages, just as Canada also has French.) The irony was that I felt like a white South African who opposed apartheid in the "bad old days" but was still strongly attacked whenever he/she traveled. Even though my friends were protective, several painful verbal assaults about "you Americans" occurred that made me sad. Our perceived cowboy foreign policy has a problem!

**Physically and psychologically fit at present.** During the last year's rebuilding, I carefully thought out my objectives and goals both until retirement and thereafter. I have shared many of them herein, so you, my dear family and friends, can compare your plans and goals. Many of you are also in this transitional period of your life. For those of you with very different goals, you can think "David does it again!" Hopefully others of you may get inspired to write!



I end this message to all of you with pictures of friends that have made my last trips to South Africa and Botswana so delightfully pleasant. You in the Midwest have often heard me speak of them. In three we are eating – often outside. Everywhere, dining is a time for friends.

First and foremost, his 26 years notwithstanding, is Alexander Ajibu from Malawi, who travels 48 hours by bus to join me in Johannesburg. He has been my tour guide, cook, photographer, bodyguard, and loyal confidante.



To the right are two old friends for over 30 years. Nellie is holding her nephew outside her home in Vryburg, South Africa. She was a supporter of Zindi here in NYC to her last dying day and has been one of my loyalist friends ever since. She has retired to her country of birth. Below is Muriel Sanderson and I dining in the exquisite outdoor restaurant at Mokolodi Game Park just outside Gaborone. Always the gracious hostess, Muriel put me up in the city of Kitwe when I came in from the Zambian "bush" to get supplies 30+ years ago. She is Zambian but has retired to Botswana to be with her extended family. Below is the second annual "traditional" American Thanksgiving that friends cooked for me at Voëlkop (west of Pretoria). The food was a delightful and delicious South African interpretation of American staples – same basic items in both countries. As is common in most of southern Africa, the restaurant is outdoors. Very casual is the key word! The pool is a only few metres away.

And so, adieu until the next year. Do visit me in New York. As I say frequently, I always keep a bed ready for "Ohioans and Zambians," which means all of you. Much love to all of you.

*David Wilkin*

P.S. Happy Valentine's Day!



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

Gaborone, 19th Feb.'03 (received 03/03/'03)

My dear David,

Just a short note to say I received your letters of Feb. and last May 1. This time you got the box No correctly.

I loved the photos of Mindolo, and the 2 of us!

I got my MBE on 7th Feb, 50 guests in the garden of the British High Court High Court — very pleasant. My friend Mary Kazunga, former gen sec of Zambia YWCA, came for 4 days — lovely. We're good friends.

I had a letter from Wilfred G.-G. this week, Edith died in England 3 weeks ago. I don't know the details. Theo Bull died of cancer about the same time. What was the use of all his millions?

I saw on TV this week your inches of snow! Ugh!

I hope your jobs keep going on steadily.

This isn't really an answer!

P.S. I went to a charity dinner on Valentine's Day, and was partnered by the Sri Lankan boss of Price Waterhouse!

Ian will be 50 on 27th, so another party — at the same reserve where he took me on my 80th!

Cheerio Love Muriel



received  
3/3/03 Box 46515 Gaborone:  
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friends.

I had a letter from Wiffred  
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in England 3 weeks ago.

I don't know the details.

19<sup>th</sup> Feb 03

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about the same time.  
What was the use of all  
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Ps. I went to a charity  
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Jan will be 50 on 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Do another party — at the  
same reserve where he took  
me on my 80<sup>th</sup>!

Cheerio love Inna

Gaborone, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2003

**Last page of four page form letter dated July — August 2003 was m/s (typed below) the then two pages of an addendum specifically for David Wilkin**

Having just read this, I realize how unbalanced it is! Most of the time is not like this. I sleep every afternoon for 1-2 hours, I listen to my radio. I attend theatre and cinema occasionally.

The war. I just can't believe what has happened and is still happening in Iraq. I remember in my school history lessons having that the Bourbons did not learn from history. Well, who does? Certainly not the Bushes. I can't believe that Tony Blair can fool himself the way he has.

I see on TV every night horrific pictures from Liberia, and am puzzled that they want the Americans to join ECOWAS "peace" keepers (what peace?) I can't believe that the Americans and British didn't plan for the post-war period in Iraq. I could go on for ever-----

Ian was recently elected chairman of the party. I'm not sure it's a good idea to have all the power in so few hands. We have had some interesting discussions — He is very busy, but he keeps in touch. I don't often see my other nephews and niece.

Many thanks for note and photos and long letter on your trip. I do hope your health is OK now, and that you keep busy working and earning money. I know just how you feel about travel. I doubt if I'll ever go to Australia or the USA again, unless I get offered a 1st class ticket all the way! I just can't sit for hours without some exercise. So, what have you done to stop one George Bush? It's quite incredible that he has turned the clock back to the colonial days of Britain + France. I heard on BBC last week that Britain was taking a motion to the UN to get them involved in rebuilding Iraq — what peace? I just couldn't believe when I read that it was costing the US \$12 billion a week or month. What a disgusting waste! No doubt Bush got Blair to do this. He couldn't keep that up with an election only 15 months away.

Mokolodi has a new manager. He's American, peace corps volunteer 20 years ago at Ghanzi, in the middle of the desert. He's a qualified engineer, and with his wife a good couple. He was not very excited at hosting Bush and Mokolodi! While Bush was in Africa, the AU was having its second annual meeting in Mozambique — and Mbeki was the outgoing chairman handing over to Chissano. So all 4 Presidents had their schedules messed up. He could easily have gone to stay in some secluded spot on the coast near Maputo and seen anyone he wanted without spoiling the meeting.

When do you come to these parts again? By the way, I had no idea the Whiteheads were involved in orphanage. News from Zambia still sad. And that awful born again V.P. who I knew slightly — bad news.

Cheerio, Love Muriel

PO Box 46515

Gaborone

Tel: 397 5800

July 2003

10/14  
Aug

My Dear David

Right after these letters arrived last December, I had a phone call from my former minister in Kitwe, Bryan Coates. He told me after visiting me here 3 years ago, he wrote to the Commonwealth Office, proposing that I be awarded a medal for my church and NGO work in Zambia. So that mystery was solved. It took a long time because I am a Zambian Citizen and they needed the Zambian Government permission. Well, the Zambians never answered mail, or a visit from the British High Commissioner to Zambia – so they waited a year and then decided to go ahead.

It was a lovely informal evening cocktail party in the spacious grounds of the High Commissioner. Most of the 50 guests were the same friends who had attended my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party last October, but one lovely addition. My friend Mary Kazunga, former general secretary of the YWCA of Zambia, flew down for the 4 days, and spoke extremely well. It was lovely seeing Mary again – after 7 years. It had been extremely hot that day so the evening was very warm.

Christmas was strange without Ruth in Serowe. All the family were there. The twin's wives, with Jackie and Ian's fiancée Nomsa did all the cooking, which Ruth used to do. I flew up with Ian in the helicopter, which I appreciated as it dropped us at the front gate.

In February Ian was 50. The twins organized a weekend at a lodge in the Tuli Block, near the Zimbabwe and South African borders. It is the same lodge that the family took me to for my 80<sup>th</sup>. There were over 30 people, it was very pleasant. We had the whole lodge, whose owner is a good friend of Ian. So we went on game drives when we wanted to – which meant I did not go from 6 – 10am! 2 Hours are enough for me, around 9 – 11am. There was a dinner party one evening, when President Mogae and wife came. The next evening we went out for a barbecue. Ian's friends came from Kenya, South Africa and Mozambique, as well as Botswana. So you see, life continues to be hectic!

10<sup>th</sup> Aug., '03.

I decided it was time to pack in my job at the Game Park. It has grown a lot since I started 7 years ago, when it was only 2 years old. And unfortunately, they need to be computerized. Ros is taking my place, and will take over completely (hopefully) in August. The computer should have arrived in April, but for reasons I don't understand, it only arrived in the middle of July. I may go out once a week until the end of the year.

Meanwhile, I am collecting little club accounts, too small for computers. I realized last year while relaxing in Folkestone that I didn't want to carry on being so busy. I am slowing down.

Having said that, we've had an exciting lot of visitors to Gaborone.

In April Thabo Mbeke, President of South Africa, came for a 3 day State visit, with his wife Zanele. Some of you will remember (? perhaps) that Zanele was a refugee in Zambia for several years, being an active ANC member, her sister Edith worked for the YWCA at Mindolo and we were very good friends. She also had another sister, Khushu, who was a nurse in Kitwe. So I met Zanele when she came to visit her sisters. I saw her briefly at Ruth's funeral. During her visit here she asked to meet me, so I spent an hour with her in the government guest house. Edith died just before Ruth, so we had quite a lot to talk about. While there, Thabo walked in, so I met him too.

This month, July has been hectic for Gaborone. Princess Anne visited for 3 days, and there was a reception at the British High Commission - 400 guests. The High Commissioner introduced me to the Princess, having not long beforehand invested me with my MBE. She was intrigued at being given it for charity work in Zambia, and here I was in Botswana. We chatted for several minutes. She was amused when I explained that I couldn't curtsy because of arthritis in my knees! She was most relaxed and delightful.

The very next day Bush came for all of 6 hours. He visited Mokolodi Game Park where I work, for a hours game drive. I stayed well away for 2 days. One week beforehand the CIA came out. Next day a helicopter circled round all day for 5 days,

20<sup>th</sup> Aug 903

disturbing the animals. The day before the police brought sniffer dogs to all the buildings. When he came roads were closed for hours. The actual day there were hundreds of police and CIA's. The embassy told Mokolodi to send all but a few staff home for the day. The park was closed for 2 days.

Clinton came to Botswana 3-4 years ago and visited Mokolodi, and we all met him and shook hands. What a contrast!

While he was in Africa, the African Union held its second meeting, in Mozambique. He could have gone and stayed near Maputo and seen all the Presidents he wanted to. Mbeke was handing over to Chissano, so was late attending. The Ugandan and Nigerian President went for the opening and then left. Our president didn't even go. There were some very critical articles in the South African papers.

The church I attend has had a fillip. We had a new minister in January – a young South African who is active and most likable. His wife is a great help. We have bible study once a week in my flat, which I was instrumental in starting. Averaging only 8, they came from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Botswana.

There is a tradition here that a tombstone is erected one year after the funeral. Well, Ruth's will be 15 months after, at Serowe, <sup>on</sup> ~~which was~~ Ruth and Seretse's wedding anniversary, 29<sup>th</sup> September.

In September my friend Magda is coming from Germany for 3 weeks. We met at a workshop in Italy in 1953. She came to Folkestone last year. I am really looking forward to it. She also worked in Zambia for one year.

I am delighted to have visitors, so if anyone reading this would like to visit Botswana – you are welcome.

Cheers for now, and all the best



Love,

Muriel

P. T. O .

Having just read this, <sup>4</sup> I realize how unbalanced  
it is! Most of the time is not like this.  
I sleep every afternoon for 1-2 hours, &  
listen to my radio. I attend theatre  
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Ian was recently elected chairman of the  
party. I'm not sure it's a good idea to  
have all the power in so few hands. We  
have had some interesting discussions-----  
He is very busy but he keeps in touch.  
I don't often see my other nephews  
and niece  
one again - Cheers!

10<sup>th</sup> Aug, '03.

5

I really thank for cards and photos  
 and long letters on your trip.  
 I do hope your health is ok  
 now, and that you keep busy  
 working and earning money.  
 I knew just how you feel  
 about travel. I doubt if I'd  
 ever go to Australia or the USA  
 again, unless I got offered  
 a 1st class ticket all the way!  
 I just can't sit for hours  
 without some exercise.

So what have you done to  
 stop one George Bush? It's quite  
 incredible that he has turned the  
 clock back to the colonial days  
 of Britain + France. I heard on the  
 BBC last week that Britain was  
 taking a mission to the UN to get  
 them involved in rebuilding Iraq -  
 sometimes called peacekeeping - what  
 peace? I just couldn't believe  
 when I read that it was costing  
 the US \$13 billion a week or more.  
 What a disgusting waste. No doubt  
 Bush got Blair to do this.  
 He couldn't keep that up with an



10<sup>th</sup> Aug '03

Dokolodi has a new manager!  
 He's American, peace corps  
 volunteer 20 years ago at Ghana,  
 in the middle of the decade.  
 He's a qualified engineer,  
 with his wife a good couple.  
 He was not very excited  
 at hosting Bush @ Dokolodi!  
 While Bush was in Africa, the  
 A.M. was having its second annual  
 meeting in Mozambique -  
 Okoko was the outgoing chairman  
 handing over to Chisano. So all  
 4 Presidents had their schedules messed  
 up. He could easily have gone  
 to stay in some secluded spot  
 on the coast near Raynolds & seen  
 anyone he wanted without spoiling  
 the meeting.

When do you come to those  
 parts again? By the way I  
 had no idea the Whiteheads were  
 involved in an earthquake. Name  
 from Zambia still sad. And  
 that awful born again V.P. (do?)  
 knew slightly - good news.  
 O'Brien, love & mud

My dear David, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Many thanks for your August letter which crossed with mine — and also the card a few days later.

I saw the electricity blackout reported on TV. It must have been quite alarming. Quite incredible that the British and French or Italian end out followed so quietly. I read in my "Economist" the US electrical installments had been neglected for years. In America? I read that some companies wouldn't allow staff to sleep in the offices. I saw some who slept on church steps — outside — ugh.

Sorry to hear about your aunt, and that you couldn't get there. Seems incredible. How old was she? I only hope I don't go on, and on!

I've read articles by Fred Morton and would like to meet him one day. I believe he's written books about the Khamas.

I can't believe you'll visit S. Africa for only 10 days! I expect you will telephone. This will arrive after you return, so I hope it went well I'm enclosing a photo taken at the Brit High Com in July when Princess Anne visited. I was introduced to her because I'd recently got my MBE.

Cheerio and all the best,

Love Muriel

PO Box 46515 Gaborone

13-11-03

My dear David,

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15<sup>th</sup> Nov. '03.

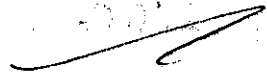
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I'm enclosing a photo  
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to her because I'd recently  
got my OBE.

Cheerio & all the best;

Love  
Oswald



Gaborone, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2003

**Short addendums**

P.P.S. (at beginning of form letter) I have no computer, Email nor cell-phone! I'm not living in the 21st century.

After last year's round of birthday parties, this year was quieter. Ian always gives a birthday family lunch, and that evening some of us went to an army concert! I had 2 parties for friends — 8 each time, which were most enjoyable. Love Muriel

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

P.S.: As it's impossible to get decent Christmas cards here, I buy them one year in advance for Christmas in England.

P.P.S. I have no computer,  
Email nor cell-phone!  
I'm not living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

PO Box 46515  
Gaborone

21<sup>st</sup> November 2003

My dear, David

Tel 3975800

This time, no name-dropping!

A relatively uneventful 4 months since I wrote.

I mentioned Ruth's tombstone ceremony. There was a very moving service, with family and close friends. Family members came up on Saturday and Sunday and the service was on Monday September 29<sup>th</sup>, Ruth and Seretse's wedding anniversary (55<sup>th</sup>). Her tombstone was exactly the same shape as Seretse's (Marble) and it took 4 hours to drag up the steep hill on a rough path. I told Ian that when it's his turn they should lower his monument from a helicopter! The Khama graveyard is only for the chiefs, wives, and eldest son, who are usually a chief anyway. Botswana is still partly an African Country.

One would never have thought so after the opening of Parliament, which I attended this week. Middle Age language, British protocol, new Attorney General sworn in, with white Woollen wig and black woollen robes. Many of our rural courts have no air conditioning. Need I say more? I asked Ian when Botswana was going to join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – or even the 20<sup>th</sup>!

When I said that life had been quieter, it wasn't quite true. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September Magda arrived from Germany for 3 weeks, and on 11<sup>th</sup>, Josephine arrived from Chicago for 2 weeks. They had met several times before – the first in 1972 when I rented a farmhouse in Cornwall for 5 weeks,

During their stay we went away for 8 days – 4 to the Okavango Delta, and 4 to Kasane, on the Chobe River near where it joins the Zambezi. This was my 5<sup>th</sup> trip to the Okavango, and I decided it would be my last. I enjoyed it, but climbing on and off safari vehicles, and long drives, take their toll. We stayed by a river, so I took some shorter boat trips. My back is constantly reminding me that it needs renewing!

We stayed at the same lodge in Kasane where I met Ruth and the family for at least 10 Easter holidays, after Seretse died. I was lucky then as the transport officer at Mindolo had his family in

21<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2003

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year. Cards here, England  
impossible to get decent Christmas cards in advance from charities  
P.S. Do buy them one year in advance

Livingstone. So he drove us in my car the nearly 1,000kms to Livingstone, and then 40miles along the river to Kazungula, where I took the lorry across from Zambia to Botswana, at the point where Zimbabwe and Namibia also meet. It was 2-3 kms to our lodge and the family met me. The ferry was always hair-raising. This year a lorry that was too heavy bribed its way on to the ~~lot~~ ferry, sank the lot, and approximately 20 people drowned. As no records were ever kept, the numbers are guesswork. This lodge is on the river, so is always beautifully green and with flowering trees and bushes. We spent one day at Victoria Falls, which as expected was quite empty.

Two days after the friends left I went to Serowe, and 5 days after that I had another holiday. In the 1960's at Mindolo I was friendly with the Harts - Norman taught journalism. He had been at Oxford with Derek Jones, a missionary friend here, since 1954 and now retired here. The Harts visited here (5<sup>th</sup> time) in October. The 4 of us went in Derek's Mercedes to South Africa for 2 weeks. We had 2 days at Kuruman - Robert Moffatt lived there for 50 years and translated the bible into Setswana (his eldest daughter married David Livingstone). We then travelled south - west to Augrabies Falls (I never pronounced it correctly). This is on the Namibia border. It is on the Orange River, and full of big rocks. I found it harsh, and the rocks outside my chalet were quite unfriendly. The others went out for walks, while I swam. After 4 nights, we drove across the country, spending a night on the way at Kimberley, on the way we visited a Moffatt Museum. Then on to the Drakensburg, which really are beautiful. We spent 2 nights in "Little Switzerland" and 2 nights at a small lodge called "Monks Cowl", near Champagne Castle. Exotic names! The scenery is really breath taking. On the return we stayed at Potchefstroom. Normally I would have been very uncomfortable sitting in a car for so long, but being in a Mercedes made a lot of difference.

I have finally stopped work at the game park, end of October. Since then the days are long, and I must find some little jobs to do.

What can one say about Iraq? What a terrible mess. It's so appalling that none of the problems were anticipated. And I could weep for Afghanistan. It's just been overlooked, and the consequences of that are horrific. I admire the President for his untiring efforts.

The experts prophesied that Botswana would enter its second consecutive drought year. But we're having rain, at the right time. Maize needs to be planted now, our January rains 3 years ago were too late. It usually rains about once a week - very good for here.

After last year's round of birthday parties, this year was quieter. Ian always gives a birthday family lunch, and that evening some of us went to an army concert! I had 2 parties for friends - one each time, which were most enjoyable.

P. DAVID WILKIN  
61-15 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. #4 E  
Rego Park, NY 11374-1407  
Tel: 718-271-0084  
Email: wcaafrika@rcn.com

7<sup>th</sup> December 2003

My dear Muriel,

Thanks for your Christmas card that was just received. As you can tell from the card, I have just returned from South Africa. Tried one time to get you and failed. Too much was happening and could not try again. Sorry I could neither see you nor talk to you. Anyway, . . .

Sounds from your circular letter and the personal letter attached that you are in reasonably good health and staying active. Wonderful!

My trip was fantastic: two Americans and three Malawians and we visited fun places: Sun City (twice), two nights in Pilanesberg, Voëlkop (my favorite), one night in Pretoria, etc. Problem was I got a summer chest cold and ignored it and went on swimming 2 or 3 times a day, etc.. Thus, I coughed my way back to America (continuously!) on a fully packed 747. The other passengers were terrified. Embarrassing and horrible! Also pinched a nerve in my upper back. Anyway, I'm home and recovering.

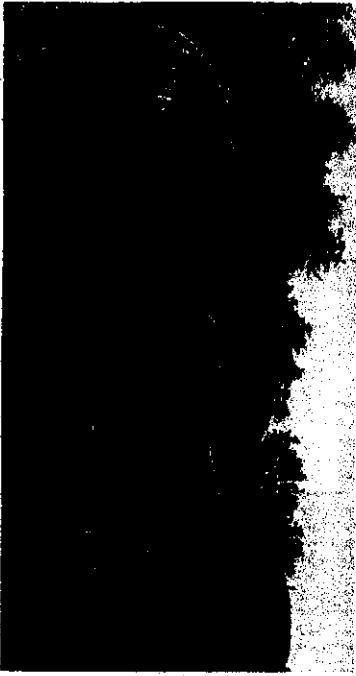
I am pretty much as I was in August, except that I have a better job about 15 metres down the hall from where I worked last August. Instead of helping researchers on analyzing data on low birthweight data for babies in New Jersey, I have been working on a report for an equally famous researcher. This is preparation for a major WHO initiative in Geneva on children and adolescent's mental health problems worldwide. As the report was well received in early November in Geneva, we are revising it for worldwide distribution in 2004. Quite fascinating. From micro to macro!

Not sure where 2004 is taking all of us and me in particular. I get Medicare on March 23<sup>rd</sup> if I want it and then Social Security (pension) in mid-July. I only get the former if I retire but the latter, thanks to Bill Clinton's regime, whether I work or not. This will be lovely. My current boss is much easier to work for than my former but her staff are not as nice! Can't win. Probably everything will hinge on whether the WHO project takes off or not.

Lubasi Home just got a \$5,000 grant from The Riverside Church for the orphans. This will help them a lot. Am in constant contact with Margaret Whitehead who is very active.

Much love and best wishes for 2004. Will try to print this inside the "card".





Happy Holidays, '03

3 Photos of a herd of 4 or 5 Rhinoceroses next to the car  
Pillanesberg Game Park, 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2003  
(northwest of Jo'burg and near Sun City)

much love and best  
wishes for the new year

Thinking of you this Holiday Season.

All is well for me here in NYC.

Just returned from a fortnight

in sunny South Africa.

*David Wilson*

**2004**

Gaborone, April 2004

**Addendum to two page form letter**

P.S. I have a small back garden which is covered in "golden shower" — a bright orange climber. I also have 2 big yellow lazy bushes, yellow and white chrysanthus, and stylizia "crane flower".

Many thanks for your Christmas letter, which crossed with mine.

So glad your latest job is more interesting. I don't really miss Mokolodi and enjoy my 2 voluntary jobs much more. You said "I get Medicare on March 23rd". I'm not sure what that means.

Cheerio, all the best, love Muriel

Reed  
2/19/04

UK - PO Box 81571  
Gaborone

Rest of World-  
PO Box 46515  
Gaborone

April 2004

My dear

David

I am only writing this to a few close friends.

A friend has typed this for me.

On March 30<sup>th</sup> I was walking to my car from working at the Red Cross. There was nothing on the road when I looked but I suddenly found myself on the road in great pain. A car had come round the corner quite quickly and caught my foot. 3 Young men nearby helped me. They stopped the car, driven by a South Korean woman who spoke practically no English. After ½ hour she drove me to the hospital, where I was given a pain killer and x-rayed. 3 Small bones in my foot were broken, but it was the bruises that bothered me most. I telephoned my nephew Tony and he and Margaret collected me, packed a bag at home and took me to dinner, and then back to the hospital for 5 days, mainly to rest. The doctor knew I lived alone in a town house with stairs.

I stayed at night for a week with a friend with no stairs, but got fed up with moving around!

I had an x-ray after 3 weeks and the doctor was pleased with the progress. I have a walker, and a big boot (to replace old fashioned plaster). Jackie and other friends bring me cooked food which my maid Patricia heats up.

I am utterly fed up with being so helpless and dependent – and no driving for at least 2 months. Many friends offer lifts, which I appreciate, but I get fed up with waiting around – I have no patient<sup>off</sup>. Today – April 21<sup>st</sup> – I spent an hour at the Red Cross, and next week will go to my other charity – Lifeline.

April 2, 2004

I thought of the Queen and her "Annus Horribilis". Two days before New Year I got gout, then arthritis in my knees, then Sciatica, then tendonitis in my elbow. It was just clearing up when this accident happened.

And no swimming for months. Botswana hasn't heard of global warming. For 2 months it's been humid, wet and cold. Our winter has started 2 months early, and I feel the cold as I sit around so much, and I am on Warfarin. The thought of no swimming for 5 months is depressing.

I do manage to go out to lunch and even dinner. I went to the cinema for Human Rights week, but was very uncomfortable - I have to keep my foot up. I have visitors most days, the 1<sup>st</sup> day in hospital I had 16! It's setting better every day.

I started working at "Lifeline" in January - doing 2003 accounts. It's a counseling agency and I really enjoy it. Once I caught up, I went to the Red Cross - also doing 2003. Ruth started the Botswana Red Cross so I know people there.

I hope to be more cheerful next time.

Love Muriel

Muriel

P.S. I have a small back garden which is covered in "golden shower" - a bright orange climber. I also have 2 big yellow daisy bushes, yellow & white chrysanthemums, and sryliria - "rose flower".

Many thanks for your Christmas letter, which crossed with mine. So glad your latest job is more interesting. I don't really miss Mokobedi, and enjoy my 2 voluntary jobs much more. You said "I get Medicare on March 23rd". I'm not sure what that means.

Cherish, all the best, love Muriel

**P. DAVID WILKIN**  
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Rego Park, NY 11374-1407  
Tel: 718-271-0084  
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May 22, 2004

My dear Muriel,

Just got your April letter three days ago and haste to reply. So sorry about the car accident. I am sure moving around to do your normal tasks not to mention climbing your stairs is next to impossible. (Are you having friends searching for a flat that does not have stairs?) Don't know what else to say. Glad you still have Patricia assisting you at home. She seems to be very kindly. Give her my regards. Do hope your work with Lifeline continues to be enjoyable. Since there is nothing more I can think of saying to console you, I'll just take this chance to update events here!

A fortnight ago, I made a quick, lovely four day weekend trip to Iowa to see Bwalya (Pascal) and Maggie Ndakala and other friends in Iowa. We had lovely nshima with various relishes that were pure Zambian. Maggie hopes to get back to college this in August and will start a nursing program that will take 2 ½ years for a nursing degree. (She is in her mid-30s.) Bwalya pushes on as a fairly big businessman in charge of two resorts, each with a boat marina. He is now 50 and not a little, immature kid that you probably remember!

Both Bwalya and Maggie are plagued by travel documents. Things have become very, very hard since 9/11 for foreigners to get long-term documents. In fact, it is almost impossible for new people to now enter the country unless they are very wealthy or have fantastically important contacts. David Carlson, a wealthy friend of Bwalya's is trying to sponsor a young Malawian and an acquaintance of Alexander. David has not only money but political contacts. Robert has taken a year's course at a hotel college in South Africa and yet David is finding it very hard. We shall know by August if Robert can get here. If he fails to enter with all of David's efforts then I will never again advise anyone to try.

Very sad story of how America has changed so badly since 9/11. Not only a terrible mess in Iraq but a sad story within the country that means great divisions and severe hardships. Unless we get a better government, the country will continue to do bad things. The torture stories coming from Iraq ~~and~~ almost unbelievable. Incredibly, however, George W. Bush maintains support in the rural heartland. Despite almost unanimous opposition from New York City and California, etc., there is a god-awful chance he may get re-elected in November. What a horrible thought both for this country and the world.

All continues to go okay here for me personally. My health in general is good but my left knee continues to weaken. Hope to see an orthopedist in a few weeks. A clearer explanation: after my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, I started getting a monthly pension from government that we call "social security". It will come regularly at the end of this month. It will not be enough to cover all my expenses (about ¾) so I must go on working for another year or so either full or part time and keep saving madly.

My work goes well at the Research Institute (at Columbia University Public Health and Medical School). It is very uncertain but exciting. Not sure if it will end on an incredibly exciting note or slowly fizzle out within the next two years. My task is working with the WHO in Geneva on children's mental health and psychopathology (mental health problems). I am trying to sell them on a plan for testing children in Livingstone whose parents have died from AIDS. (The institute has another **huge** project for AIDS suffers involving US\$200,000,000 for southern Africa from the American government and the Gates Foundation.) I feel Livingstone would be a good place to start a small study. There is only a very small chance that I will succeed, but I think it is the least I can do to try to get more world attention on Zambia's sad story of AIDS and devastated families.

Do hope to visit my favorite places in Gauteng in late October 2004 and possibly again in February 2005. Not sure whether I will get up to Livingstone and see Lubasi and/or drive out to see you. We'll see what happens.

Get better soon!

My love and west wishes,

David Wilkin

Gaborone 11<sup>th</sup> November 2004

**Addendum to three page form letter**

Many thanks for yours of May. I wonder if you visited S. Africa in October? I quote from your letter "I started getting a monthly pension from govt---it will not be enough to cover my expenses (about 3/4) — , so I go on working — and keep saving madly". Later, "Do hope to visit my favourite places in Gauteng in late October and possibly again in Feb. 2005".

See my problem?? "Save madly, visit S.Africa twice in 4 months"? Why give up working at 65?Do you really have other interesting things to do?

Like all my Democratic American friends, I was in mourning last week after the election results. I was appalled at the money spent; and the election boundaries gerrymandering.

I hope your Livingstone project comes off. I suppose you have seen "Fahrenheit 9/11"and "Passion of Christ. I didn't really like the latter, but it was thought-provoking. BDP won the election here held on 30th October — every time since independence in '66. The opposition is so split — the story of Africa. So Ian was re-elected as Vice Pres, and the Pres. will step down 1 year before his term ends and hand over to Ian. Democracy?

Cheerio,

Love Muriel

~~P O Box 81571~~

Tel. 3975800

P O Box 46515

Gaborone

11-11-04

Dear *David*.....

*ay*

As our postage increased by over 60% in April, I have decided to send my European mail by surface. I learnt long ago that if airmail bags have space free 1<sup>st</sup> class sea mail goes that way. So some of these letters may be very early and others very late. I shall start my letter on cheerful note. I had 10 days holiday in Mauritius in early August. Our winter started 6 weeks early, and as we go down to zero at night, swimming pools are far too cold to use. So I decided to go to the coast. My local travel agency had a brochure on Mauritius hotels, so I picked one. It was actually much bigger than I had realised, having so many beds! But it also had excellent facilities, and most important, a huge swimming pool. It is on the beach, so I walked there every afternoon.

Mauritius is a volcanic island, so there were rocks on the beach, so I didn't go in the sea. Three things struck me. One, the island is so green, with good volcanic soil and plenty of rain. Two, everything is most efficient. Three, the hotel staff were friendly helpful and a pleasure to be with.

There was a travel agency in the hotel, who arranged tours. So I went on 3, two on catamarans, one on west coast, one east. It was winter in Mauritius, but it never got cold. There were 3 days when the sun was never out, and 2 of those days I was on the catamaran.

I had hoped to swim in the sea from the boat, there were plenty of people to help me struggle back in, but as I would have had to dry off in my wet suit, I didn't go in.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> trip was to the interior, up the mountains, viewing the volcano centre (all covered with palm trees), walking around a Hindu temple, admiring the gorges.

I went to Mauritius 20 years ago, directly from Zambia. In that time the tourist industry has developed incredibly, and become very expensive.



22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2020

I was the only person in the hotel who was alone, and was able to meet several guests, who came to talk to me, surprised that I had come such a long way alone. They all assumed I'd flown from Britain. Needless to say, most of them had no idea where Botswana was! I flew from Johannesburg, 4 hours, and each way the plane was 100% full.

Mauritius is very Indian, when the Portuguese arrived in 1400 +, it was uninhabited. 100 years later the Dutch arrived, started sugar plantations, and brought in Indians to work them. Later, African slaves arrived. I met English, French, Indians, South Africans, German and Italian visitors. It is gloriously multi-racial.

I started the year very badly. Gout, sciatica, tendonitis, and arthritis one after the other. On 30<sup>th</sup> March, when I was beginning to loose my pains, I was crossing the road to my car when I was knocked over by a S. Korean lady, who spoke six words of English. At the hospital the X-ray showed 3 broken bones in my foot. The doctor is my surgeon, a friend. He knew I lived alone in a flat with stairs, so he suggested I should stay in hospital for 5 days to rest. When I came home I spent days at home, and nights with a friend, for a week. The worst thing was no driving. The Red Cross had cars and drivers, so they collected me. But I had to rely on volunteers at Lifeline, and friends for shopping and other outings. My foot healed in 7 weeks, which surprised the doctor. I couldn't even swim, as I couldn't get in and out of the pool. In July there was a bad cold doing the round, which I caught. So my Mauritian holiday was just at the right time.

Several of you know about Alexander Mc Call Smith, who wrote the books about the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency here in Gaborone. He is actually a medical lawyer, and worked at the local university for 2 years. He was born and brought up in Zimbabwe. Now he's famous and wealthy from his books, he was out here recently at a charity breakfast at State House, which I attended. Later that week I was at a shopping centre, I went for coffee at an outdoor café; well he was there with his hosts so I joined them for coffee. Success has not affected him at all; he's charming and easygoing.

11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010

The Olympics have finished now; I must say I was fairly bored. Of course I think they're much too big. The standard of tennis and soccer that I saw was abysmal. The soccer world cup and the 4 big tennis tournaments are much better. I watched Bolton and Liverpool recently and the standard was much better than the men's final - with 52 fouls. I hear that Golf may be included in the next games. They must be mad. When I watched the synchronised swimming, I was reminded of my back class, as the 2 ladies stretched their legs up straight and round in circles. So when I exercise 3 times daily I think of those athletes!

The best thing about the Olympics for me was that I had a break from the agony of Iraq, Darfur, Congo/Rwanda/Burundi - and George Bush! I couldn't believe it when a commentator said the UN would not agree to give the Sudanese government a hard time because China, Russia and France had oil interests there. It's very easy to lump the UN with national governments. All their decisions have to be made with nearly 200 countries voting, all with their own interests. In spite of its weakness, I'd hate for it not to be there.

Botswana has elections in October. The same party has ruled since 1966 Independence, and will almost certainly win again. The opposition is very weak - great shame. Ian is still vice president.

You may remember that I said Botswana has Digital T.V. from South Africa. New programmes are being added almost monthly. The most recent is the History Channel. Half the programmes are about war, but there are good biographies. There are over 60 channels, but I watch probably 30, as I don't speak Chinese, Portuguese, nor Afrikaans. Several are kid's cartoons. There are 6 regular sports channel; at the Olympics there were 8 extra. It seems incredible, but some evenings there is nothing I want to watch. Fortunately we have 20 music channels, so I enjoy opera or symphonic. We have BBC World News, CNN, Sky and Africa News. So I keep up with main news.

The family are all fine. Ian went to the Olympics for a few days and stayed in Queen Mary II - I envied him! The twins continue to flourish in business, and Jackie is still working at the University. We all meet for lunch at Ian's house on special occasions.

P.S.D

28 Nov 90

Many thanks for yours of 7th. I wonder if you visited S. Africa in October

DW

I quote from your letter "I started getting a monthly pension from Ford ---- it will not be enough to cover my expenses (about 3/4) ---- so I must go on working ---- & keep saving madly" I do hope to visit my favourite places in Gauteng in late October & possibly again in Feb 2005"

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E mail: wcaafrika@rcn.com

29<sup>th</sup> November 2004

Dear Muriel,

Thanks for your Christmas message and card received yesterday. Glad you were able to visit Mauritius. I keep hoping to but never do so.

I did visit South Africa in early November and darn it, I did not have your current address nor current phone number to even contact you! When I arrived, I had three days with a Malawian guy (not Alex) to help cook and protect. I stayed at my favorite camp near Brits and hated to leave. For better or worse an American friend from Iowa flew end and I reluctantly gave in a drove from Pretoria to Cape Town. The latter was wonderful but as I feared the drive did tire me terribly! Nonetheless C.T. is always a joy to visit and I finally took the boat out to Robben Island, a somber experience that everyone who has been in southern Africa for many years should see. Anyway sorry we could not even talk, let alone meet.

I planned my trip so that I could vote and leave for South Africa on election day. Thus, I heard the terrible news about Bush winning again when I reached South Africa! Interesting to see the political satirist's comments throughout South Africa. I fear the worst here. We shall see!

I reached home okay and the weather here is a cold drab gray, not uncommon in NYC in November with temperatures ranging from highs up to 14/15°C and lows down to 0°C or even -1 or -2°C and it only gets (much) worse until March!

As I mentioned in my previous letter, I reached 65 in March and got my social security. Sort of nice! Gives me \$1416 a month (mostly tax free) and if I continue working, it will go up considerably. Equally nice, NYC gives seniors half price on subways and buses, so I zip around everywhere for less than \$30 a month. Hard to beat especially when most friends throughout the country have a car to keep up with expensive insurance, etc.

As of this Thanksgiving (last Thursday), I started a three day week (60%) rather than make a full break towards retirement. This will probably be my last job and it has been most exciting this year with my work on children's mental health.

The children's mental health awareness manual has been a **huge success**. In August the top three world mental health bodies for children and adolescents approved it for all WHO countries of the (whole) world! It is currently being translated into not only the languages used by the WHO (English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese), but also into Hebrew, Portuguese and Armenian.

The Awareness Manual is still not ready for general use, but our website at Columbia University has a downloadable English version at [www.childepi.org/awareness/](http://www.childepi.org/awareness/). It is about 80 pages long. Do try to review it when you visit a friend who uses the Internet (or the public library). If you can't, I'll send you a few sample pages. Let me know.

29<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>04</sup>.

Am thinking about returning for another holiday to South Africa at the end of February or early March for a fortnight. If so, I will probably simply stay at my favorite camp near Brits. Whether I can make the drive on to say "hi" to you, I don't know. Will keep you posted if this dream can become a reality.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Much love,

David Wilkin