

**2010**

Gaborone

5<sup>th</sup> May 2010

My dear David,

I have meant to write to you plenty of times since you left -- as I get older I put things off more!

Many thanks for your phone call. I'm so glad that your health is so much better.

I suppose you're still working. I don't know what I'd do if I had to stay at home every day. Even tho' the Methodist Church is so inefficient and the people drive me mad!

I hardly ever see Fred, he's so busy. I know he's going away in a week or 2, so I'll give him a call. He and Sue took me out to lunch 2-3 weeks ago.

Our weather is unbelievable. Up to this year, it got hot in October and stayed that way without interruption until March--April. In the last few months it has changed every few days, and one never knows what to expect. I feel the cold more and more, and my new flat is freezing. I had a modern heater installed -- part heater, part air conditioner, but our electricity has just gone up 30%.

I've had a good time lately, as I had cousins visiting for 3 weeks. They are the only relatives I know about in England -- my father's brother's son.

Ian took us for a weekend to an island he owns in the Okavango river near Shakawe -- close to the Namibian border. We went on the river 3 times, and local friends visited. Of course we flew there.

Then he invited us to the pans in the n.e.(?) of Botswana, where he and friends visit 4 times a year to go quad cycling. He and Tony (brother) have built houses there, kitchen, dining-room, and a lookout. I went on the back of Tony's wife's quad-bike, it was lovely. My cousins were delayed here for a week due to the volcano ash. They stayed with Ian at State House, getting into that place with tight security is a challenge!

You have had your share of drama, with oil in the Gulf of Mexico and the Times Square drama. World news is so depressing -- Greece, Sudan, world economy, pirates.

Cheerio and all the best. Keep well.

Love,

Muriel

Box 46515 Gabarone.

May 5, 2010.

My dear David,

I have ~~meant~~ to write to you plenty  
of times since you ~~left~~ - as I get  
~~older~~ I put things off more!

Many thanks for your phone call.  
I'm so glad that your ~~health~~ is  
so much better.

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a modern heater installed - part  
heater, part air conditioner, which





**Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: late 2006 — 2015**

Gaborone

31<sup>st</sup> July 2010

My dear David,

I received these photos from the British High Commissioner (Ambassador) this week of Prince Harry and me! I apologized to him for not standing as I had a bad back, and he said that he also had one and had been standing for too long -- so he knelt at my feet! We talked for about 10 minutes, mostly about the same Park at Mokolodi. He was due to visit there next day for lunch, and a visit to the Education Centre. His elder brother William was due the next day -- they never travel together. They went to the World Cup in S.A.

Thanks for your phone call last week. I must say that America is attracting all the news these days - oil, Obama's declining support (shame) and the Clinton wedding -- and the Arizona racial laws! Is Obama really losing popularity? At least in America -- not in Africa!

Cheerio and all the best,

Love

Muriel

P.S. The photos were taken by the British press!

Box 46515  
Coburne  
31-7-10<sup>r</sup>  
Received on Apr 10

My dear David,  
I received these photos  
from the British High  
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and the Arizona racial laws.  
<sup>IS</sup> Obama really <sup>LOSING</sup> losing popularity?  
At least in America — not  
in Africa!

Cheerio & all the best,

Love Shirley

PS The photos were taken  
by the British Press!

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**Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: late 2006 — 2015**

Gaborone

7<sup>th</sup> December 2010

[Addendum to her December 2010 Xmas letter]

No decent Xmas cards in Gabs.

Our postage doubled recently so I'm asking some friends to post one letter for me. Awful cheek. Thanks a lot.

Will you be coming next year?

Best wishes.

Love

Muriel

[Addendum continued on back of page]

I think you had heavy snow, too?

I really do enjoy your phone calls. I hope you're keeping well. Have you stopped work completely?

I haven't heard from Fred for ages. I've tried phoning many times, but his cell phone just rings with high-pitched sounds. I don't know if he's away, or if his cellphone doesn't work.

P.O. Box 46515  
Gaborone  
BOTSWANA  
Tel: +267 3957800 (H)

December 2010

7<sup>th</sup>

No decal  
I was cards  
in Gabs.

My dear friends, David,

Rather late than usual, I am writing my Christmas letter. That is because 2 months ago I suddenly got awful stomach pains, I felt utterly lousy. I was off work for a week. Before that I had been planning a holiday in Mozambique, where I visited 2 years ago. I decided that I couldn't go alone, so invited my masseuse to come. If I had postponed this holiday I would have had to pay 10% cancellation fee, so I decided it would do no good. I decided that I had a virus. Well I had some good days - no pain or feeling of the weakness, and 2 others I spent in bed. My friend massaged me 2-3 times a day, which was a great help. I managed to swim most days. It was a lovely holiday.

I had gone to the doctor, who gave me antibiotics, which did nothing. I went back to her after my return and she referred me to a stomach specialist. He found nothing, referred me to another, who also found nothing. Then to have a special X-ray, and it turned out I had arteriosclerosis. That should not have made me so tired and lifeless, so I had more blood tests and found I have anaemia. No doubt my body has passed it's sell by date!! The worst thing is that I don't feel like swimming, which I love. Before all this, the President of Zambia,

Rupiah Banda visited here. Ian had met him briefly twice, and each time Mr Banda asked for me! I had known him in the 1960's leading up to Independence and we met occasionally at state functions often. So Ian invited me to a dinner with 10 from each country, I realised afterwards that he and I were the only 2 who knew each other from the different countries.

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I'm asking some friends to post  
me letter for me. Awful cheek.  
Thanks a lot.  
Will you be coming next year?  
Best wishes love

[7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010]

So we monopolised the conversation most of the time. He is actually a rather weak president, and at 74 should step down! But it was fun meeting him. As I mentioned last time, I got fewer and fewer letters. Most friends did not answer my June letter.

Have a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2011.

By the way, I have really enjoyed watching tennis this year.

Cheerio,

Love,

Muriel

Muriel

P.S. This week I have been watching Sky News with all the disruption caused by the snow. I must admit I just can't imagine the UK being so affected. Even during my 4 years in Geneva I never experienced anything similar. I am surprised at all the drivers getting stuck when many of them probably didn't go out. Apparently the government appealed to people to only go out if it was necessary.

I think you had heavy snow too?  
I don't usually watch Sky News as I find it so trivial. But this year I have watched the Pope's visit to the UK covered in full - I wonder why? Then I watched the 3 party conventions. So the snow coverage made it 3 times. Our weather is quite hot - over 30° - but we have more than usual 3 - 4 day cold days.

I really do enjoy your phone calls.  
I hope you're keeping well. Have you stopped work completely?  
I haven't heard from Fred for ages. I've <sup>TRIED</sup> ~~tried~~ phoning many times, but his cell phone just rings with high-pitched sounds. I don't know if he's away, or if his cell phone doesn't work.

**2011**

[5 Aug 2011]

Gaborone

[Addendum – at end of page 2]

I hope you're well. I see that you have a heatwave, please send it here!

I can't believe the news from Washington and the and the brinkmanship. It has affected the whole world economy. Poor Obama, I wonder if he'll get a 2nd term. I wonder if he had any idea that the things could be so bad.

[new m/s addendum pages]

You heard about the royal wedding of William and Kate. I actually saw some TV shots from CNN. And the publicity over their visit to Canada and L. A.. Well the BBC decided to give 4 programmes on unusual royal weddings -- Edward 8 and Mrs. Simpson; the Duke of Monte Carlo and his U.S. film star bride; Charles and Diana -- and Ruth & Seretse.

I was interviewed by a local man, the photographer came from Jo'burg. In spite of promises, and me calling him daily, he never told me when it was on, so I didn't see it. But I heard it on my shortwave radio twice. I would love to see the DVD.

I'm hoping to see the film "King's Speech (?)" soon. It never came here, but I received the DVD from a friend. Have you seen it?

We don't get many good films here, and the ones on TV are pretty awful and repetitive. "Gone with the Wind" is on regularly!

Cheerio, all the best, thanks for the phone calls,

Fred is back, but I haven't seen him.

Love

Muriel

Talked on phone on 9/1/11

PO Box 46515  
Gaborone

July 2011

5 Aug

My Dear Friends,

David

It has been an effort to write this letter. Age is finally catching up on me, and I have slowed down a lot.

I last wrote in November. We had our usual family Christmas in Serowe, with 15 and 2 small kids. Marcus and Julie had their 2<sup>nd</sup> on 1<sup>st</sup> November, the day after my birthday. Their 3 year old is very active and entertaining.

I must tell you about Ian. Good positive news never makes the headlines. Most weekends and sometimes midweek, he visits a village and speaks to the people, hears their complaints and often has cabinet ministers with him. I always see this on TV. As Botswana only has about 6 towns, most of the country consists of Villages. He speaks Setswana very well. In addition, he has started several schemes to help poor and unemployed people and the youth.

Ian and the Twins hate overdrinking! So he has levied alcohol sales and set up a fund which is now approximately £200,000, which goes to the youth and his unemployment schemes.

I don't think that any country outside Botswana knows about this.

We had a 2 months government strike recently, the first ever. Opposition took advantage and it affected schools, hospitals among others. When I was working professionally people never belonged to trade unions. And I wonder about doctor professional oaths. They wanted huge salary increases, but like all the other countries, we are struggling. We depend so much on diamonds.

America was the biggest buyer and one month in 2009 we didn't sell any diamonds. For the first time in 40 years we had to borrow money.

So the government-led by Ian- is trying hard to start other industries. The trouble is South Africa! Their population is about 55 million - (ours is under 2 million) and they have many industries, with which we cannot compete.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, a public holiday, I found myself around 5am collapsed on the floor by my bed. I must have been to the toilet, but I can't remember anything. Next day I could hardly move- my lower back was so painful I couldn't walk nor sit down. My left shoulder and left ribs were very sore, but worst of all my eyes were- and still are- very blurred. So my whole life has changed. I just can't work on figures, and feel tired most of the time. So I have resigned as Church Circuit Treasurer, but I am still trying to work while they look for another Treasurer. Everything here works at a snails pace!

15 Aug 2017  
p 2

I have had no luck with my specialist doctors. The surgeon who gave me a new hip collapsed with a very rare disease, which he had 20 years ago and took months to recover. During this time, my heart specialist, who is originally Indian, from Zimbabwe, was struck off the register because of jealousy of a local doctor. He is the best doctor I've ever had. He comes to the house, takes me to his surgery, and brings me soup! He has appealed and as everything takes ages here, he won't know for weeks. His family moved to England, and he has excellent references.

I could go on forever! But won't bore you. I know that other friends are also suffering. I still go to my book club because I enjoy my friends, but reading is difficult. I still go to my lunch club every fortnight. I was angry to miss the film "Kings Speech" but just yesterday I received a D.V.D from friends in UK. I saw on TV several good reviews. We don't get many good films here.

I feel the cold more and more, but several friends who have been here for a long time all say it is the coldest winter they can remember. And that's over 20 years. So my Arthritis is much worse. My flat only gets the sun in half the kitchen, so I spend most of the time there having breakfast and lunch, and where I am writing now. The rest is like a refrigerator. Houses in this part of Africa are built to keep cool in hot water.

Still compared to many parts of the world, we are well off - no hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts. We don't have much rain - there is quite a big desert here - but it does still come.

And we don't grow much; everything I buy comes from South Africa.

I get fewer and fewer letters, because everyone uses E-Mail these days. But please write occasionally.

I hope you're well. I see that you have a heatwave, please send it here!

Best Wishes,

I can't believe the news from Love, Muriel Washington of the brinkmanship. It has affected the whole world economy. Poor Obama, I wonder if he'll get a 2nd term. I wonder if he had any idea that

3 [5 Aug 2011]

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4 [5 Aug 2011]

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15 Aug 2011

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Have you seen it?  
We don't get many good  
films here, & the ones on  
TV are pretty awful &  
repetitive. "Come with the  
Word" is on regularly!

Cheers, see the best,

Thanks for the phone call,

Love  
Cheryl

And I  
I haven't  
seen  
him

**Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: late 2006 — 2015**

Gaborone

Date: 11-12-11

I regularly do enjoy your phone calls. You told me, but I've forgotten where you will spend Christmas. I'm going to Serowe as usual -- I've been every year since 1960, when I arrived in Kitwe in Feb 60.

I'm gradually improving, thanks to pills. But my eyes are very blurred, and I get tired -- but less and less. I've had a hectic week. Early Christmas dinner at Canadian friends (12 of us). Another one at the widower of a friend whose wife died of cancer 2 years ago, and it was her birthday -- (and Ruth's). This time 18, and we ate in the garden. Lastly, a concert at the local private sec. school concert hall, which was very lively. Up till then I hadn't been out in the evening for a month,

Cheerio, all the best,

Love

Muriel

5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

P. O. Box 46515

Gaborone

Botswana

My Dear friends,

*David*

11-12-11

A belated happy Christmas. And best wishes for 2012 I am very late this year and finding Christmas cards is a problem, a friend bought me some, but I don't like them much.

Quite suddenly a few words ago something happened to me that has changed my life. And I don't know what it is. The doctor seems uncertain too. My eyes have become blurred so I can't see figures I am always tired, and I ache all over. I am making myself do as much as I can't I find everything a big effort. So I can't do any accounts work and reading is difficult.

I started driving again mainly on back quiet needs. But soon my driving license will finish and will never get a new one. I am has lent we a driver from his group who is a great help with shopping or a few other things but he doesn't work at weekends.

I think this is enough of my troubles. I was 89 recently is I suppose it's inevitable. So I haven't done much! I did enjoy my birthday. I took some friends to lunch the office took me out to lunch. And we had the usual family lunch at State House, delayed because Ian was at the Commonwealth Conference in Perth Australia.

The army here has a sports day, including climbing over bars over water and moving along wires. Ian won easily, his so fit. He also visited farmers and drove their Tractors. I still belong do my book club. As books are so expensive, we look for alternates. Sometimes we give our life history, on my turn we watched "The Kings Speech" and discussed it. I'm so glad I saw this film, it really was excellent.

I am still an ardent tennis lover. I was delighted and amazed at how easily Federer won the top 8 men's final. But there are so many good young men coming on that I really don't think he will go far in 2012. But I have written him off before and he always bounces back.

I also like golf partly because the courses are so beautiful. I thank heaven for sport because the world news is so utterly depressing. I watch BBC and Al Jazeera and South African news station but I wonder why?

Cheers for now, I hope I'm more cheerful next time.

Thanks

*Muriel*

Muriel

PS I had a brain scan and heart check- up and there were no problem.

P 50

I really do enjoy your <sup>[11-12-10]</sup> phone calls.

You told me but I've forgotten where you will spend Christmas.

I'm going to Scrone as usual — I've been every year since 1960, when I arrived in Kildare in Feb 60.

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Christmas dinner at Canadian friends (12 of us). Another one at the widower of a friend whose wife died of cancer 2 yrs ago, & it was her birthday — (and Ruth's). This time 18, & we ate in the garden. Justly a concert at

the local private sec. school concert hall, which was very lively. Up till then I hadn't been out in the evening for a month.

Cheers, all the best,

**2012**

Gaborone

23 Feb 2012

My dear David,

It was lovely speaking to you on Monday. Especially as I was feeling slightly depressed.

On Saturday night I bumped my head (how? I'm clumsy) and on Monday morning I woke with a huge black eye! It didn't hurt, but I couldn't see to read or help at the church, or drive. So I was bored! I went to the doctor and I've been putting ice packs every hour or two, and even ARNICA pills for bruising. Today it's much better -- mid brown instead of black, and less swollen.

This week our temperature has been up to 35 degrees! I haven't swam as I didn't want to move my head, but today I'm going.

This weekend the political party started by Seretse BDP will be 50 years -- big celebrations. It's the only party that's been in power, but the opposition is very divided. A country needs a strong opposition.

Then on Monday Ian will be 59.

Cheerio, thanks for calling,

Love

Muriel

Box 46515 Gabarone  
23 Feb '12

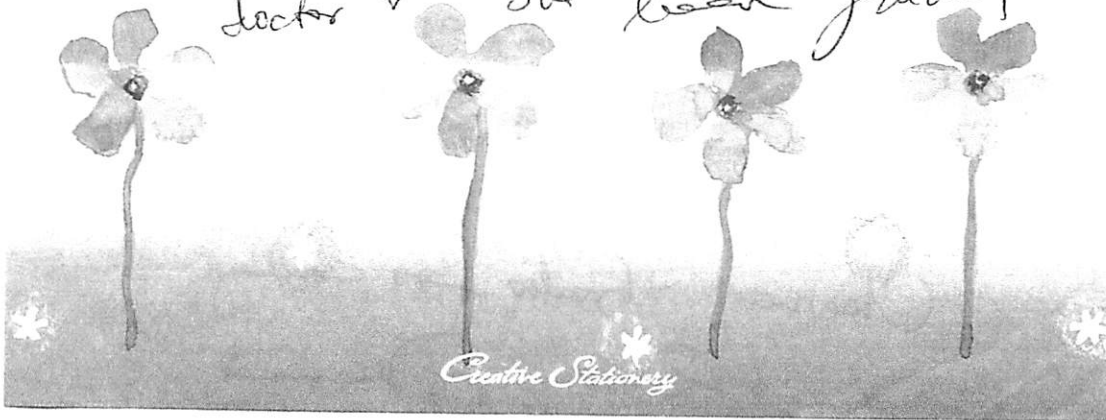
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Cheerio, thanks for calling,  
Love David



**Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: late 2006 — 2015**

Gaborone

[Note that we spoke on the phone on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012]

4<sup>th</sup> August 2012

[Long addendum to form letter]

Excuse lousy typing!

I really enjoy your phone calls. They must cost you a fortune!

Right now all the news -- BBC, CNN .... .. are dominated by the Olympics. I love sport, but I find this boring! Too many sports too close. So far I've enjoyed the women's triathlon and gymnastics.

I still get invitations to go out. Last night it was to the 80th birthday dinner of Ms Masire (?) -- her husband was the 2nd President of Botswana. It was in a big hall -- 250 guests! Several I know.

Seretse's grandfather Khama III was converted by David Livingstone and built a huge LMS Congregational Church in Serowe 100 years ago. I'd love to have gone to the celebrations, but I couldn't handle 3 1/2 hours being driven each way, plus at least 3 hours on the hard pews!

All the best, cheerio, love

Muriel

I haven't seen Fred and Sue lately.

Received  
Spoke on 8/18/12  
12:36

P. O. Box 46515  
Gaborone  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2012  
Telephone 3975800

4/8

Dear Friend,

David

This is our winter it goes between 0 and 7 at night, and 16 and 25 in the afternoons. This is typical desert weather. As you know I watch TV news 2.3 times a day, so I've seen the floods in UK and parts of America, Japan and Australia. I've seen the bush fires in USA and Australia so here we are very lucky. I'll get the depressing news over first. Since last September my overall body pains have increase largely. My eyes are getting worse, and I get easily depressed. My sciatica plains are much worse just the last week. I don't know why people are afraid of death. I hope every night that I will die in my sleep. I've had a fantastic life, and I hate living with so much pain and not able to do what I would like. To be more positive I know I have to keep going I am so lucky being invited to state dinners, where I have recently met Zambian President Michael Sata (n) who I knew in the 60's in Kitwe as an improve shed ex-guard on British Railways. Now a multi millionaire only one way 3/100 corruption he won the election because the incumbent was so UN popular. I've attended lunches for President Sirleaf-Johnson of Liberia and President of Namibia. My friends who started the local Mokolodi Game Reserve, where I worked for 6 years invite me to their big lunches. Ian is a lawyer and was Seretse's lawyer in the 60's and 70's. Ian is now chairman of the Appeals Courts, the judges come from all over the world, and there are a couple from Jamaica and Scotland, who I particularly like.

I have given up being Synod treasurer I can't see figures or any close reading, I go 3 times a week to help count the different church collections, and helps where I can. I can't bear to stay in this flat alone for long. I still belong to 2 groups, The reading club meets monthly and this I can't read much I enjoy the discussion. Then 6 -8 of us meet twice a month for lunch a different restaurant chosen by the person paying. I look forward to those get together. We are very lucky in having a lovely theatre - hall for concerts and plays on local talent is very good, and there are activities every month or 2 last weeks I saw Joseph and his multi-coloured dream "coat", with Ian ! It was so good I saw it twice. We have 2 excellent local choirs and one group did a translated version (Setswana) of "Cavallara Rusticana". Which I also saw twice <sup>30</sup> My 3<sup>rd</sup> great nephew was 21 recently. So of course there was a family birthday party. His father is one of the twins.

This week I met a former Minister (Scottish) from my days in Kitwe we last met over 30 years ago he now works in Zimbabwe. I was delighted to hear just today that a South African woman government Minister Dlamini -Zuma has been elected head of the African Union. There has never been a woman, or anyone from Southern Africa. I have really enjoyed writing this letter but I don't know if I can write many more. I think of you all, watching news reading books talking generally. I can't cope modern technology so don't cope with e-mail, Computers, all kinds of "pads" I know most of you don't have any more surface mail, so I appreciate getting letters. As my young cat has sheered my chairs and is playing with my hand as I write, it is time to say goodbye. Oh yes I also love phone calls from New York (David) Australia Canada and England several friends I have cellphone which I use for in and out calls nothing else 76015717. Cheers love Muriel

PS I just loved the Diamond Jubilee celebrative and I look forward do the Olympics and I just love my tennis rain allowing.

Love Muriel

Etane lovey typry!

I really enjoy your phone calls.  
They must cost you a fortune! [4/8/2012]

Right now all the news - BBC, CNN, sky, etc are dominated by the Olympics. I love sport, but I find this boring! Too many sports too close. So far I've enjoyed the women's triathlon & gymnastics.

I also rec'd invitations to go out last night it was to the 80th birthday dinner of Ms. Tshire - her husband was the 2nd President of Botswana so was in a big hall - 250 seats!

Several I know.

Sasha's grandfather Khama III was converted by David Livingstone & built

a huge LMS - Congregational church in

Seerone 100 years ago. I'd love to have

gone to the celebrations, but I couldn't

handle 3 1/2 hrs <sup>being driven</sup> ~~driving~~ each way, plus

at least 3 hours on the hard pans!

All the best, cheerio, love A



**Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: late 2006 — 2015**

Gaborone

November 2012

[Addendums to form letter]

[Regarding her comment in the form letter about Obama, she added "but I hate his friendship with Israel.]

Then at the end of the form letter she adds: I just love your phone calls.

I hope you survived the latest freeze! We had our first real rain here in Gabs this week. It's been up to 39 degrees this week!

I hope to see the film "Life of P", next month. The book. is excellent. Not many good films come here.

Cheerio and all the best

Love

Muriel

P. O. Box 46515  
Gaborone  
Botswana

215 November 2012

My dear friend,

David

I shall begin by wishing you all the best. I sent 34 letters in July and had 10 answers. Disappointing!

I've had a hectic <sup>week</sup> before and after my birthday. 7 meals to celebrate! The first was 2 weeks early because Sarah was off to England the next day. We were 12 and 4 of us had October birthdays!

The next was a lunch for 10, interestingly I hadn't met 4 of them before. Then 2 evening meals ~~for~~ were much nicer

Jackie had ~~to~~ lunch on my birthday, we were 6, and 2 of the friends I first met in Zambia 30 years ago! quite a few people went from Zambia to come here.

The big family party was on the Sunday after, as Ian is too busy during the week. I hate the formality of State House, so we went to Ruth's former home where Tony (twin) and Margret recently moved, 25 km from the center here, there is a lovely little building in the garden, it was hot over 30 degrees and the garden is quite big.

There were 12 family and 8 friends. And they all typical of my life<sup>2</sup> Sri Lankans one American, one Indian, 1 British 1 Zimbabwean one Caribbean /British and one Zambian. As we all sat at ~~my~~ 2 tables, I persuaded Ian to leave the family to join my table, so I could be with the family. It was all very relaxed and friendly; sometimes my nephews only talk about their motor - bikes. friends enjoyed Ian's company.  
my

The last ~~lunch~~ was with church friends, I've worked as a volunteer for over 8 years at the church. ~~They talking~~, so I've decided not to go, as they kept changing  
So life is <sup>now</sup> quieter and boring! I had about 20 phone calls, including Canada. America England and South Africa. Also several family and friends called to see me.

L 11/2012

So you see I'm trying to adjust to normality now one week later, I'm celebrating Barak Obama's re-election. I'm continually surprised at how modern technology fails. How did the polls get it so wrong. I couldn't help comparing the speeches family participation. and huge crowds with the British elections. People criticize Obama; but ignore the world economic situation. How of Reps, prevents much of Obama's plans.

But I love his <sup>House</sup> friendship with Israel.

I am continuing to slow down CORTISONE injections to ease pain don't help me, and my eyes are getting gradually worse. I help at church on Mondays to count various collections, and on Friday just to get out and help a little.

wind Compared to most of the world, our weather is good but instead of a hot sunny October our weather has changed every few days and there has been lots of mind. Most unusual 2 year draught has caused problems.

I started swimming this week, but after two days of 30 degrees it suddenly turned cold (26 degrees) the water has cooled.

Cheers all the best for Christmas and New Year.

Oh yes I meant to apologise for the dreary Christmas cards, somebody made them for me but didn't do what I asked. The wish is there not carried out.

Love  
Muriel

I just love your phone calls.

I hope you survived the latest freeze! We had our 1st real rain here in Gabs this week. It's been up to 39° here this week!

I hope to see the film "Life of Pi" next month. The book is excellent. Not many good films come here.

Cheers & all the best

Love Muriel

**2013**



**Muriel and David's manuscript letters retyped: late 2006 — 2015**

Gaborone

9/20/13

[Addendum to Sept. 2013 form letter]

I really do enjoy your regular phone calls. I hope you're well.

My arthritis gets worse, and my eyes are very blurred, but I keep going.

I have a few very good friends, whom I see more often than the family.

During the cold months my church is like a refrigerator, so I haven't been for 3 months. But suddenly it's turned warmer, even hot. So I'm now going again. Our TV only has ultra-evangelical church services which is disappointing. In Zambia ZTV used to go to all churches, different every week.

I see Fred occasionally, but he's very busy. And the 2 girls they adopted don't have good or full jobs even tho' having good degrees. -- And both have illegitimate children.

The only Zambian news is about the soccer team(s). The copper price isn't so good so they have less money.

The S. African govt. is very weak, and Zuma even worse. They are always having strikes. If Mandela was aware he would be horrified. After 3 months in hospital he recently was transferred to his Jo'burg home, turned into an intensive care ward, with the same doctors and nurses. He is still critical and on the edge. He's not living, just existing. There is a new Canadian film about his life.

Cheerio for now -- I hope you can read this awful writing.

Love

Muriel

received  
9/26/13

P. O. Box 46515  
Gaborone

Sep

~~26~~ August 2013

My dear Friends, David

Yes I am still alive but only just I need a new body unfortunately that's not possible. Ian has given me the use of a driver, and I like to go out most mornings counting cash at Church from Sunday services, massage, and hairdresser and shopping. I sleep every afternoon, go out to lunch once or twice a week, and most Sundays. I love my T.V. in the evening's sports is the main, viewing then travel and news. My eyes are giving up quite fast, so I can't read. That's enough about me.

I'm sure that some of my friends know what I am talking about I haven't been away from 2.3 years, except to Serowe at Christmas, on Ian's helicopter. Ian keeps very busy the visits remote villages weekends, once a month different government departments spend a day doing physical work of gardening, building repairing, for less fortunate people. Although 60, he is very fit and plays soccer and goes on 3 hour cycle rides.

We meet at family birthdays, 15 of us now Jackie's elder son Dale got engaged recently to an America doctor. I belong to 2 clubs 6-8 of us meet every 2 weeks for lunch, and the book club meets monthly. Although I can't read I still like to go. I don't know if I will be writing again. I would just love to hear from you.

As I have said, all modern technology is not for me I realize that few people send letters by post but please make an exception for me. We have had other African President visiting here. The President of Southern Sudan came WHY? And President Joyce Banda of Malawi second African woman President. President Jacob Zuma of South Africa pops in and out.

Our weather is as changeable as the rest of the world fortunately no earthquakes, hurricanes nor floods. But we are in the midst of a horrible drought which of course is normal for Botswana.

We have had electricity units, but the lack of water is much worse.

Cheers for now best wishes stay well.

Love

Love Muriel

Muriel Sanderson  
267 3975800

I really do enjoy your  
regular phone calls.  
I hope you're well

My arthritis gets worse [9/20/3]  
[LW]

and my eyes are very  
blurred, but I keep going.

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friends, who I see more  
often than the family.

During the cold months  
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Our TV only has ultra  
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 The copper price is not so good  
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The S. African govt is  
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 even worse. They are  
 always having strikes.

If Claudia was [9/20/13, p25] sure he would be horrified. After 3 months in hospital he

recently was transferred to his

with an intensive care doctor with the same doctors and nurses. He is still critical

and on the edge. Just sitting. There is a new Canadian film about his life. I hope

you can read this. I hope

about his life. I hope you can read this. I hope

**2014**

[My note at top says that I had sent her a card on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and called.]

Gaborone

7 [16] July 2014 form letter

Addendum -- P. S.

I mentioned to Ian that I'd never see the sea again, so he organised for his nephew Dale and new wife to take me to Cape Town for 3 days. It was lovely and warm and sunny. Here we have 2 direct flights weekly.

We visited the usual tourist spots, me in a wheel chair. The weather was lovely, sunny, warm and clear. I just love the views from the top of Table Mountains . My 3rd visit.

The botanical gardens have a golf-type car to take old people.

[continuation]

I love getting letters from friends , but often have to ask a friend to read it to me.! Including [unclear words]. . . ask a friend to read it to me. And as my short-term memory is almost gone, I can't comment on your news.

However, I love getting your frequent phone calls -- to keep it up!.

I see your weather is still very mixed.

Love

Muriel

Note: This form letter and above addendum was the last letter that I seem to have received from Muriel. We did, however, talk every fortnight to six weeks until her passing in mid-2015

Set  
8/23/11  
New Car

P. Box 46515  
Gaborone

16

7 July 2014

My dear Friends,

David

My writing is so bad I hope the church secretary who is typing this for me can read it. Since I last wrote my eyes have got much worse, and my arthritis, and now I also have sciatica. I can't read so I got friends to read for me.

I feel that life is not with living as I can't do the things I want swimming, driving and walking reading its even difficult to see the tennis ball on TV right now I'm enjoying Wimbledon. My church friends have bought me a wheelchair for when we go our lunch, church or occasional shopping. I try to go our every morning counting church collection and then preparing banking. Massage, hair dresser and shopping I sit in the car while the driver.

Ian has shared with me takes it and then brings me the invoice to sign. They know us both very well in the shop I attend I go out to lunch most Sunday, I hardly go to church because the English service starts at 8:30 which is too early for me sometimes my friends take me to another church Open Baptist. But I do attend Bible Study on Sunday afternoon.

Ian is busier than ever visiting remote villages all over the country. Recently the cabinet played football against permanent secretaries; Ian captained his team and scored the 2 goals which enabled them to win. He visits his 3 houses around the country most weekends and while that he also visits local villages my great nephew Anthony now had a BA in Psychology and is doing 1 year voluntary work at a local mental hospital. His younger brother is preparing to go into the army.

The other twins two children are (1) setting up his own diamond agency, and (2) preparing for University to study design. Jackie's 2 sons are much older 34 and 39 Marcus has 2 kids the younger is manager of a Dale, the elder got married last month to an American doctor working here. It was a lovely wedding in a field owned by his uncle on the out skirts of Gaborone he has his own company but I don't know what he does!

One of the twins is now a Cabinet Minister in Tourism and Wildlife.

I don't travel any more except to Serowe for Christmas, but I doubt if I will make it this year I still attend the book club ever this I can't read. I find the discussions interesting; I also still go to the fortnightly lunch club.

PS I mentioned to Ian that I  
never see the sea again, so he  
organised for his nephews Dale + new  
wife to take me to Cape Town for 3 days  
a name was lovely - warm + sunny -  
direct flights weekly



7 July 2014

could

Team Cape

We visited the water fountain

me in a school chair. The weather was lovely

warm and clear.

During the visit we

from the top of the mountain

my first visit.

The botanical gardens have

a golf course to take

and people.

7 July 2014

My main friends are the Chaudlers English and Zimbabwean they working in IT and they have a house in England they like working here and then it's their home. Sri Lankans, he was head partner of Price Waterhouse now retired heading a Finance Committee to advise government. Then there is many a School Teacher at the primary school where most of my family went 3 generations lastly mike, who is a lastly, a roads expert from Jamaica who works for himself and most jobs from sometimes S. America and the South Seas the trails a lot obviously. I was friendly with his wife Jane who died of cancer 2 years ago.

I keep saying that this will be my last letter so will not say it this time I love getting letters even this they have been reduced by modern technology, which I don't understand I only have a cell phone, I only know how to make and receive calls. Cheers for now, and please continue to write keep as well as possible.

Love  
Muriel

Handwritten notes on the right margin: "Jane", "Muriel", "XLS", "10/10/14", "10/10/14"

I love getting letters  
friends but often have to  
ask a friend to read it to me in memory  
find as my short-term

I can't comment  
almost gone,

you miss love getting

you frequent phone calls -

keep it up!

I see you  
milked -

Handwritten notes on the left margin: "Muriel", "10/10/14", "10/10/14"

**2015**

**Muriel Sanderson neé Williams**  
**b. 31 Oct. 1921, d. 25 June 2015**

[by Fred Merton]

Muriel Sanderson neé Williams is well known as the person who introduced her younger sister Ruth to Seretse Khama at Nutford House, London, in 1947. This famous encounter also led to Muriel's long relationship with the Khama family and Botswana, where she spent the last twenty years of her life.

Apart from her close friends, however few will be aware of Muriel's own remarkable life, especially the one she led after leaving UK in 1960 to join the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF), in Kitwe, on the Zambian copperbelt. The MEF was founded in 1958 to promote African development at a time when many whites in Northern Rhodesia were resisting democracy and favouring the perpetuation of white rule under the Central African Federation. At MEF, African nationalists such as Kenneth Kaunda were taken seriously, supported in their efforts and placed in consultations with whites willing to sit round the table. By the time independence came in 1964, Muriel was a member of Kaunda's United National Independence Party (UNIP). In 1965 she became a Zambian citizen and was elected (unopposed) to the Kitwe city council. The MEF ran courses of many types, and its Women's Centre became the seed-bed of the women's movement in the country. The Young Women's Christian Association of Zambia was born at Mindolo, and Muriel served as national treasurer for 37 years and represented the Zambia YWCA abroad. Muriel was a friend of President Kaunda and many cabinet ministers, national and local office holders. She was also a member of the congregational St. Margaret's church (where she too was treasurer), a member of the United Church of Zambia, and through her church and MEF work a representative at meetings of the All African Council of Churches in Zambia and other countries in Africa.

She served as MEF's Accountant from 1960 to 1976 and, after running a travel agency in Kitwe, returned to the MEF as Financial Controller from 1988 to 1995 (and as Acting Director 1991-1992). Bookish, widely read and travelled, with interests in film, tennis, international politics, theater, gardening, and most of all, swimming, Muriel Sanderson retired in 1995 and relocated to Botswana to live near her sister, niece, nephews and great nephews. From her home in Gaborone she volunteered her accounting and other talents to the Methodist church and other organisations in Gaborone, and is a life member of the Botswana Society. She remained a Zambian citizen.

Over the years Mrs. Sanderson has also been a remarkable observer. Her correspondence, particularly her annual letters to keep her legion of friends informed of her activities, provides much information about the world of which she was a part and many insights into the persons who were shaping it. She wrote fluidly, descriptively, with neat turns of phrase and humourous off-side comments. While in Zambia, Mrs. Sanderson visited Botswana often, and was unique among its witnesses during the early years of independence, because of her closeness to Ruth, Seretse and their family and her detachment from Botswana as a Zambian. She was present at the swearing in of the late Seretse Khama as Prime Minister, the year prior to Botswana's formal independence, when he became our first President. Her description of Gaborone, itself scarcely one year old, is typical of Mrs. Anderson's impeccable eye.

Gaborone has to be seen to be believed. If you think of the old American film of opening up the West, you are getting warm. It is still being built, and when I was there in March, there were no street names, no numbers,

precious few phones, electricity breakdowns every lunch-time and some evenings, and dust, dust everywhere.

Known for her sharp tongue, impatience with flattery and pretense, and honesty, Murial Sanderson died peacefully, in her sleep, age 94.



**METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**Gaborone Methodist Church**

**Funeral service – Mrs Muriel Sanderson**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Hymn 70: The Lord's my Shepherd

Scripture reading: 2 Timothy 4 verses 1 to 8

Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 5 verses 1 to 10

Hymn: How great Thou art.

Message

Hymn 651: God be with you till we meet again

Scripture reading: 1 Thessalonians 4 verses 13 to 18

Announcements:

**BENEDICTION**

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Mrs Muriel Sanderson:      Born: 31<sup>st</sup> October 1921

                                         Taken to Glory: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015