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To my friends and supporters,
Once again, I'm packing my bags for Tanzania! I'll be leaving here on November 30th for a short visit, returning to Sydney on December 16th. On Sunday December 11th I will have opportunity in the morning service at St John's Cathedral Musoma to thank God for his faithfulness over 40 years of ministry in Tanzania as I officially retire from all my responsibilities. Before that, on December 8th I will formally resign from my role as founding principal of the Girls Brigade Sewing Centre since 2010, at our 13th Graduation ceremony. I have continued in this position from Australia over the last three years. Now it is time to hand on the baton to my capable colleagues – Rev Noadia and Matron Christina, ably supported by Accountant Nickson and Secretary Flora.

I had a wonderful welcome when I returned to Bunda in June for 4 weeks, having been grounded in Australia for 2 and a half years. It was a hard thing to explain to my dear friends that I hadn't come back to stay long term and that instead of living in Tanzania and visiting Australia once a year, I would now be living in Australia and visiting Tanzania. It was a big job packing up my house and sorting out all the accumulation of 40 years in Tanzania. The Bunda Bible College (BBC), the Bunda Girls Secondary School (BGSS), the Shalom Pre and Primary School (SPPS) and the Girls Brigade Sewing and Handcraft Centre (GB Centre) were all happy to receive books and teaching resources. I have left the Strawberry Pink Villa and the Peppermint Green Guest House furnished and equipped for the use of the Diocese and also handed over my car. So, when I left with my 2 suitcases and my violin, (other things still in 2 trunks under the stairs waiting for my next visit to be brought back), it was a rather sad farewell.

Of course, I will continue to be in close contact with my community in Tanzania. I am a Director of the Grace and Mercy Foundation which continues to support the building programs at the schools. 2023 should see the final buildings of the BGSS completed – the Physics laboratory, three more staff houses, a Guest house and a Principal's house. The SPPS will reach its full capacity in 2024 with 3 Kindergarten classes and 7 Primary school classes. This year saw the completion of the Administration block, the last classroom block and two dormitories. To be completed in the next two years are the library, more staff houses and the Principal's house.

I continue in the role of coordinating sponsorships for BGSS, SPPS and GB Centre through the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid. I will be visiting regularly, with my next visit planned for April next year. I hope that some of you may even be able to accompany at different times as I visit Tanzania, and so experience first-hand the ministry in our special schools as they continue to grow and develop and change the lives of so many young women.

Some of you received an email from me about supporting Philbia in Tanzania for her heart surgery. When she was 9 years old, she had surgery to replace a valve in her heart. Now she is 23 years old and urgently needed life saving surgery once again. The appeal had an amazing response for which

Philbia and her family are extremely grateful. She has had the surgery and is recovering in hospital and I look forward to seeing her soon.

I hadn't anticipated returning to Australia quite so soon, and it has been a huge transition to find myself learning to live here. In 2020 I acquired my faithful dog Maude, in 2021 I purchased an electric car, and this year 2022, I am in the process of purchasing a new home in Alaya, an over 55's Complex across the road from Mona Vale Anglican Church. While I wait for it to be completed, I am enjoying a rented apartment minutes from Mona Vale beach.

I've been pleasantly surprised to discover that I can do life and ministry in Australia and just how much I am enjoying it, even as my heart remains in Tanzania.

I am officially part of the ministry team at Mona Vale Anglican church, focussing on Pastoral care but also on the roster for preaching, leading services and playing the organ. I co-lead a Home Group, give a devotion at a weekly Coffee Morning and teach Scripture at Mona Vale Public School. Zoom prayer meetings at 8 am every week day are a vital part of our parish life.

Three times a week I go to Arcare Aged Care Facility as Volunteer chaplain, with Maude who has been given her own role of Pet Therapy. I take a church service every Sunday at 2 pm, a Bible Study group on Thursdays and general visiting on Tuesdays.

October 22nd marked 100 years since an ordinance was passed by the Synod of the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican church to allow women to preach in churches. To celebrate that occasion, along with 11 other women, I participated in a preaching marathon which also included a time of lament acknowledging the pain of many women who are unable to exercise this ministry in their churches. On Sunday October 23rd it was a privilege to be one of 20 women who preached Anglican parishes in our diocese .

I'm thankful to God for good health with my remarkable recovery after major 10 hour Whipple Surgery for Pancreatic cancer nearly 3 years ago now. I had an MRI in May and due for another in May 2023. My digestive system is working well with the help of a careful diet and creon tablets.

My extra curricular activities include a Book Club at a local Retirement Village, Auditing a Graduate Certificate Course at Mary Andrews College on Pastoral Care and Mental Health (Zoom lectures each Tuesday afternoon), and have recently joined a ukulele class, aiming to be ready next year to join the Lightly Strung Orchestra (LSO).

I close by wishing you all Peace, Love and Joy as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ this Christmas.

With love and prayers from Helen

Foot note:

I extend grateful thanks on behalf of sponsored students and their families to those of you who have donated to our sponsorship funds through Anglican Aid. If you are in a position to continue to do that please see the details below. And for others, please consider either sponsoring a student or donating a one off gift to our discretionary fund. These sponsorships are changing lives of young women at BGSS and GB Centre, and children at SPPS , who would not otherwise be able to afford this education. At the same time they are learning about Jesus and many coming to faith in him or growing in their faith.

Your gift can be anonymous but if you would like to have it allocated to a particular student and to receive photos, profiles, updates and letters, please allow your details to be shared with a third party (which is me) so that I can co-ordinate that correspondence.

For the **Bunda Girls Secondary School**, the fees remain at \$1,200.00 for Form 1, and \$1,000.00 for Forms 2,3 and 4.

All Donations to be sent to Anglican Aid –

<https://anglicanaid.org.au/projects/bunda-girls-secondary-school/>

For **Shalom Pre and Primary School**, the fees remain at \$500.00 for a day student, while the fees for boarding students are \$1,000.00 (boarding is available for students in Grades 4 and 7)

All Donations to be sent to Anglican Aid –

<https://anglicanaid.org.au/projects/shalom-primary-school/>

For the **Girls Brigade Sewing Centre**, the fees are \$500.00 for one year. A donation for a sewing machine for a graduate is \$250.00.

All Donations to be sent to Anglican Aid –

<https://anglicanaid.org.au/projects/mara-girls-brigade-sewing-centre/>



With sponsored students at BGSS



With sponsored students at SPPS



a sponsored student at GB Centre