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Guest House in Ngozi,  
Buye Diocese

Letter No. 2  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

Dear Family and Friends,

Thank you for your emails. All is well here, except that we have no news of the spectacles. It's not easy trying to be patient, but in actual fact the MU leaders in the diocese have been busy with committee meetings and would not have been able to give me much time.

The M.U. UK is having to cut back drastically on its support to overseas work, which makes it very difficult for the diocesan leaders to carry on with the work - especially visiting the parishes - with no form of public transport. The MU here has started building a house. When it is finished it will be rented out and the income will be available to help those in need - which is their major priority - as well as perhaps to support the leaders in their work. The house was started in 2008!

One morning, a pastor whom Pat taught at Matana several years ago, took me to his parish where 60 women, teenage girls and men were planting eucalyptus saplings. I wasn't as adept as the others planting on the side of a hill, but I planted some! I'm not sure if they will survive as we've had no rain, and they were not watered in. Then we all went into the church for a time of worship. As usual I greeted them and shared my testimony of what being a Christian means to me. This is a parish which is growing, with a dynamic pastor.

There are 3 church plants, but sadly none of the leaders has as yet had any formal Biblical training.

Pat and the students have engaged in the Book of Hebrews. Why does the word 'blood' occur so often? Who was Melchizedek anyway? Following Christ seems to be a hair-raising experience. One student looks thoughtful! Another looks lost! A third yawns like a crocodile!

The 'flavour' of these men comes out as they interact. Apart from two, all have families with as many as 5 children. There is only one bachelor, aged 25, and only one who has completed some years of secondary education. My anxiety about whether this book was too ambitious to tackle is disappearing. These men have come through the inner door and are enjoying what they discover there. They appreciate the non-stop performance of the Levite priests as against the once for all sacrifice of Jesus. "Thank you Lord. Please build the book into their lives."

Six of them will be ordained in July and sent to remote parishes, with little fellowship and untaught people. Please remember them in your prayers.

I've made a summary of each chapter of the Book of Hebrews with questions. This will be photo-copied, so that each student will have it as a resource. Tomorrow they will sit an exam, which I will have to mark!

On Saturday we move on to Musinga diocese which will present new challenges. Please stay with us in prayer.

With our love,

Pat and Pam