

Dear Friends,



Recently we had the joy of a visit from our provincial Superior, Sr Linda Prest from South Africa. Linda agreed to write this letter from Lukulu to share her experience with you.

*“After a meeting in Nairobi, the plane travel, then the 8 hours driving over roads which were ‘not too good’, it was wonderful to arrive safely at Lukulu.*

*One of the first things to be admired was the chaka-chaka tree with its bright red flowers and a yellow flower attached to each group of the red, with the Zambezi river as background.*



*The river was calm and flows by silently that one cannot ever see the movement of it. Since I was last here there are many sand banks visible, yet daily I could see the river claiming back large parts of these banks. One morning the three of us (Pat, Elizabeth and myself) climbed into one of the local boats (dug-out canoe), carved out of a tree trunk, and crossed to the other side of the river. Here we saw small camps of people under the shelter of trees who were collecting their supplies from Lukulu, before leaving with their ox-wagons for their homes much further away on higher ground. When the rains come, these camps will be swallowed up by the ever widening river. We then were paddled up the river, turned around an island, and returned to base on the peaceful and dark river.*





*Elizabeth and Pat have 'opened' a building consortium!! I accompanied Pat to a clinic site where she saw to the building of a four roomed 'hospital' unit. At this centre she was also organising the making of 50 desks for the local school. She has been responsible for four health buildings in total at various out of the way places.*

*I went with Elizabeth on her journey to four of the schools she has been overseeing and paying for by funds from the Norwegian Church Aid, Australian Mary Ward International funds and other donors. All of these schools are in small villages – one of which will be isolated by the overflowing river when the rains arrive. One of the schools is run by a young man with five children of his own. The school has over 100 young pupils. He takes sessions of 1 hour for each class daily. Now he is in possession of some corrugated iron roofing and a large blackboard of which he is so proud! At least he is to receive an assistant teacher soon.*

*To enable these buildings and the necessary equipment to be available, Pat and Elizabeth are very busy!! At every 'store' they are organising the making of furniture, buying baby milk, pencils, exercise books, ingredients for HEPS (a nourishing food supplement for babies and the sick), text books, etc. for HIV programmes, schools, catechetics and Vocation workshops!*

*Over the entrance of the buildings they have constructed they have put up a plaque saying where the funds were from and built in conjunction with the Loreto Sisters - so our name will be remembered by the pupils and the sick who are attended to at these places. So where ever Elizabeth and Pat are trying to meet the basic needs of the local people, we all are!!*



*Thank you to you both for all you are doing for the impoverished people here in Lukulu.”*

*Linda IBVM*