

A Letter from Michelle

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He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

(Isaiah 53:3 NLT)

Dear Friends,

As we approach Easter, I have been preparing to take my turn at leading our morning devotions in the hospital chapel. In my preparation I read the above verse which is part of Isaiah's prophecy of the death of Jesus. On first reading it is a depressing verse, but I find it comfort in it. It is reassuring to know that the Jesus I follow knows and understands what sorrow and grief is like and understands what it is like to feel rejected.

When a child comes to the ward with an illness that we are helpless to treat He understands my pain and grief.

When friends leave Mukinge or I am feeling far from family and friends, scattered around the world He relates to my loneliness.

When loved ones die, He knows how it feels to lose them and grieve.

When nothing is going according to plan and life hurts, He understands.

Now I don't want you to think I am in a bad way and depressed with all these things happening right now! I am just struck by this verse and how no matter what our circumstances and how ever hard it may seem Jesus understands and can relate. It is reassuring to look back and see that not only has God seen me through difficult times over the years, I also know I am serving and praying to a God that knows me and understands my pain.

Since my last letter I have had a change of role, I am taking a break from anaesthesia as we have plenty of help at the moment and I am back working on the children's ward.

I am really enjoying working with children again and also not having to do on call at night. The ward has been busy recently with lots of admissions in particular we have had a lot of children with malnutrition. When a child has reached their target weight, they are given a



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new outfit this is to try and encourage families to stay on the ward for the often long time it takes to help with malnutrition.



Ready for home!

We are anticipating that the number of malnutrition cases will only increase in the coming year as the rains, which should just be finishing, have been very poor. They started well so people who planted crops early have something to harvest but for those who planted later their maize has not grown. This is a country wide problem. When I go out for a bike ride, I cycle past fields of stunted and failed maize crops. It is like we are already well in to the dry season, with dusty dirt roads and paths that are so sandy I have to get off and push.



Dusty roads and failing maize crops

Thank you for your continued interest in the work here at Mukinge.

Happy Easter

Love

Michelle