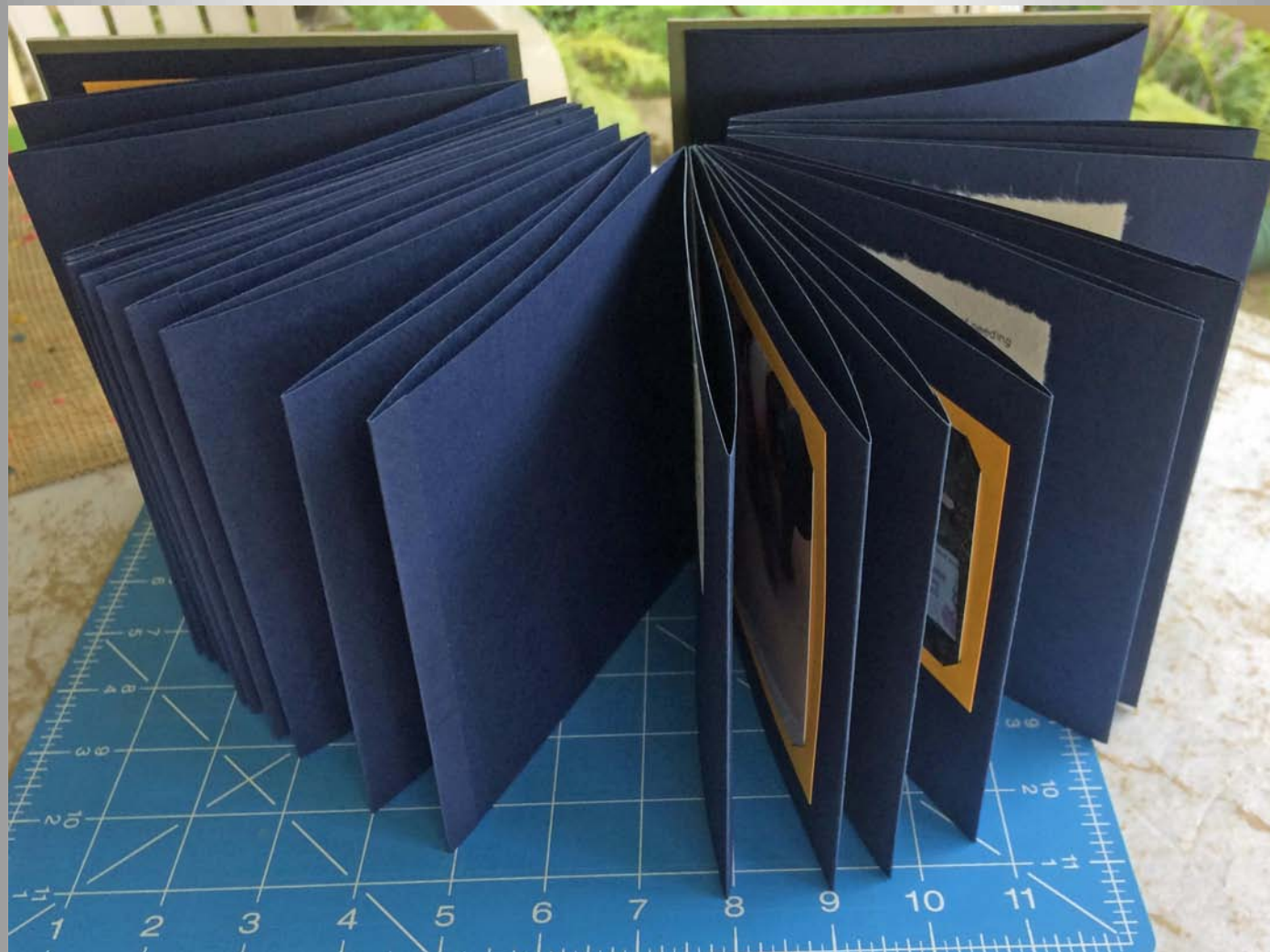




Christmas 2008
St. Albert's Mission Hospital
Zimbabwe





Christmas 2008

St. Albert's Mission Hospital

Zimbabwe





Dedicated to
Dr. Elizabeth Tarira (1951-2012)

And to Dr. Julia Musariri, Dr Neela
Naha, and the staff and patients of
St. Albert's Mission Hospital, and to
the women of the International Medical
Association, Rome, Italy

Christmas 2008
St. Albert's Mission Hospital
Zimbabwe

From

Dr. Elizabeth Tarira
18 December

Zimbabwean physician Dr. Elizabeth Tarira was the director of St. Albert's Mission Hospital from 1999 until her death from recurrent breast cancer in 2012.

2008 was an especially difficult year for Zimbabwe. Inflation robbed its currency of value. Food, medicine and goods of all kinds were too costly for most people or unavailable.

Elizabeth described the conditions facing the country in an eight-paragraph Christmas email sent to supporters. That email is presented here. The photos are mine.

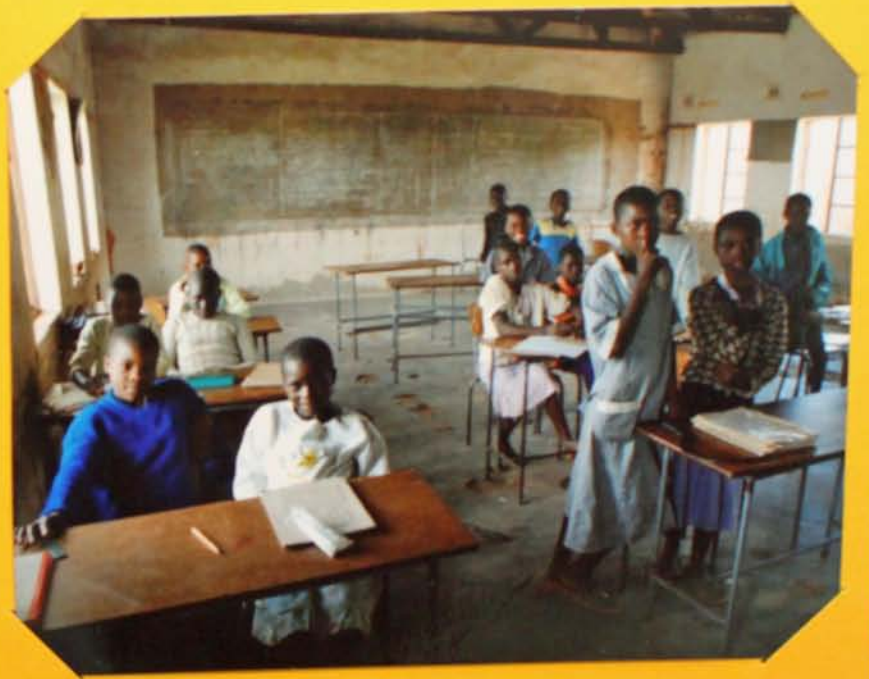
St. Albert's continues to provide care today under difficult, often demoralizing circumstances, led by another courageous Zimbabwean physician, Dr. Julia Musariri.

Darrell E. Ward
Better Healthcare for Africa, Inc.
July 2018



Dear Friends,

The year is ending and Christmas is just at the corner. Many people worldwide are worrying on what to eat at Christmas and what gifts to offer to friends and what to wear new. Here in Zimbabwe we are not thinking of tomorrow, but on what to eat today, how to access the health services, how to send the children to school. The crisis is so deep that we are without words.



Yes, cholera is with us and is spread throughout the whole country. Politicians are saying the cholera is over, but we health workers are saying it will take long to contain the outbreak because the health system has completely collapsed. Many people have died because what is needed is not available. Health Institutions, with the exception of a few, are just monuments, without the professionals, without drugs, without equipment. And yet, there are so many people who are sick. Just ordinary ailments cannot be managed, let alone major health problems.



Hunger is the major threat to our nation. People are dying of hunger. In the hospital we are seeing children dying of malnutrition-kwashiorkor, marasmus and pellagra. In the country 30% of the children under five years are stunting, 17% malnourished and 5% severely malnourished and debilitated.

Hunger

A tragedy in four acts

Desperate for food, a child sneaks into a neighbor's garden and eats groundnuts he pulls from the soil and maize he rips from the stalk.

Desperate to protect his garden, the neighbor demands the old grandfather stop the orphan child or he will put out poisoned melons.

Desperate to keep the boy safe, the grandfather binds the child's hands with plastic bags and sets them alight.

Desperate to ease the boy's pain, the elderly grandmother takes the child to St. Albert's Mission Hospital.



My experience as a doctor is just frightening, even just to tell about it. I struggle to save a life, and tomorrow I hear that the patient has died of hunger. I prescribe a patient some drugs and give instructions that have to take the medication after the food which one does not have. Such things demoralize the health worker tremendously. I know that I can save a life doing 1, 2 and 3, but I will be unable to do so because I do not have the necessary tools.



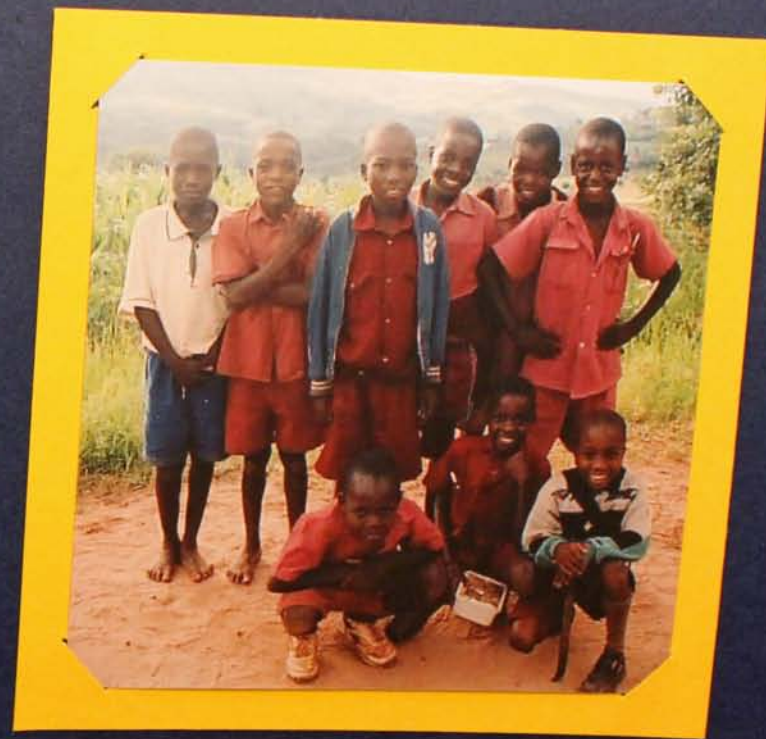
At St Albert's where I work, there is no electricity during the day; it only comes for a few hours during the night. Most of the time we are without electricity, which means that the hospital has no water, no laboratory, no X-ray etc. I thank friends that have donated some generators, but the fuel is also a problem, it is hardly available in the country.



A few weeks ago the Hospital's management executive committee closed two wards of the Hospital because of shortage of staff. The decision has been passed because our staff has to go and look for food in the neighbouring countries, Mozambique, Zambia and South Africa. They work for seven days, and seven days they will be off hunting for food. Whatever little available in our country is too expensive.



Having such a scenario of needing so many things, you may wonder how best you can help us. We want to continue working; we want to keep the Hospital open. To do so, we need to keep the vital services going. We need drugs, sutures for the theatre, X-ray films, laboratory reagents and a small sum of money to keep the staff on duty—a small incentive of food will give the health workers strength to continue offering services



On behalf of the St Albert's Mission
Hospital staff, I would like to wish you
all a **HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.** Em-
manuel is with us!

Dr Elizabeth Tarira and Team



END OF YEAR TESTS: 2008

GRADE 1 AND 2 SHONA READING - 13-14/11/08
ENGLISH READING - 17-18/11/08
SHONA WRITTEN - 24/11/08
ENGLISH WRITTEN - 25/11/08
CONTENT - 26/11/08
MATHS - 27/11/08

GRADE 3 TO 6

SHONA P 2 - 13/11/08
ENGLISH P 2 - 14/11/08
MATHS P 2 - 17/11/08
SHONA P 1 - 18/11/08
ENGLISH P 1 - 24/11/08
MATHS P 1 - 25/11/08
MATHS P 1 - 26/11/08

Christmas 2008
St. Albert's Mission Hospital
Zimbabwe

In memory of Elizabeth Tarira, MD, MPH
(1951-2012)

Mi-Teintes and lokta paper, book board
laser-jet printing, original photographs,
chemical transfer, photocopy

By Darrell E. Ward
Gahanna, Ohio
August 2018

My thanks to Stephanie Sherwood for
advice and guidance.

Walk the path to the entrance of St. Albert's
<https://youtu.be/orKnuCG7-Fc>



