



Diane Cusick

Location: **Lusaka, ZAMBIA**

Mission: **Early childhood education**



"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. "
Romans 8:26

You may recall that Diane's April bulletin reflected on what had been another challenging month for her due to health issues. Despite this, she was able to proceed with an important workshop helping the teachers as they sought to roll out the syllabus for Zambia's new school curriculum, after which she had planned a break from work for a couple of weeks. Unfortunately, at the outset of her break, it became clear that Diane's health was continuing to deteriorate. It was agreed, therefore, that she should return to Northern Ireland for a proper rest, also taking the opportunity to undergo some further medical tests.

Diane returned to N. Ireland on 8th May, and is currently based in Belfast in PCI's mission accommodation. Over the past couple of weeks, she was able to undergo some medical investigations and has now received the test results. We are very sorry to have to let you know that Diane is suffering from an aggressive cancer and the diagnosis is terminal. As you can imagine this is devastating news for Diane, her family, friends and her colleagues in both Ireland and Zambia.

We know you will understand that, given the circumstances, Diane is very much in need of space and time to process this news and her current condition means that there is a limit to the number of visitors or phone calls she can manage.

If you would like to pass on a message to Diane you can do so through the Mission Department, email: mission@presbyterianireland.org

As it stands, it is highly unlikely Diane will be able to return to Zambia although, as you would imagine, her heart is still very much there, thinking of her friends and colleagues, and the work commitments and projects she is so eager to see completed.

Diane would very much appreciate it if those who receive this bulletin and who have supported her so faithfully over her years would earnestly pray for her at this very difficult time.

Please pray:

- That Diane would know God's healing presence and peace at such a difficult time; that she would be held secure in the Lord's loving and comforting embrace, and that the Holy Spirit would work mightily in and through her in the challenging days ahead.
- For the medical team relating to Diane in the coming weeks, that they would provide her with the best treatment possible.
- Remember Diane's family, friends, and those who have been working with her most closely in Zambia and Ireland, as they process news of Diane's illness and seek to be supportive.
- For CCAP Zambia Synod's ongoing work in Early Childhood Development, especially teacher training and building projects.