



# March 2016 Newsletter



Some of the new grade one students

**A NEW YEAR** After a dedication service and working bee on 8<sup>th</sup> January, school officially opened on Monday, 11th January, 2016. Thirty one bright, happy faces hopped off the school bus, full of expectation and excitement about their new school; and ninety returning students arrived filled with anticipation and ready to learn. New parents have joined the cooking roster, and school maintenance is currently being carried out: the recent heavy rains have resulted in very long grass, which needs to be cut.

*"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."  
Nelson Mandela*





Above: school gardening and maintenance and our first yield of home grown tomatoes which are being used in school lunches.

2016 ICCS Dedication Service



Much excitement over the new uniforms (some still with tags on!) – and this year a first – dresses for the girls (instead of skirts and shirts).







## NEWS FROM THE PROJECT MANAGER

*In December 2015 we held a Christmas appeal which had an overwhelming response, allowing us to purchase food parcels for 90 ICCS families. The parcels included a 2.5kg bag of mealie meal, a bag of charcoal, a bag of fresh vegetables (provided by another local Aussie-run NGO), a chicken, and a bag of non-perishable items (sugar, cordial, tea bags, biscuits, creamer, gravy powder, cooking oil, salt, rice, seasoning and some lollipops for the children). This was very well received and a huge blessing for these families on Christmas day as they were able to cook a nutritious meal (many for the first time ever). They even came dressed in their Sunday best in readiness and anticipation for the occasion. My husband and children were involved in the distribution and it was a joyous start to our own Christmas day, to witness the happiness shown through dancing and singing as the food was handed out to these needy families.*

*We are preparing for a busy few months ahead with a number of people visiting from Australia and the UK. We look forward to the mission team's visit in July 2016. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Ros Philips as soon as possible ([blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com)) for further information.*

*At the end of July 2016, I will be returning to Australia with our children, for almost two months. I look forward to catching up with family and friends during this time. I hope to do many presentations about the work of Blessed to Bless, so **if you think your church, school, workplace or club would be willing to hear me speak, please let me know**. In particular I am looking for an opportunity in Melbourne this time, as I am planning to fly from there to Mildura. I am also keen for mid-week presentations as the number of Sundays is limited.*

*During my time in Sydney, I would be very grateful for the use of a vehicle, so **if anyone has an old car they don't use much, and would be willing to lend it to me for all or part of my time in Australia, I would be thrilled to hear from you** (you can contact Ros Philips or email me at [blessedtoblessinc@gmail.com](mailto:blessedtoblessinc@gmail.com)).*

*There is always much work to be done here and the need seems infinite. We look forward to the continued expansion and growth of ICCS with the support of our wonderful sponsors and donors.*

*Kim Mukuka*

*Project Manager, Blessed to Bless Zambia*



# MANYANDO COMMUNITY SCHOOL, KITWE

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March was WORLD Book day and the grade six and seven students joined in these celebrations. In partnership with **Book Bus**, a UK charity, the school organised competitions in reading, story writing and drawing. Book Bus and MCS have partnered to improve the reading and writing levels in the school. So every Monday for one hour, the book bus team comes to the school to read with the children.



To add pomp to the activities, Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation was at hand to catch the children in action. Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation is the national public radio and television station, so the event will be broadcast nationwide. This piece of information excited the children who can't wait to be on TV!

The prizes on offer were exciting, as winners in each category would receive six months' subscription to the Kitwe City Library, plus story books, pens and pencils. The second prize winner would receive three months' subscription to the library, plus the books and pens.

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of March, Book Bus will hold an exhibition of some of the selected works, and we will be at hand to offer support to the children.

*Meki Mwape*  
*Headmaster*  
*Manyando Community School*

**We are still looking for sponsors for some of our successful MCS graduates so they can attend secondary school. If you would like to sponsor a grade eight student please contact Ros Philips on 02 9144 5452 or at [blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com).**





## REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC OFFICER



With the days of 2016 passing so quickly, there is little time to reflect on the events of last year. However, since our last Newsletter was published, there have been two spectacular fundraising events which will long be remembered by those of us who attended. The first was the **East Lindfield Community Art Show** which was held at St Peter's Anglican Church in early November. This fantastic event was organised by the Rector, Steve Layson, and his mother Margaret Layson with the St Matthews Anglican Church Art Group (West

Pennant Hills), and included other individual contributors from the St Peters community and elsewhere. There was also an amazing collection of Bonsai which added to the beauty and uniqueness of the display. An enormous amount of hard work went on behind the scenes to present such a wonderful show, and we give our sincere thanks to all those involved in any way, and to all the artists who generously donated a large percentage of their sale towards the education of children in Zambia.



Our second tremendous event was the **Lights and Sounds of Christmas** held in December at the home of Emma and Michael Howard: it was a beautiful setting in the garden around their pool, with twinkling Christmas lights adding to the ambience. We were truly blessed to have Brad Cooper (opera singer) give of his time to sing for us during the evening - what joy listening to his voice! Our thanks to Emma and Michael for holding the event, and to Brad for fitting us in to his busy schedule - and to all the Committee and volunteers who assisted with catering and serving on the night. We also give thanks to Tea Pot Ministries for their donation of several lovely bed quilts to raise funds through silent auction sale on the night.

This week we held another **Movie Night** at Roseville Cinemas: these are quite popular events, so we usually have two each year - we will send you details about the next film night a little later in the year.

We have two more events in the planning, and flyers and invitations will be sent out before long. You might like to keep the dates free: we will be holding our inaugural Gala Dinner on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the Shangri-La Hotel (an event seeking to raise \$100,000 for the next stage of building work at Ipalo Christian Community School); and there will be a Theatre Night with Pymble Players ("Communicating Doors") on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

You may have noticed that Blessed to Bless has a new website which went live in December - for which we are extremely grateful to Nigel Pool at Matter Design, and Peter Hutchison on our Committee. We now have a more professional appearance for anyone looking at our website for the first time and it should also be easy for Kim to add information and photos quickly.

There are so many people I would like to thank individually for their help and support - our wonderful hardworking Committee members, our volunteers who help when they are able, and those people who regularly attend and support the fundraising events. We are also very thankful for the donations towards the children and the school in Zambia both from our generous corporate sponsor and individual supporters, and of course from all our sponsors. Your assistance and support is making a big difference to children and their families in the community where we work. I hope that many people might consider visiting Zambia in the future, to see this exciting work first hand: your visit would be very welcome by Kim and the staff, and would bring great joy to the children at the school. A team of volunteers are currently planning a visit to Zambia during the first two weeks of July (cost will be approximately \$5000 - \$6000 all inclusive). Please contact me if you would like further information on this trip.

The new school year in Zambia is now well underway (commenced on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016), and we are still looking for ten sponsors for children who commenced in Grade 1 at Ipalo Christian Community School. We also need three sponsors for secondary school students, and we are aware of many more students who will not continue their secondary schooling because they do not have sponsors. The lives of these children will improve considerably if we find them sponsors so they can complete their education. If you know anyone who might like to sponsor a child's education, please let us know as soon as possible, or ask them to contact us through the website or directly by email or phone call to me.

Ros Philips, Public Officer

[blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com) (02) 9144 5452 / 0407 175 422



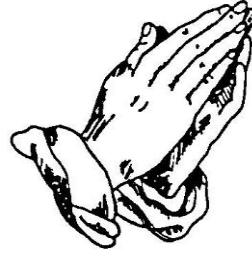


*Can you help us purchase a bus for ICCS?*

We are extremely grateful to two major donors who have helped us reach almost the half way goal towards raising funds for the purchase of a bus for ICCS. We are now seeking a further \$25,000 to enable us to purchase and register a 30-40 seater bus to transport the children between Kasombe and school each day.

## AUCTION ITEMS

We are looking for some attractive auction items for our Fundraising Gala Dinner on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. If you are able to donate something for the auction such as a restaurant voucher, holiday house stay, theatre or concert tickets, gift voucher, or other item, we would love to hear from you.



*We would appreciate your ongoing prayers for the following:*

- ❖ The upcoming elections in Zambia on 11th August 2016 - for calm and safety in the country as people cast their votes and when the new leader is announced.
- ❖ Wisdom and guidance for the staff and Board members in Zambia, as well as the Australian Committee members.
- ❖ All primary, secondary and tertiary students in the Blessed to Bless sponsorship program.

## DONATION FORM

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT *(Tax deductible)*

- **Zambian Children's Development Project**
- (Manyando, Ipalo) **OR ZCD OD29**

Name .....

Address .....

Suburb & Post Code.....

Phone..... Email.....

Please circle:

Donation Amount \$..... Mastercard / Visa / Amex / Diners

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ ccv \_\_\_

Name on Card.....

- Once only     Monthly     Quarterly     Half Yearly     Yearly

DONATE online at [www.anglicanaid.org.au](http://www.anglicanaid.org.au) CALL 1800 653 903 or

MAIL PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230

(cheques made out to 'Anglican Aid Overseas Development')

EMAIL [enquiries@anglicanaid.org.au](mailto:enquiries@anglicanaid.org.au)

EFT Anglican Aid BSB: 032078 Acc No: 253522 Ref ZCD + your name

