



## NOVEMBER NEWS

This newsletter is very overdue and there is much news to tell..... so let's go back a few months.

In July 2016, a team of ten volunteers visited Zambia during the NSW school holidays. It was a very productive time with members involved in various activities. Some visited current students and purchased much needed items such as mattresses, blankets, food, clothing and solar lamps for their sponsored student families. Others visited the homes of the 2017 candidates for ICCS Grade One (the selection process was then completed after the home visits were finished – a fantastic achievement).



A sports day at ICCS was held involving the whole team, and on other days some of the team members did some fun science experiments with the students and some spent time reading with individual students.

David did a wonderful job of photographing and videoing the school, staff and students, and then produced some short videos for the inaugural Gala Dinner.

Steve ran the PTC course with Peter assisting and Ros organising morning tea and lunch (this was held in Chingola and Kitwe); local pastors and leaders were grateful for the wonderful teaching.

Some of the ladies purchased sewing machines and fabrics to make moon pads (cloth sanitary pads) with the women's clubs, and then held a health and hygiene session for the adolescent female students and each student received a toiletries bag with some of the moon pads as well as other toiletries.



During the time the team was in Zambia, they were very fortunate to be able to witness the construction of the new caretaker's cottage and the installation of the solar pump and tank.

Early this year Blessed to Bless received the exciting news that a grant application from the United Nations Women's Guild in Vienna had been successful; this covered a solar pump, tank, flushes and hand basins. These have already made an enormous difference to the school – no more pumping by hand and carting large quantities of water.



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## PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

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On 30<sup>th</sup> July, I headed to Australia with Mum (who was returning after almost two months in Zambia) and my children.

Within a few days the kids were happily settled at Covenant Christian School. What an amazing blessing for them to be able to attend this school in Australia; they really had a fabulous time and made some lovely new friends. They were even able to participate in the school musical

Almost two months in Australia gave us time to see friends, spend time with family, catch up on medical appointments, visit the beach, speak at various churches and organisations, do a few days' teaching work, and meet new family members 😊.



I spent a week in Albury, Finley and Deniliquin doing presentations and catching up with friends.

Bruce (B2B President) and I also travelled to Canberra to meet with the Zambian High Commissioner.



One of the highlights of the trip was our inaugural GALA DINNER, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the Shangri-La Hotel in Sydney. The evening boasted host Leigh Hatcher, musician Ken Davis, and special guests Nick Farr-Jones and Jonathan O'Dea, as well as Anglican Aid staff and Bishop Lee, and the ballroom was full with a total of 180 guests.



It was a fantastic night and we thank God that approximately \$48,000 was raised from this event. When added to over \$50,000 raised thanks to a few very generous donors in the lead up to the dinner, this meant that we exceeded our target of \$100,000 for building work fundraising for 2016. How amazing is that? Now we can start again, as at least a further \$100,000 will be needed for our next stage of building work.

Upon our return to Zambia at the end of September, we were faced with the hot season – with temperatures of over 30 degrees every day since we have been back and we are now waiting for cooling rains to come and provide some relief!

Of course after two months away there was much paperwork waiting for my return, and so the past six weeks have been extremely busy working through the mountain on my desk, as well as hosting visitors twice during that time.

It was a pleasure to have school principal, Bruce, come and stay in September/October and do some staff development with our teaching staff. Then Matt and Jade ran a kids' holiday program during mid-term break which no doubt was a highlight of the ICCS children's year!



I'm also very excited about two long term volunteers who will be joining us shortly – Robyn who is arriving in November for a year, and Rachel who will come in January for 6 months.

**Kim Mukuka**  
**Project Manager, Blessed to Bless Zambia**

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## SEVEN WEEKS IN ZAMBIA

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My highlight in the Blessed to Bless calendar is the six to eight weeks I spend in Zambia each year, where most of my time is devoted to meeting students, teachers and other staff so that I can update records and report back to sponsors. This year I saw real progress, and the great impact that education is making on the whole community.

The road has not been easy to reach this point, with many brick walls and stumbling blocks along the way: but we have learnt that God has a time and purpose for everything, and the more we put our trust in Him, the greater and better the progress.

I hope that many of you have the opportunity to visit Zambia and the Blessed to Bless projects. I wish I had the words to express the joy I receive from my visit - from the smiles and affection of the children at ICCS, the uplifting of my soul when the women burst into spontaneous and harmonious singing, the happiness of seeing students finishing college or working towards that end, and the reward of seeing the whole community working together in the service of God.



There is humour in the simple daily household routines: from homes where a dozen people live in two small rooms the size of a western kitchen - where families struggle to make a proper meal each day for their household.



The people in these communities live under the poverty line - they cannot afford to visit a doctor or buy medicines when they are sick, they have to carry all their water from a well, few have electricity, and they share pit latrines. Imagine if you could not afford to buy washing powder for your clothes, or personal soap to wash, or a panadol to ease a headache. Yet their laughter and music is infectious and palpable - and I return home feeling uplifted.

At the end of next year, twenty members of the ICCS school community who attend B2B literacy groups are going to sit for their final primary grade exams: what an amazing achievement.

The changes we are seeing are because of the support you generously give - and for this we are very thankful. I would personally like to thank our Australian Committee for their hard work and commitment, as well as the volunteers who freely give of their time - in the B2B office Roger (4 ½ years accounts entries for B2B!), Shirley, Steph, Nicola - and many others who provide help at fundraising events.

God Bless

***Ros Philips, Public Officer, Blessed to Bless Australia***

*Please pray for the work of Blessed to Bless, that God would continue to provide the finances required to fund the project, and pray for our staff, students and volunteers, as well as the country of Zambia.*

## MCS REPORT

The 2016 school year comes to an end in about three weeks. As usual time has flown by quickly with various activities taking place at the school throughout the year.

In early April MCS was honoured by a visit from Eddie Ozols of Anglican Aid. The children dressed in black and white to sing for their guest, and it was an exciting day. Through Eddie's support, the school was able to affiliate with the Zonal Centre.

On 15th July, the Blessed to Bless mission team visited the school and led a number of activities including games, science experiments, music and Bible stories. This was stimulating for the children as well as the teachers: we hope to see the team back soon! We are thankful for the support Blessed to Bless provided for some new text books and stationery for the students.



The school toilet block was vandalized by some unscrupulous people, rendering it unusable for the whole of second term and part of third term. The toilet block was repaired through the fundraising activities of Maxine Callow, local expatriate.

The Grade 7 class has completed the final exams which ran from 31<sup>st</sup> October to the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. They are now anxiously awaiting their results, which are expected to be released in December. The successful students will then proceed to secondary schools for Grade 8 in 2017, providing they can raise the money to pay the government school fees.

Schools close on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December for five weeks for the Christmas holidays. The new school year will commence in the second week of January.

**Meki Mwape – Headmaster, MCS**



## Christmas Appeal



You may remember last year we held a Christmas appeal. With the money that was raised, every family at ICCS received food package on Christmas morning, which included a live chicken, a bag of fresh vegetables, a bag of charcoal to cook with, a small sack of mealie meal, and a bag of groceries (cooking oil, rice, salt, cordial, biscuits and more). This is the first time most of these people had the makings of a Christmas meal. We would love to do the same again this year.

### Christmas Parties

Every year both MCS (Manyando Community School), and ICCS (Ipalo Christian Community School), as well as the staff of ICCS, hold Christmas parties. B2B needs to raise a total of \$1500 to fund these three parties. These are a great way to finish off the school year and give the kids and staff a bit of fun after their year of hard work.

Donations for these two appeals are welcome. For either one, please ensure you specify what the money is for, or send an email to [blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com) so that the funds are allocated correctly.

### Smartphones, Laptops and Ipad/Tablets

We always need the above items for tertiary students and staff. If you are upgrading, someone in Zambia would love your old model, as long as it is in good working order and has a decent battery life (especially with all the power cuts). Please consider giving it to Ros Philips (02 9144 5452) so that she can pass it on to the next person travelling to Zambia.

### Interested in visiting Zambia?

Volunteers are welcome, both short and long term. Although there is no accommodation for volunteers yet, this is something we are planning for future and in the meantime there are some inexpensive accommodation options available. Why not take the opportunity to visit the spectacular Victoria Falls or a game park while you are here? It would be fantastic to have a maintenance team in 2017 to paint the school and do some landscaping. Contact Ros Philips for further information at [blessedtoblessaustralia.com.au](http://blessedtoblessaustralia.com.au) or 02 9144 5452 / 0407 175 422.



*Don't miss out on our 2017 Gala Dinner – put it in your diary now! Date has been set for Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at the Shangri-La Hotel in Sydney. More details to follow.*

**SPONSORSHIPS**

We thank all our wonderful sponsors and welcome new sponsors – for the first time ever, all our students for 2017 are now sponsored before the year is finished. However, we are still looking for sponsorship for some of the staff – security guards, teachers and part of the social worker’s salary. Please contact us if you are interested in partially sponsoring a salary – **this is just as crucial to the work as the student sponsorship, because without dedicated staff, ICCS would not be able to run.**

**BUS FOR ICCS**

We are looking to raise approximately \$25,000 more to purchase a bus for ICCS. \$20,000 has already been raised thanks to two generous donors. It will be wonderful to have our own bus to transport the children to school each day, take them on excursions, and provide transport where necessary for other groups including women’s clubs.

**BUILDING WORK**



Help Blessed to Bless reach its building fund target of \$200,000 in 2017 by giving a tax deductible donation through Anglican Aid. Half of the funds have already been raised, praise God. It will be wonderful to see the continued growth of Ipalo Christian Community School in 2017 and beyond.

**DONATION FORM**



OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

*(Tax deductible)*

**Zambian Children’s Development Project**

Name.....

Address .....

Suburb & Post Code.....

Phone.....

Email.....

I want to donate to:

- Sponsorship Fund (OR ZCD OD29)
- Building Fund (OR ZCD OD58)
- General Donation (OR ZCD OD29)

Donation Amount \$.....

Please circle: MasterCard / Visa / Amex / Diners

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card.....

- Once only       Monthly       Quarterly
- Half Yearly       Yearly

MAIL: PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230  
(Cheques made out to ‘Anglican Aid Overseas Development’)

OR

DONATE ONLINE at [www.anglicanaid.org.au](http://www.anglicanaid.org.au)

EFT Anglican Aid BSB: 032078

Account No: 253522 Ref ZCD + your name

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

CALL 1800 653 903

