



ICCS Vegetable Gardens

APRIL NEWS

The start of 2017 has been full of excitement, challenges and learning experiences for the team at Ipalo Christian Community School. We have started the year with five class groups and two adult literacy classes - and are set to continue growing.

This year we welcome Mary Chapman (in her second year at ICCS) as Deputy Head Teacher working with the Grade Five class. Mary comes with 16 years' teaching experience and an enthusiastic approach to education.



G5s leading assembly in March

We welcome back Sharon (Grade One), Francine (Grade Two), Bertha (Grade Three), Jonathan (Grade Four) and Mildred (Women's Clubs). We also welcome back our Social Worker Katongo, Caretaker Mwaba, and Agricultural Worker, Anthony.

We have a number of exciting projects coming up including plans for a new amenities block, chicken run slab and classroom block slab, which are scheduled to begin development early next month. This classroom block will be a great addition to our growing school and is only made possible by the generosity of all our sponsors.

Anthony and Mwaba



Anthony has continued to develop the ICCS garden plot which is now filled with cabbages, tomatoes, spinach, eggplant and many more vegetables which are used in the school meals.



G5s working on their vegetable garden

We were blessed to welcome Ross and Judy Taylor for two weeks in March at ICCS. Judy spent time sorting through our school library and organising relevant resources and books. She also managed to find time to help in the classroom and withdraw students for individual support. Ross ran a staff development session, and delivered several beneficial science lessons, helping students to develop their investigation skills. Ross also set up a 'class garden' with grades 3, 4 and 5 who are excited to watch their vegetables grow!



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## PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

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Fundraising activities have been quiet in Australia since the last Newsletter went to print. However, the 'office' has been busy with the preparation of new student profiles and updates for sponsors. The Australian Committee continues to meet once a month for discussion and planning, and we give thanks for our wonderful Committee members who give so much of their time for this cause. We would also like to thank Roger and Shirley for their once a week and once a fortnight commitment to the accounting and administration work - it certainly makes a difference. We are still looking for a regular volunteer to help with admin work at St Ives for a half or full day every week.

Thanks to the generous donations from many supporters at Christmas, we were able to distribute food parcels to all families in the ICCS community on Christmas Eve, and there was still some money in hand to use towards the building of the chicken run at the school (which will provide eggs and chickens for school lunches). This distribution provided all the families with a Christmas meal and some food for the holidays.

Another movie night fundraising was held at Roseville Cinemas on 3<sup>rd</sup> March: attendance was lower this time, but approximately \$1,600 was raised for Ipalo Christian Community School.

The Entertainment Book is now available for purchase through our office, or you can order direct through Entertainment Publications on [1300 159 707](tel:1300159707). We have copies ready for pick up now: 20% from the sale of these books is given to us for the work in Zambia.

'Save the date' invitations will be sent out soon for our second **Gala Dinner** on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney. The inaugural dinner last year was a great success, so we hope you will join us for the event this year. Over the past ten years we have seen many children complete their education and learn a skill for life - enabling them to find a place in the workforce and to assist others in turn. For those young people, the alternative would have been dismal - a lifetime of struggling to find casual labouring work, or selling items at the markets for little income, without real hope for their future. It is a great blessing to be involved in this work, and to see through God's grace the positive outcomes when students are able to complete their education. A big thank you to all our wonderful sponsors.

For inquiries and questions about our work, please contact me at any time; from next week I will be available by email only as I head off for a short holiday with Kim, and then on to Zambia to meet all our students. – **Ros Philips, Public Officer, Zambia's Child (Australia)**

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## SIX MONTHS IN ZAMBIA

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Arriving in early January, I could never have been prepared for the experiences and memories which I have had in Zambia. This is a country which is so backwards in some ways yet so ahead in others. It is quite surreal to be living in a Christian nation where I frequently hear songs about Jesus in the supermarket and am surrounded by believers.

My family find it quite hard to believe some of the stories that I ring home with – some funny, some sad and others just plain confusing. I am no longer afraid to be assertive when in a queue (waiting your turn gets your no-where) and am quite used to seeing caterpillars as an optional relish for lunch.

During my visit I have been fortunate enough to teach the Grade Five class for 7 weeks. This is an experience which has made significant changes to my life. The children from ICCS have some very sad stories – almost unbearable to hear at times – yet they are all so full of life and enthusiasm. I never needed to encourage students to stay 'on task'. They are all so eager to learn and see the value of education.



*Rachel with G5 students*

I have never before realised how many simple things I have to be grateful for. Even having a mother and father who love me is more than some of these children have. For me to have the opportunity to show these children some of the love that they have been missing at home is an opportunity which I will never take for granted. – **Rachel Fitzpatrick, Volunteer, ICCS**



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## MCS NEWS

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The school now has an administration office which is very good for storage. Most of the school belongings are stored in the office. Furthermore, a couple of weeks ago the office and classrooms were also furnished with desks and chairs. Hopefully soon we will also have storage cupboards, and our office will then be well equipped.



*Meki at his new desk*

The second term is sports 'term' so during the holidays the children will be training in various sports activities. The favorite sport for both boys and girls is soccer, so we will have a lot of competition in this particular sport. The inter-house sports will feature field related sports activities. This will lead to an inter-community schools sports competition later in the term. The children are hoping to go a step up from the third place attained last year.

The school term has just come to an end after the completion of the end-of-term exams. It is an exciting time for the children as they write the exams. Whether prepared for their exams or not, the children come in record numbers to sit for the exams. The next school term opens in May. - **Meki Mwape, MCS Headmaster**

## Why not plan a trip to Zambia?



*Travelling Zambian style! (Some of the ICCS community)*

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. Take the opportunity to visit the spectacular Victoria Falls or a game park while you are here. Email Ros Philips for further information at [blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com), or call her on 02 9144 5452 / 0407 175 422.



*ICCS volunteer Robyn taking students to the Doctor*

## Smartphones, Laptops and I pads/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. Please consider giving it to Ros Philips (02 9144 5452) so that she can pass it on to the next person travelling to Zambia.



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



**SPONSORSHIPS**

Thanks to all our wonderful sponsors and welcome to new sponsors. We are now looking for sponsors for our new students in 2018, as well as for some of the staff (security guards, teachers and part of the social worker’s salary). Please contact us if you are interested in partial sponsorship – **this is just as crucial to the work as the student sponsorship, because without our dedicated staff, ICCS would not be able to run.**

**BUS FOR ICCS**

We are hoping to raise approximately \$35,000 to finalise the purchase of a new 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 the women’s clubs.



**BUILDING WORK**

Help Blessed to Bless continue building in 2017 by giving a tax deductible donation through Anglican Aid. We now need to save the funds required to complete our next classroom block, as well as a chicken run.

**DONATION FORM**



OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

*(Tax deductible)*

**Blessed to Bless (Zambia’s Child)**

Name.....

Address .....

Suburb & Post Code.....

Phone.....

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

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- Half Yearly       Yearly

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

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

EFT Anglican Aid BSB: 032078

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