Project Manager's Report

Much has been happening over the first three months of the year. Pictured below are our new Grade 1 students with some visitors from the UK. Emma, a new expat in Chingola, has been doing voluntary work at ICCS helping to mentor the teaching staff. Emma brought her parents to visit the school; there was much excitement as Emma set the students the task of making UK flags - and there was a bit of a competition between classes as to which class could outdo everyone else!

The building work has progressed well, with the second classroom block completed in December. Grade 5 and 6 students moved into their new classrooms in January. The undercover area has proved very useful, especially during the rainy season! In January work commenced on the chicken runs (which are now complete) - ICCS will soon start raising its own chickens to help feed the growing number of students. An 'insaka' (gazebo-like structure) was built on top of the ant hill at the corner of the school plot, close to the chicken runs, which will be used for security, as well as prayer meetings and many other things. An outdoor undercover cooking area has also been built, with two big BBQ charcoal grills, two large braziers for the big cooking pots, as well as a tiled bench area for food preparation. This has been put into use this week, and should make an enormous difference to our cooking ladies, giving them more space and better facilities to work with.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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View of the school from the gardens

Grade 3 students waiting at the bus stop ready to walk to school

Some of the school gardens

New ‘insaka’

New chicken runs

Students enjoying the undercover play area
After holding the school working bee in preparation for the new school year, we were given the disappointing news that the cholera outbreak meant that schools were to remain closed until further notice. It was God’s provision that Veronique, a previous Chingola expat (who is completing a Masters in Teaching), was visiting from Australia and she quickly helped implement two weeks of staff development so that no time was wasted.

It was exciting to welcome our new staff members, Methuselah, an FCE graduate teaching our Grade 6 class, and Metrude, who has been teaching Grade 5 while Mary has been away. Fanwell has also now joined us as a general worker. Mildred’s load has been increased to full-time and she is now doing remedial lessons for slow learners.

Another exciting development was the introduction of the dining hall - the third classroom is being used as a temporary dining hall until we have the funds to build a permanent one. This has brought much order and structure to the lunch time routine as classes are fed in two shifts of 90 students, and it has also helped us keep the classrooms cleaner!

Schools were allowed to resume on 22nd January and our Dedication Service was held on Friday 26th January, along with our first Overnight Prayer Service, which about 100 people attended. Thank you to Pastor Davison and Pastor Anthony and a team from one of the local Kasompe churches for their time and effort in leading the services. It was a wonderful night of blessing for all and there have been requests to make it a regular occurrence.

We were thrilled to award the ladies in our adult literacy group with their Grade 7 certificates; all who sat their national secondary school entrance exams last year passed!

This term our school gardens have provided many of the vegetables eaten during daily lunches - thanks to the hard work of Anthony and the parents who help in the gardens as part of their weekly duty roster. Towards the end of February, 'Women of Excellence' from Miracle Word Centre in Chingola generously came and planted about a dozen fruit trees on the school plot.

Recently we held our school registration days for our January 2019 intake.

Kim Mukuka, Project Manager, ICCS
What happens during school registrations?

The process of student registrations for the following year begins in January. During January and February, families come to the school to register the names, addresses and ages of their children with our social worker. These names are recorded in a book.

The cut off date is early March, and then the registration interviews begin. Each eligible family is given an interview day, and then the Zambian non-teaching staff and some volunteers spend about 20 minutes interviewing each family, asking a number of detailed questions about the family members, status of the child and his/her parents, siblings, living conditions, material possessions, number of people working, income, and so on. These questions are scored using a points system, and then those with the highest points are shortlisted to determine those most vulnerable. We have introduced a short basic aptitude test for the students to ensure they are ready for school. This year there are over 230 students on the waiting list.

Approximately 60 students are visited in their homes, to verify information. Information is checked and students may be visited a second time. Then the list is reduced to the final number of 30 students.

An enrolment day is held for these students mid-year when the child’s photo is taken, and the parent or guardian signs an agreement form with the school, including items such as medical indemnities, parent volunteer roster, permission to take photographs, and so on.

The profile information and photo for each child is then sent to Australia, where a student profile is prepared, and the process of looking for sponsors begins.

Finally, late November, the students come in for uniform fittings, so they are ready to begin the new school year in January.

MANYANDO COMMUNITY SCHOOL, KITWE

The Ministry of Education has put emphasis on improving learners’ reading abilities in schools mostly through the provision of Continuous Professional Development in teachers.

In a bid to help the learners our partner, Book Bus, has been organising a range of workshops to develop literacy skills in the teachers so as to improve reading in the learners. With that done Book Bus then donated ‘moving libraries’ for use by both the teachers and the learners.

Though the target group was Grade 4 and 5, all grades are benefitting from the moving libraries.

The Book Bus is a moving library with hundreds of books on it. Just the joy of getting on the bus is exciting for the children and it gets more exciting for them when they are given the books to read.

By the end of the school year it is hoped that the reading abilities of most of our learners will have greatly improved.

Meki Mwape, Headmaster, MCS
FUNDRAISING

Waterworks Challenge

During the month of March, our Australian Committee and several members of our Zambian staff spent a week drinking water only. For some who rely on their daily morning coffee, this was quite a challenge. Thanks to many generous people, including the congregation of St Peters East Lindfield, and some wonderful families with young children who participated in the challenge in various ways, we have come pretty close to reaching our target, with over $12,000 of $15,000 raised so far (https://waterworks.org.au/page/zambia). Once we reach the target, we will be able to purchase a solar pump, 10,000L water tank and stand for our agriculture plot, which will enable us to grow more vegetables for the growing student population at ICCS.

A Note from the ZC Sydney Office

It is with sadness that the ‘office’ of Zambia’s Child recently said goodbye to Roger, our volunteer who has been doing the account entries every week for almost six years. We wish Roger success with his new business venture in Adelaide. We are very thankful for his regular commitment every week since he started with us in 2012.

It is always exciting to have new volunteers come on board - thank you Michele and Cathy for your recent support.

Fundraising events are an important part of Zambia’s Child Australian activities, as there is a need to raise funds for the daily needs at ICCS which are not covered by sponsorship. Our first event, the February Movie Night at Roseville Cinemas, was enjoyed by those who attended with over $2,700 raised from ticket sales and donations. We plan to hold another Movie Night in November.

The Waterworks Campaign in conjunction with Anglican Aid has been a great success, with the goal almost in sight. There is still time to donate to this cause - which will result in a water tank and solar pump being erected on the school agricultural plot, and help with the development of the school gardens and chicken run.

Our first coach trip will take place on Saturday 21st April - a trip to Oberon to visit Mayfield Gardens. The trip includes entry fee and lunch at the Gardens.

Mother’s Day is not far away, so if you would like to donate to Zambia’s Child at this time, we can provide you with a beautiful card especially for this occasion. More information will be sent out very soon.

Our third annual Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday 8th September - to be organised by our own special Events Manager (daughter-in-law Sarah!). Please save this date in your calendars - it should be a great night; more information following shortly.

In October plans are afoot for a ‘Barefoot Bowls’ event - we will send you an invitation closer to the time.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who come when they can to help - and of course the dedicated Australian Committee of Zambia’s Child.

Ros Philips, Public Officer

Gala Dinner 2018

Please save the date! The Zambia’s Child Annual Gala Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, 8th September and this year the ticket cost will be significantly reduced due to a venue change. Nevertheless, we are certain you won’t be disappointed with this year’s venue - The Kirribilli Club. Please put it in your diaries and start telling your friends! Tickets will be on sale soon.

Entertainment Book

We have just started our annual Entertainment Book Fundraiser. Please consider buying an Entertainment Book from us - 15% of all funds raised will go towards Zambia’s Child. Loads of offers, with up to $20,000 in savings!

Mayfield Gardens Trip

There will be a bus trip to Mayfield Gardens (Oberon) on Saturday 21st April, leaving from Epping Station (Oxford Street) at 8am. Cost is $100 per person and includes entry fee, lunch and bus fare. Profits raised from the trip will support Zambia’s Child. Please contact Elizabeth Clarke by email for further information, or to purchase a ticket - libbyclarke@gmail.com.
Kim's Visit to Australia

Kim Mukuka (Zambian Project Manager) will be visiting Australia from July to October 2018, and is looking for opportunities to speak at churches, clubs, offices, schools, and anywhere else open to having a guest speaker. Please contact Ros Philips on (02) 9144 5452 or Kim Mukuka (Whatsapp +260 950 470 995 or email kimmukuka@gmail.com) if you are willing to host a presentation.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for wisdom in the decision making process for our enrolments for 2019. With so many students on the waiting list, it is very difficult to turn children away.
- Please pray for our Australian Committee and Zambian Board, for guidance in governance.
- Please pray for God’s continued provision for the needs of the children in Zambia.
- Please pray for the Zambian staff and volunteers, that God would continue to lead, guide, unite and provide for the team.

Matthew 18:5 "And whoever welcomes one such child in my name, welcomes me."

DONATION FORM
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
(Tax Deductible)
Blessed to Bless (Zambia's Child)

Name: ............................................................................................................................
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Phone: ............................................................................................................................
Email: ............................................................................................................................

I want to donate to (please tick):

- 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: __ __ / __ __

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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
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