



AUGUST NEWSLETTER



Grade One



Grade Two



Grade Three

BUILDING WORK HAS BEGUN!

We are THRILLED to announce that the ICCS building project is now underway and the first stage is expected to be finished by the beginning of September, 2015! The pictures tell a far better story than anything I could say, so I have included lots of photos to show the progress.

Kim Mukuka, Project Manager

Digging the foundations



The beginning! Kim with the contractor, Jonathan



Preparing the classroom module slab



Part of the septic system



Inside one of the classrooms



The classroom module taking shape



Almost ready for the roofing sheets!



Workers fencing the site



The walls going up!

A 4WD Vehicle for Blessed to Bless



would like to say a huge thank you to our generous supporters, and also praise God for His provision. This vehicle could have easily been sold to someone else – at least three other parties were interested in purchasing it, and one had travelled several hours and was offering more, but because of the work we are doing the seller kept the vehicle for us.

Kim Mukuka, Project Manager

Thanks to a very large donation from TNA Australia, and some other very generous donations, coupled with some fundraising efforts during my trip to Australia, Blessed to Bless has been able to purchase a 4WD vehicle – a 2011 Toyota Hilux. This is going to make a huge difference to my work here in Zambia, giving me the ability to move items for the school and do deliveries with ease. For a month I worked without a vehicle, hiring a car or taxi to do my work. I



REPORT FROM ROS PHILIPS, PUBLIC OFFICER

It was hard to farewell my family and dear friends in Zambia - but the time will pass quickly until we meet again next year! What an exciting trip - so many great things happening with the school and the sponsored students, thanks to the support of the wonderful board, teachers and staff - praise God.

Kim has reported the most important news about the school building work, so I will just tell you a little about the sponsored students. You probably know there are currently three grades (90 students) at Ipalo Christian Community School - every year a new class is added as the children advance, and it is Kim's difficult task to select those most in need from the long waiting list. I was able to meet with all these students and take photographs for their new profiles in 2016. Each year there is a noticeable difference in these little ones - they are more confident, healthier, and they are LEARNING! What a joy to see their happy faces and hear their laughter - so different to their appearance when they first come with their guardians to meet staff for the selection process.

This year I spent much of my time in Kitwe, visiting MCS and meeting with the secondary and tertiary students in the Blessed to Bless sponsorship program - once again collecting new information from these students and taking photographs for next year's profiles. It is such a rewarding time for me - as I hear of the students' successes and achievements. Most of these children make the best of the opportunity their sponsors provide to continue their education, and do their utmost in difficult living conditions. Some have to walk an hour to and from school each day - and may not have much to eat, or a warm blanket at night. Many do not have electricity, and some do not have running water. There are always a few who succumb to their daily life struggles, and do not complete their education: but I believe that every year of schooling they finish is to their advantage in the long run.

There are too many exciting stories to include in this newsletter without it becoming a book, but I will include the testimony of one of my students, Jona, who has brought great joy. I would like to encourage all sponsors to be in touch with their students - it is a great blessing and is very uplifting for the students. Don't hesitate to contact me if you would like further information.

Here is the abbreviated version of a testimony from Jona, who will graduate from his teaching diploma in November, and is joining the B2B staff at ICCS in January. Jona has been in the sponsorship program since 2007.

First and foremost I would like to give thanks to God for bringing Blessed to Bless (B2B) into my life.

I was just a boy, like any other boy, but without any hope or future dreams. I used to hang around in the compound, picking up food on the road - searching for scraps which people had dropped. I had never seen my father or his family. It was painful to see my friends chatting with their fathers.

For the first nine years of my life I didn't go to school, and spent my early years living like a nomad. When my mother was alive she was strong, and used to work hard to bring food for us. When I was ten years old my mother passed away and life became tougher. Although I attended school, I had negative thoughts about it: I was bullied because I was so poor and always hungry.

During this time I used to go to church, but I didn't know God or the purpose of life. I did not know that God had planned my life and education in advance. My sponsor Mum committed herself to support me up to college level. Now I have a different view of education: the commitment and support that I have received has made a huge impact on me.

As I write, I am one of the happiest people, knowing I am supported by Blessed to Bless. Every time I think about the encouragement from my sponsor Mum, I am moved to tears. I am very glad that I will be a teacher - a career that has been my dream since Grade 8.

Through my sponsor I was sent to a Christian college. This year I have made the significant decision to join the B2B team. I have decided to join because of the children at Ipalo Christian Community School: many of these children come from broken families, and have a similar background to me. It makes sense that I should teach these children as I understand the things they are going through.

Blessed to Bless has done a tremendous job - especially for a boy who had no vision at all and no hope for my life. I never dreamt I would become a teacher.

I thank my sponsor and Blessed to Bless for everything they have done in my life - for educating me, and for the financial support. The Blessed to Bless sponsorship program has brought an education to me, which is a priority for all Zambian children.

Jonathan Musonda - July 2015



SPORTS DAY

On 6th August, 2015, ICCS held its annual sports day. A big thank you to John Rynne and his wife Maria from the UK, who organised and ran the sports day for us. The children had lots of fun, and it was a great end to term two.

Congratulations to our Grade 1 teacher, Kakweji, who recently gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Mercy.



Bertha (G3 teacher), Maria (UK visitor), Mwaba (caretaker) and Sharon (G2 teacher)

NEWS FROM MANYANDO COMMUNITY SCHOOL, KITWE

The second term is almost coming to an end, and as usual at this time we have the end of term exams. No matter how prepared the children are for the exams, they are very excited and attendance is at its best! I only wish we had the same attendance all the time.

We have had exciting times at MCS with electrical wiring works being completed in preparation for the installation of 'prepaid' electricity. The next step is for the power utility company to connect power to the school. We just can't wait! We are very grateful to

Maxine Callow for her fundraising efforts for this great benefit for the school.

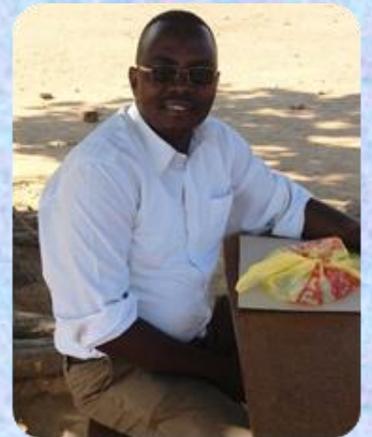
Redpath, a company contracted to the mines in Kitwe, donated over 300 water bottles to the school. The water bottles would cost a minimum of \$2 - something the children could not afford. The children now have containers for their drinking water.

A visit to school from a Blessed to Bless member is always an exciting time for the children. This past June/July the school was graced by such a visit from Ros Philips, and the children had treats of buttered bread rolls and sweets. They are already looking forward to the next visit!

In all these happening we just give God the glory.

Meki Mwape, Headmaster

Manyando Community School



*And my God
will supply all
your needs
according to His
riches in glory
in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19*

WOULD YOU CONSIDER SPONSORING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS?

Partial sponsorships very welcome

CURRENT URGENT NEEDS

- ICCS caretaker's salary - \$160 per month
- ICCS social worker's salary - \$260 + per month
- Guard's salary (at Project Manager's house) - \$140 per month
- Project Manager's expenses (fuel, vehicle maintenance, internet, phone) - \$300 per month

UPCOMING NEEDS – from September 2015

- Guard \$150 per month
- Transporting grade 1-3 students to school approximately \$1200 per month

FROM 2016

- New sponsorships approx. 50 primary and secondary
- Tertiary sponsorships
- ICCS cook \$200 per month
- ICCS teacher salary \$500 per month
- Social worker \$100 + per month

*The needs may seem overwhelming,
but we trust in our great provider.*

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

MOVIE NIGHT AT ROSEVILLE CINEMAS

"A Walk in the Woods"

with Robert Redford, Nick Nolte and Emma Thompson

On Thursday 3rd September 2015 at 7pm for supper,
followed by the movie, to commence shortly after 8pm

RSVP Ros Philips (9144 5452 or blesstoblessaustralia@gmail.com)
by 28th August 2015

CADBURY'S CHOCOLATES - can you sell a box amongst your colleagues or friends? The profits will be used towards the school needs in Zambia. Please take a box from Ros, and leave it at your workplace - payment can be made when the chocolates are sold.

CRAFT WORKSHOPS

If you enjoy craft work, we would love to see you at the first of our craft workshops to be held at **10am on Monday 10th August** at 18 Memorial Avenue, St Ives. Valerie will guide our first group with instructions for making a peg apron - and colourful African fabrics will be provided (along with morning tea). You can bring along your sewing machine, or simply come along and cut and pin. We are hoping to produce a number of items for sale at future fundraising events.

Why not pre-order an Entertainment Book now? Don't miss out on fantastic savings for the coming year - 20% of purchase price goes to Blessed to Bless if you order through us:
<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/210v650>



Watch this space for information about an art exhibition to be held at St Peter's Anglican church on 7th and 8th November 2015. New exhibitors welcome. More details coming soon.

THANK YOU

We are very grateful for the donations of items for recent fundraising auctions at our High Tea and Trivia Night, and would like to give our thanks to these people -

*Anna Kat, St Ives
Estilo Hair, North Sydney
The Male Room, St Ives
Turramurra Veterinary
Glenys and Bruce York
Val Whatham
Sayuri Cannon
Valerie and Bernard O'Hara
Shirley and Alan Vale
Patricia Holstein
Toys and Tales, St Ives
McDonalds Pharmacy, St Ives*

*Haeydeh Oloumi
Tanya Inder
Price Attack, Hornsby
Janet and the Dorrigo Quilting Ladies
Jason Tsiropoulos
Andrew Smith
Sue Davey
Clare Dorey
Richard de Sauty
The Sphinx Gallery, Cremorne
Ros Philips*

- and special thanks to Emma and Michael Howard who hosted the High Tea in their beautiful home, and to Peter Castle for his organisation of the Trivia Night at the Greengate Hotel.

Please continue to pray for Zambia, for the Blessed to Bless projects, students, staff, Zambian board, Australian committee, and fundraising efforts. For further information about any of the above activities please contact Ros Philips on 9144 5452 / 0407 175 422 or blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (Tax deductible)



Zambian Children's Development Project
(Manyando, Ipalo) OR 107

OR Zambian School Building Fund (please specify)

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 CALL 1800 653 903 or

MAIL PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230 (cheques made out to 'Anglican Aid Overseas Development')

Direct transfer: BSB: 032078 Acc No: 253522 Ref ZCD + your name

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