



# December 2018 Newsletter



I came back to Zambia to the heat of mid-October, and am relieved that the rainy season has now started! Much work has been done on the main roads over the past six months and it is lovely to drive on smooth surfaces.

The school term has come to an end with the Thanksgiving Service and Christmas Party last Thursday - photos to follow.

The gardens on the agriculture plot are developing well, and our food costs have reduced thanks to the produce that is grown, and the chickens we are raising.

I would like to thank Robyn Webb for almost two years of service at ICCS, during which, amongst other things, she took sick children to the clinic, assisted with agriculture, and did the weekly school shopping with Mwaba. We are extremely grateful for the time she spent volunteering at the school, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

As many of you may have heard at the 2018 Gala Dinner, we are very excited to announce that Amos Simfukwe has started working at ICCS this week as the new School Principal. He is experienced in Christian education, coming to us from FCE University in Masaiti, where he held the position of Deputy Head at their model school. We are very happy to welcome Amos, his wife Mercy, their two young children and adopted niece to the ICCS community.

As we reflect on the past year we are so grateful for all God has done in the lives of the many people in Zambia that are being helped through Zambia's Child and our wonderful supporters. Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**Kim Mukuka**

**Zambian Project Manager**

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## MERCY AND AMOS



## News from Manyando Community School, Kitwe

The 2018 school calendar comes to an end in a few days. As usual it has been an eventful and exciting year for both students and staff, with the only downside being the departure of our Grade 7 students after they sit for their final exams and complete primary school. We will hold the anticipated Christmas party for students at the school, thanks to the support of Zambia's Child.

During the course of the year the school received a donation of stationery and text books from Zambia's Child. The text book to student ratio has always been a challenge for the school, and this donation was a welcome boost.



The school has a very determined soccer team and it was an exciting moment when Maxine Callow, through her UK contacts, donated a full set of soccer jerseys and a soccer ball.

A consignment of colourful quilts for sponsored students has arrived, and the distribution of these has begun. The quilts aren't only beautiful, but will also offer great comfort for the students who otherwise share bedding with their siblings. A big thank you to Janet and the team of quilters in Dorrigo (NSW).



## A Word from the Public Officer, Sydney

As the school year has now finished, we look forward to the new year at ICCS with new beginnings - another thirty new Grade 1 students, and our first Principal.

I would like to thank the volunteers in Australia who happily give their time to assist with fundraising, office work, and other activities. We are thankful for our dedicated Committee - who meet every month for a lengthy meeting of planning and decision making. We are extremely grateful to Imzaba Bamazi for the wonderful buildings they have erected on the school site, and their grace and patience as we struggle to raise the funds to build each small stage of the school. Which brings us to the first vision of school buildings - these architectural drawings were prepared by PAA Design (thank you Bernard for your introduction and your help), and we are very appreciative of their patience and perseverance as we requested many changes to the original drawings due to changes in Council regulations in Zambia.

As well as the Movie Night in February, we have introduced some new fundraising activities this year - a coach tour to Mayfield Gardens, and a Barefoot Bowls afternoon. The annual Gala Dinner at the new venue (Kirribilli Club) was a happy and successful night - thank you Leigh Hatcher for giving your time as MC. We now have some Christmas cards available for purchase: they have photos of the students at ICCS on the cover which were taken by Tim Engelbrecht (*Hello Sweetheart*) this year - and the cost is **\$1.50 per card, \$8 for an assorted pack of six cards and \$15 for a pack of twelve**: please contact me for further information.

**Ros Philips 0407 175 422**



## Q & A with Cathy and Alan Barker regarding their visit to Zambia

### Q: When did you visit Zambia?

I (Cathy) first visited Zambia in 2009 when B2B was trying to get a larger plot of land for the school, and both Alan and Cathy visited ICCS in June this year.

### Q: What did you do on your recent trip there?

Alan, with the help of the male non-teaching staff, painted the 3 original classrooms inside and out, which took the whole 3 weeks we were there. Cathy helped by conducting literacy assessments with the students. It took 3 weeks just to assess all of Grade 5. The children were delightful to work with. One day, we also went with Robyn and Mwaba to do some of the school shopping, which was a very time consuming and tedious job.



### Q: Did you visit your sponsored child & how did you find that experience?

Yes, we visited our sponsored child, Natasha, in her home. We were very humbled by the conditions under which she lives. Some other families that we visited lived in much poorer circumstances and we felt a bit helpless, because no matter how much money we felt like spending to improve their lot, we knew that it would only be a drop in the bucket of need!

### Q: What was the highlight of your trip?

Meeting Natasha, our sponsored child, and feeling like we had done something to help these lovely people, even though it was only a little. Also, the genuine appreciation of the local people that we had travelled all that way to visit and help.

### Q: What benefits to the community can you see from the school?

Wow - how do you fit that into a few lines? The children, staff and family helpers are fed a nutritious meal at lunch time. The families are required to help with the cooking, cleaning and gardening at the school, which involves them in their children's education and that makes them happy. We saw how happy and well the children are and heard their lively involvement in the class activities. The children are watching the vegetables grow in the school garden plot, and eating some of that produce. They are involved in clubs, learning various other activities as well as their academic subjects. There is also a women's group that is involved in craft activities, and the women are learning skills that can help them earn some money. The adult literacy class will help them to improve their circumstances. All of this benefits the community they live in.

### Q: How has your visit to ICCS changed you?

We are now more aware of what poverty looks like and how well off all Australians are, and it has made us think about what is important in life. We are more humbled by the fact that even in their poverty, compared to us, most of the families are happily getting on with their lives. What shocked us was the disparity between the haves and the have-nots, in such close proximity to each other.

### Q: Can you give three tips for people planning to visit Zambia?

- 1) Be prepared to be changed, especially if you haven't seen poverty first hand before.
- 2) Try to learn some simple Bemba language - "Hello, how are you?", "thank you" etc. Our efforts to speak their language were met with pleased faces and laughs. English is their main language but it won't hurt to learn a little of their local language.
- 3) Be aware of cultural expectations and aim not to offend.

## Prayer Points

- \* Thank God for all of his provision for Ipalo Christian Community School (ICCS) this year.
- \* Thank God for Amos Simfukwe and pray that his appointment will greatly benefit ICCS and take some of the load from Kim.
- \* Thank God for Robyn's help over the past two years and pray for meaningful future endeavours for her.
- \* Pray for the wellbeing of ICCS students who will be missing their nutritious lunch over the school holidays.
- \* Pray for our students that they will make use of the opportunity they have to better theirs and their families' lives, and put in their best effort at school.
- \* Pray for ICCS staff over the holiday period that they will be ready to start afresh in 2019, and for protection for the non-teaching staff as they continue at school over the holidays.
- \* Pray for Manyando Community School (MCS), particularly for Meki and his staff, with the great responsibilities that they have taken on, with very little resources.
- \* Pray that the plans for the 2019 Zambia mission trip will come together without any problems.
- \* Pray that Christmas will be a meaningful time of celebration for Zambians and other underprivileged groups.
- \* Pray for Kim, Ralph, Aiesha, Jordan and Faith; for some fun family times over the break, and that they all will be refreshed for 2019.

## How to Donate

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