

February Newsletter, 2020

It has been a whirlwind of activity the last few months. The school building work was completed in December 2019: it is really thrilling to see six new classrooms, an office and an undercover area, almost doubling the size of the school! Our Agricultural Manager, Anthony Mawesa, has now been able to move into a new cottage with his wife and son, after a year living in the adapted chicken run store-room.

I would like to thank **MR JONATHAN TOWSE** of **IMZABA BAMAZI**, our trusted Building Contractor, who as usual has done a wonderful job completing the building works in record time. This year our students all have their lessons in the mornings, so no more split shifts and sharing classrooms. This is a huge advantage: we have found learning is not as effective in the afternoons as classes are often disrupted, and when hot it is hard to focus after lunch.



New Secondary Classrooms



Morswell Teaching Grade 7

The old classrooms (Modules 1 and 2) now have Grades 1 to 6. Grades 7 and 8 are in Module 3, along with our new Computer Room and a second office. We would like to give our thanks to **LIVING HOPE (DAVID & MARY CHAPMAN)** for their kind donation of ten second hand computers. Module 4 has the Adult Literacy, Science Lab (with mobile science lab kits) and Home Economics Room. The Ministry of Education has enforced specialised subject teaching which means all our teaching staff from Grades 1 to 8 are now teaching individual subjects, rather than a specific grade. Most of the

teachers have a year group for Roll Call and Devotions, and a specialised subject. This has taken a lot of adjustment.

There were several end of year events including a Grade 7 graduation trip to the Mufulira Boating Club: for most students this was the first time they had seen a large body of water and there were shouts of excitement as we arrived. This was followed by a Grade 7 Graduation Ceremony: an emotional afternoon celebrating the achievements of our first students to complete Primary School. It was so wonderful to hear that all of our students passed their Secondary School entrance exams with more than half making Division One, thanks to their hard work and the dedication of their wonderful teachers, especially Amos (School Principal) who taught them last year. All students enjoyed the annual end of year Thanksgiving Service and Christmas Party - something they look forward to as they are rewarded with Certificates and prizes, followed by the standard Zambian celebratory lunch of chicken, rice, cole-slaw and gravy, as well as soft drinks, ice blocks and chips!



Donation from Trade Kings

Our Christmas food distribution put smiles on the faces of our faithful guardians and parents who have worked diligently throughout the year doing their rostered duties in cooking, cleaning and gardening. Huge thanks to **TRADE KINGS** in Lusaka, and particularly **MR PATEL**, who organised a delivery of

dry foods and cleaning products which we were able to include in our Christmas 'Hampers', making them bigger and better than those distributed in previous years.



Christmas Hamper distributions



Update from Kim Continued

In January we welcomed four new staff members. Morswell Silumbu is our Grade 6 Roll Class Teacher (specialising in Computer Studies, Technology Studies and Business Studies): we are grateful for the eighteen months he spent volunteering before appointed to a full-time position. Grace Ngosa is our specialist Science and Agricultural Science Teacher, with Grade 8 as her Roll Class. Lydia Chola (Mwaba's wife) is our School Office Administrator (part time): she is a Pharmacist by profession, and is triaging student medical issues and assisting with office tasks. Lydia will also help with establishing sustainable income-generating projects. Chiluba Meki is our new Data Entry Clerk and his work will involve all things related to the financial aspects of the school. Anthony, our Agriculturalist, has been promoted to Agricultural Manager, and Mwaba's role has changed to Site Manager.

It was wonderful to see our Grade 1 students join us with happy faces in their new uniforms! The preschool orientation program was a great success and has given the Grade 1s a good grounding to prepare them for school. Our Grade 8s had some changes to their uniforms for Secondary School (they now have polar fleece jerseys and ties) which they love wearing with pride! I would like to thank

NATIONAL POLICE AID CONVOYS and **JOHN RYNNE** for organising the delivery of uniforms ordered from a new supplier in the UK, ensuring that our students have the best quality uniforms that will last all year. It has proved difficult to source quality uniforms in bulk locally, but shipping uniforms is a costly exercise so we are very grateful for this assistance.



On a personal note, our family will be moving back to Australia in August 2020 after eight years in Zambia (Aiesha and Jordan are returning a few weeks earlier with Mum, so they can start school in Term 3). Aiesha is now in Grade 7, so we feel it is time for our children to complete their Secondary and Tertiary Education in Australia. This is a huge step and we are currently implementing the changes necessary to ensure a smooth transition. Amos will be taking over various aspects of my role, and basically overseeing the project after I leave. Chiluba will take over the financial side of my role overseen by Shany (Swiss missionary who is an experienced accountant and lives locally), and Lydia will do some of the administration work.

Thanks for your wonderful support. We are so grateful for your prayers, financial support and practical assistance. May you be blessed just as we are thanks to your support!

News from Meki Mwape, Principal at MCS, Kitwe

The new school year has begun, and we are all excited about it. The learners and teachers are already hard at work. We said goodbye to our Grade 7 students, most of whom gained entrance to Grade 8 (secondary school). MCS achieved over 80% pass rate in 2019.

When MCS moved to the new location the school structure was a makeshift room of tents. With the heat and windy conditions tears appeared in the roofing, and some classes had no roofing at all, allowing the scorching heat to directly enter the classrooms which affected both the students and the teachers. With the help of Blessed



to Bless/Zambia's Child and some members of the MCS Parents' Committee, the school was able to cover the entire structure with roofing sheets.

Furthermore, the floors of the structure were compacted earth, which meant the classrooms were always dusty. The school has now managed to put concrete floors in all the classrooms, which has improved the learning environment for both the students and teachers.



Update from Ros Philips in the Australian Office

It was a great joy to see the oldest class of students at ICCS achieve success in their final primary exams - congratulations to all our Grade 8 students. How quickly time passes: it seems only yesterday that those nervous little faces started in our first Grade 1 class - and now they are becoming confident and capable young people, who we are very proud of.

Thank you to all our sponsors for continuing your support, and to the new sponsors who have come on board. May you all have the joy of watching your students progress, just like those of us who volunteer with Zambia's Child. I would like to give special thanks to the volunteers who come to help in the Sydney office. I am missing Cathy, who helped for a day every week for almost two years - thank you so much for your service, Cathy! A big thanks also to Shirley, who comes whenever there is work to be done with the ZC receipts, Michele who helps with admin half a day each week, and to Anita who prepares the Newsletter ready for print.

Our first fundraiser was held last week - a Movie Night at Roseville Cinemas - raising over \$2,000 for school operating costs. We have an exciting new event coming on 28th March in Castle Hill - see flyer below. Entertainment Books have become digital, and are registered for twelve months from the date of purchase. We will be sending out a *Save the Date* for the annual Gala Dinner soon (please keep 29th August free for this great event).



ICCS staff had a surprise visit from Aiden (Anglican Aid) last weekend, and the school prefects who were attending a 'Boot Camp' at school were delighted to spend some time with him on Saturday. They proudly showed him the new pathway they had made between the classroom blocks!



Upcoming Fundraising Activities



ZAMBIA'S CHILD
with
MINISTRY OF ROCK
presents
their inaugural



OZ ROCK MUSIC NIGHT 2020

(a night of good food, good music & plenty of dancing!)



DATE: Saturday, 28th March, 2020
TIME: 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start
(concluding around 11.30pm)
VENUE: Castle Hill Bowling Club
79 Castle Street, Castle Hill
TICKETS: \$90 each or \$630 table of 8*
(*optional discount for whole table booking)

All funds raised go towards furthering the work of Zambia's Child, a charity that supports the **Ipalo** Christian Community School (ICCS) in Kasompe, Zambia. ICCS provides quality education and a daily meal to about 240 orphaned and vulnerable children in Primary Grades 1 to 7 and now also in Grade 8 of our new High School!

WHAT TO EXPECT: You will enjoy a 3-course meal, drinks and great entertainment! (Ministry of Rock is a terrific 7-piece Rock 'n' Roll cover band). There will be a presentation about the work of Zambia's Child and a raffle with some fabulous prizes. There will also be plenty of time for dancing and of course for mingling and having some great conversations. *And it's all in the name of a really good cause!*

Tickets at: <https://hub.bengo.com/campaigns/zambias-child-oz-rock-music-night-2020>.

For more info or to make a donation please visit our website: <https://zambiaschild.ngo>.

For any queries, please call 0438 399 133 or email blessedtolessaustralia@gmail.com.

We really look forward to seeing you there!

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Prayer Points

- Pray for our new staff members in their various roles
- Pray for staff, students and parents to grow in the school vision and take ownership, understanding Christian Education and the transformational impact it has on our Community and Zambia at large
- Pray for the school to be connected to ZESCO (Zambian Electricity) as soon as possible
- Pray that ICCS will be registered as an exam centre so that our students do not have to travel away for external exams
- We have experienced an increasing number of students becoming sick - in most cases because they do not have enough food at home: pray that God will provide all their needs and heal them
- Please pray for healing for Kim, Elizabeth, Mary, Mercy and Amos who have been treated for ongoing infections, and some are still unwell
- Pray for Kim and Amos as they perform their exhausting management roles whilst being unwell - that they will be refreshed and restored to good health to deal with the daily issues
- Please pray for a smooth transition, without disruption to school life, as Kim and family return to Sydney later in the year
- Pray for the family as they pack up for departure, that they (particularly the children) adjust easily to life in Australia after eight years in Zambia, and for Kim and Ralph to find employment quickly
- Pray for the mission teams coming to Zambia this year - that God will provide good health and safe travels
- Please pray that God will raise the necessary local Zambian people with a passion to educate vulnerable children to join the school board
- Please pray for healing for our sickle cell students who have been experiencing further health issues - we hope for a miracle
- Pray for wisdom and Godly guidance for the school management team.

How to Donate

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