

July Newsletter, 2020

The Impact of COVID-19

In March this year the Zambian Government announced the closure of schools, higher educational institutions, and large gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Ipalo Christian Community School (ICCS) targets the orphans and vulnerable, this closure posed a huge challenge with the students staying at home, not only for teaching and learning but also concerns about how these students and their families would eat. Thanks to God that Blessed to Bless, through the generosity of sponsors, was able to provide the families with food supplies and soap to practice good hygiene. ICCS staff prepared work for the students and sent it home with the parents (who continued their duties at the school). The results were not impressive as most parents or guardians could not assist their children due to illiteracy. Staff embarked on a program to help those parents, providing additional support to students who were having difficulties completing their school work. In June the government instructed schools with exam classes to re-open. ICCS Grade 7 commenced on the 1st June. These students will be sitting their final primary exams to qualify for secondary school later this year so teachers, together with other staff members, are working hard to ensure that lost time is made up, preparing students for these upcoming exams.



Agricultural Activities at ICCS

During the winter season in Zambia, farming becomes challenging. Vegetables wilt due to frost and chickens often die before they reach the point of consumption or selling, which is disheartening. ICCS Agriculturalist, Anthony Mawesa, was not spared from these winter challenges, so he decided to research the issues to look for ways to improve production. The gardens and chickens have started to respond this winter, and there has been a constant supply of these throughout the season with the gardens tremendously improved.



Sports Field

ICCS desperately needs a sports field to enhance adventurous teaching and learning activities, provide recreation, effective use of imagination and active learning, allow students to explore the sports they are good at and provide the means to hold regular physical education and sport classes. At ICCS we are blessed to have many helping hands - parents, staff, board members, and students. We started to clear the land and halfway through faced the challenge of anthills. We approached various companies that own heavy machinery but costs were too high.

One morning during my devotions, I heard a voice saying that something good was about to happen and almost immediately the owner of a neighbouring business offered the use of his machinery with no labour charge, only the cost of the fuel. This was a blessing, and students and staff are incredibly grateful and excited that they will soon have a sports field to enjoy.

Land cleared for new sports field



Bricks made by Students and Parents from the Anthill soil



Update from Ros Philips in the Australian Office

With the necessary social restrictions due to the pandemic, Zambia's Child has not been able to hold fundraising activities for large gatherings - so planning is underway for an 'online' Gala Dinner to be held on Saturday 24th October at 7.45pm. You will be able to enjoy new videos, interviews and photos taken at ICCS in the comfort of your own home! More information about this 'event' will be coming very soon.

Zambia's Child is very thankful for **PAA Design** who has prepared the Masterplan for the school buildings on a pro-bono basis (you can see more information in the blog on the PAA Design website (www.paadesign.com.au/blog)). This has been no mean feat, as the plans had to be amended many times due to new council requirements. The design of the classrooms and amenities has worked extremely well, and the children coming from an impoverished community are reaping the benefits. Thank you PAA Design for the fantastic work you are doing which is contributing to changing lives in the Copperbelt in Zambia.

Hand in hand with the wonderful architectural designs, is the work of the ICCS building contractor in Zambia - **Imzaba Bamazi** - and we give our heartfelt thanks for their support for the school. Nothing is ever too much trouble for this company - and the speed and quality of the building work is amazing.

There are many branches to the tree of education - and none of the school development could progress without our supporters; a huge thank you also to donors to the recent EOFY Appeal when over \$27,000 was raised for ICCS.



New Secondary Block built by Imzaba Bamazi and his Team

News from Meki Mwape, Principal at MCS, Kitwe

With the opening of schools on 1st June, under what has been termed as the 'new normal', the school erected hand washing and sanitising facilities, made possible thanks to support from Zambia's Child. A total of four washing points have been placed around the school for both learners and teachers.

Starting this year, the school has been receiving a group of ICCS staff to work with the MCS staff and students. This is done once a term and the group is with MCS for about five days. Last term we had a group of teachers who taught the students and exchanged notes with staff. This term was different as the group that came included a Social Worker, General Worker and Agriculturalist. It was an exciting time for everyone in the school! The school now has a vegetable garden thanks to Anthony, Fanwell was hard at work repairing classroom doors and Katongo created a database for the Grade 7s.



Vegetable Gardens prepared by Anthony



Katonga collecting info for Grade 7 Database



Fanwell repairing classroom doors



2nd ICCS Team at MCS

News from Katongo Nshindano, ICCS Social Worker

Over the period of a week, ICCS held meetings with parents in small groups in order to carry out a study and to orientate them regarding particular educational strategies being put in place. The topics included: discussions on parents' projects, the school's vision, extent of sponsorship, the criteria of enrolment for Grade 1s, distress funding for parents, COVID updates, as well as the homework program.

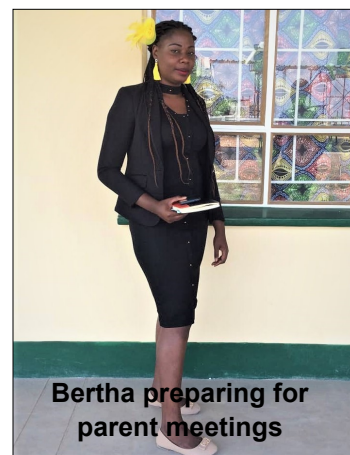
The topics were as brief as possible and spread among staff. Bertha was in charge of discussing the role of parents in educating a child and to make sure they encourage their children to take homework as seriously as classwork. Especially now, homework has become the only point of contact between teacher and student, says Bertha.

It is not yet clear when normal school lessons will resume for non-examination classes, but for now we pray for the best, and apply the most effective means to keep students in tune with education.

Parents washing dishes after lunch



Grade 7 at work



Bertha preparing for parent meetings

Upcoming Fundraising Activities

SAVE
the
DATE



ZAMBIA'S CHILD
online
5TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Online | Saturday 24th October | 7.45PM

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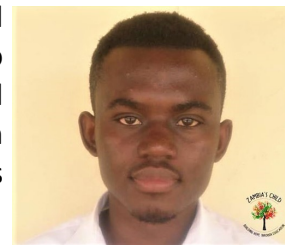
*Many Early Bird offers end 28th February 2020.

*Terms and Conditions apply. See <https://www.entertainment.com.au/termsandconditions> for more information.

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Zambia's Child Sponsored Student Success Story

Chiluba M, Accounting Diploma and CPA Certificate: After completing his secondary and tertiary qualifications through the Zambia's Child Sponsorship program, Chiluba commenced work in 2019 as a part time volunteer for Blessed to Bless two days per week assisting the Project Manager with bookkeeping and administration work. In January 2020 he was employed in a full time role with Blessed to Bless Association as a Data Entry Clerk and Accounts Assistant. Chiluba runs the Chess and Draughts Club at ICCS and in his spare time enjoys playing soccer and working on software applications. He is extremely grateful for the sponsorship he received and hopes all ICCS children make the most of their opportunities.



Prayer Points

- Praise God for the support provided by a local Chinese company who provided their earthmoving machinery to help level the sports field
- Praise God for the dedicated staff at ICCS as they face new challenges brought about by the pandemic, and find new ways to make up this year's lost time for students, including additional Saturday lessons
- Pray for the management team at school and for wisdom in their decision making
- Pray for all the students at school as they deal with the changes in education methods due to the pandemic
- Pray for the families in the school community - that they remain in good health and are able to provide for their families
- Pray that the COVID-19 pandemic will clear, and that the government permits all students to return to school as soon as possible
- Pray for the extended families of all ICCS staff - some who may live far away and unable to be visited at this time - that they remain in good health
- Pray that God will enlighten the minds of the Grade 7 students (final year of primary school) so that they grasp the concepts they are learning, and apply the knowledge they acquire in their daily lives
- Pray for electricity connection to the school so that students and staff can use the computer lab, and have the means to cool the classrooms during the coming hot season.

How to Donate



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Name _____

Address: _____

Suburb & Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I want to donate to (please circle)

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Building Fund (ZCD OD58)

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Donation Amount \$ _____

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Mail: PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office, NSW, 1230

Donate online: www.anglicanaid.org.au

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BSB: 032078 **Account No:** 253493 **Ref:** Zambia's Child

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