



Christmas Newsletter, 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We are very excited to announce that a Charitable Trust and a multi-national marketing technology company, both from United Kingdom, have generously agreed to provide funding for Stage 5 building works. These include:

- *Classroom Module 5 with office*
- *Amenities Block attached to Module 5*
- *One Science Laboratory with associated fit-out*

In addition, the Company will send small staff teams to the School each year to assist with student learning and co-curricular activities and to visit the local communities.

Greetings to all sponsors and members of Zambia's Child in Australia and other parts of the world. Since I last reported to you, so much has happened it's hard to know where to begin, so I will start with an update on the matters which were in progress when the last news went to print in July.

The cleared sports and recreation ground at school is now in regular use. The children hold their early morning devotions at the sports field, and go straight to the field during playtime to kick a football. On Thursday afternoons there is a regular football match with the students and staff playing together, and on Fridays there is often a match against other locals.

The two parents and students who have been making the burnt bricks from the anthill soil have now completed the task, and the bricks have been stacked and fired. We will soon commence selling the 6,000 bricks.

The school reopened to all students in September, and work has begun to catch up on all that the students have missed during the closure. This is a huge task, and some classes are even working on Saturdays, as well as longer hours at school during the week. The students are pleased to be back at school with it's routines, standards, and discipline.

A new Grade 2 teacher was appointed in November, Mr Happy Kaonga, who is settling in well with his class. Mr Edward Sampa, who has been volunteering at ICCS during the year has taken on Grade 3 this term. After a turbulent year students will complete school on 11th December, and 18th December for Grades 7 and 8.



The school vehicle, a 2000 Toyota Liteace Noah, arrived from Japan in October and has been a great blessing. This replaced the previous Toyota Hilux, which was in constant need of repair.

The 2021 school year will open in the second week of January and everyone is excited that during first term the next stage of the building program will commence. The new buildings as well as a covered outdoor learning area, will bring us into line with the Ministry of Education's standards, and hopefully assist us to be appointed as an exam centre: at present our Grade 7 students have to attend another school nearby to sit their exams.

In closing I would like to thank you and wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our wonderful saviour, Jesus Christ.

AMOS SIMFUKWE, ICCS School Principal

Update from Ros Philips in the Australian Office

How fast the end of the year is approaching, and still much to do in the office here before Christmas! Letters are slowly being sent to sponsors with the new student profiles, as information is received. Work is a little behind this year because the annual visit was cancelled and schools closed for a period by the Zambian Government.

We are thankful that our students and their families came through the period of COVID19 isolation safely, and staff and students are working extra hours to make up for the lost time during school closure. The families faced many challenges during this period and Zambia's Child was able to help assist with some food provisions, while teachers provided work for the students to do at home.

Graduation day for the second class of students to complete primary school at ICCS (Grade 7) was held and there was great excitement! We congratulate the Class of 2020 - it has not been an easy year for them and we wish them well as they move into secondary education next year.



Fundraising activities have been curtailed in Australia this year and the annual Gala Dinner was held as an *Online* Event for the first time. We are very thankful for your support for Zambia's Child at this event. Over \$44,000 was raised for school operating costs.

I would like to thank the Australian Committee members for their wonderful commitment and service, and the volunteers who come regularly to the office to assist with administration work. I think I can answer for everyone that it is a blessing to be involved with this work, seeing the successes of these children who face so many difficulties and hardships in their lives, and yet achieve so much.

There is always a need for more sponsors - either for students or for staff (or *part* of a staff member's salary). If you know anyone who would like to be involved with sponsorship, please send them the following link to the Sponsorship page on the Zambia's Child website - <https://zambiaschild.ngo/sponsorship/sponsorship/>.

Another way to support Zambia's Child is by purchasing an Entertainment Book - <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/210v650>.

The Christmas Appeal is under way, and food parcels will be distributed to all families in the school community just before Christmas. This is a day they all look forward to - for some people it will be one of the rare occasions they eat meat. It is not too late to contribute, and if there is an excess of funds donated, the extra money will be used towards the purchase of solar panels and inverter to power fans in the classrooms.

Once again I would like to thank you for your support through giving and prayer - and wish everyone a peaceful and joyous Christmas, and a happy and healthy new year.



News from Meki Mwape, Principal at MCS, Kitwe

The school calendar year came to a close on 4th December, and indeed it has been a very challenging time for all of us. We are just grateful that we pulled through.

In line with the COVID19 guidelines, the school had to put in a number of interventions for both pupils and members of staff. The guidelines included installing additional hand washing facilities, and providing face masks for all students. This was made possible by the support of Zambia's Child.



Among the highlights of the year was the visit to the school by non-teaching staff of Ipalo Christian Community School. From this visit Manyando Community School had it's first garden, and this was thanks to Anthony (ICCS Agriculturalist). He started the garden with the students from scratch, and today we have beans, pumpkin leaves, green pepper and other vegetables.

A local organisation called **Yes to Children** donated exercise books, pencils and some face masks to the school. This was a welcome donation as sourcing learning requisites for the school is one of the challenging matters we face.

To close the year the school held the end of year exams for Grades 1 to 6 in readiness for the 2021 school year, and on the last day of school a Christmas party was enjoyed by all the students and staff at MCS.



Hello from Elizabeth, Australian Volunteer at ICCS

I came to live in Zambia in January 2019 to assist Kim (Project Manager), and volunteer at ICCS. After a short time I found there was much I could do, and could see myself staying in Chingola until the first cohort of students at ICCS finished Grade 12 - which will be in 2024.

In my first year I filled the gaps wherever they appeared, and things seemed to run smoothly with that approach. Then of course the unthinkable happened, COVID19, and with sadness I left Zambia at the end of March this year, wondering if I would be able to return; but was finally able to return in September.



Support Reading

When I returned to ICCS my role was more defined - as the support teacher for reading across all classes. The schools in Zambia had only just reopened prior to my return, and as the students had missed face to face lessons there were a number of them who needed remedial reading. I work with small groups on a timetable from Monday to Thursday.

Not having a teaching background made it difficult as I started preparation for the classes. However, the library at school is well stocked with books I can use and the children are responding well, and I am loving the work. The really nice thing is that I am getting to know so many more of the students.

Another weekly activity is meeting with the "Super 12" girls. After school we meet for an hour and share stories - commencing with a short Bible Study/devotion and launching into matters of concern for the girls. We sometimes celebrate life with a meal or a birthday cake, but mainly just enjoy each other's company and fellowship.

On Fridays I do administration work as required, or take time out to visit the local farmer's market where I have a coffee with friends.



Super 12 Girls

News from Katongo, ICCS Social Worker

Blessings and Chawanangwa (Grade 8 students) have just completed their Food and Nutrition practical exam. This is in line with the government's new policy of School Based Assessment (SBA). According to Examination Council of Zambia (ECZ), students will not just write exams on their actual day, instead, it'll be done in collaboration with the SBA which carries 30%. The results have to be submitted to ECZ for compilation, which will thereafter be added to their final exam.



Prayer Points

- Praise God for making it through this difficult year with the disruptions caused by COVID19
- Pray that we will soon have power connection to the school, either in the form of electricity from Zesco or in the form of solar installation
- Pray for all students at ICCS as they finish their school year, that they will remain safe and in good health during the holiday break
- Pray for all staff and volunteers at ICCS as they enjoy their break after a very difficult and stressful year
- Pray that we find additional supporters to help with staff sponsorship
- Pray that ICCS will be granted an Exam Centre Number so that Grades 7, 9 and 12 can sit their exams in-house.



How to Donate



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