

August Newsletter, 2021

Patrick 1st May 2005 - 4th July 2021

“Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted” Matthew 5: 4. We have lost a son and are all grieving. Please pray for the staff and students at Ipalo Christian School as they mourn the loss of our Grade 9 student, Patrick, in an accident. Patrick commenced at ICS in Grade 2 in 2014, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” Luke 18: 16. May he rest in peace.



Visit to The School of St Jude, Arusha.

Along with the four members of ICS Management Team, I visited The School of St Jude in Tanzania during the first week of our recent school holidays. This was an answer to prayer, and a refreshing and rejuvenating time for all of us. Gemma Sisia was very generous in sharing her time and knowledge about running a large school (1,800 students), and we gained some valuable insight and ideas during the visit, some of which we hope to implement at ICS.



Staff Team Building

After returning we had an amazing team building event at ICS. Staff were divided into sport houses and required to complete a series of activities, some set to remind us that we are dealing with students who come from dire conditions that can be heartbreaking. Good planning was required to successfully complete the course. The purpose of the teambuilding event was to identify strengths and embrace weaknesses, and find ways to make the school more effective by reinforcing team work. It was a day full of fun, laughter and discoveries.



Student's Skills Empowerment

For some time we have asked ourselves if the current education system offers a promising future. It is a provoking question, making us rethink our teaching approaches and pedagogies, to ensure we teach our students the goal of education is beyond just graduating and obtaining a job. What if there is no employment? We need to prepare our students to live a purposeful life even if there is no employment offered by the government; we do that by preparing them with skills relevant to their community's opportunities.

Computers in the School

We previously only had 10 desktops (donated by *Living Hope*); this was a good start but not enough to cater for the number of students in each class. We are grateful for the 21 new laptops purchased for the school. The computers will help teachers train students to prepare for government exams, and help students gain skills which can be used later to earn a living.

Solar Equipment and Installation

Thanks to overseas donors and the EOFY Appeal we are now able to carry out the first stage of solar installation, which will allow the use of lights and computers (without the need for a generator), as well as ceiling fans to cool the classrooms in the stifling heat of hot season.

Closing Schools due to Covid

All schools in Zambia have been closed since 16th June due to the third Covid wave. Staff had to prepare homework at short notice, and ICS families were provided with food supplies at the start of closure to help them through this period, with another distribution being made last week. Thankfully school will resume this week.



AMOS SIMFUKWE, ICS School Principal

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT CONT'D

A little feedback from the school community

Many parents have spoken to me and other staff to express their appreciation for the provision of food packages. They asked me to directly convey this to the Australian Committee and donors. I have even received phone calls from those who had not seen me at school, just to say thank you to Zambia's Child for the care and kindness being shown to the community.

I recently visited one of the government offices where there were many officials. The host introduced me by saying *"This is Mr Simfukwe from the only active functioning charity school organisation in Chingola. We are aware that Blessed to Bless is very committed to ensure the school grows to give greater impact. He went on to say that a lot of NGOs have stopped supporting communities, especially schools."*

Lead Forensics May Challenge

During May our newest corporate supporter (UK-based) organised a walking challenge to raise funds for Zambia's Child. More than 200 staff members participated and walked individually or in teams to raise much needed funds for the ICS building program. The target of 8,138kms (the equivalent distance from Portsmouth to Zambia) was smashed with more than 10,000 kms walked. Winners were announced for the most kms covered, the best fancy dress and highest amounts raised by both individuals and teams. A great time was had by all. The team are currently planning their next fundraising challenge. Watch this space.



Update from Ros Philips in the Australian Office

As I write this I am taking a break from preparing the new student profiles for 2022 - one of my favourite roles in the office, although it can be very confronting when reading about the living and family situations of new students. It makes your heart ache for these little children. However, we know their lives will be 'easier' once they commence at Ipalo Christian School - and that is a comforting thought. Please contact the office if you would like to sponsor a new student commencing in 2022 (blessedtoblessaustralia@gmail.com or 0407 175 422 - Ros).

This has not been an easy year for students and staff at ICS - a delayed start to the school year due to Covid (early February), and another closure in June and July. During this time the school suffered the terrible tragedy of the loss of our Grade 9 student, Patrick, who died in a truck accident. A quiet young man who got on so well with all around him - he will be greatly missed by everyone. We pray for his family, as well as his school family at this very difficult time for them.

Amidst this sadness there is some happier news that the next classroom module, amenities block and science lab have been completed in May, and already put in to use. A very big thank you to all the wonderful donors, including Lead Forensics and The Beit Trust (both UK based) who have enabled this next stage of building work to be finished. The solar panels have been delivered to the school for the first stage of solar power to be installed - hopefully before the weather heats up at the end of August! It will make a big difference having ceiling fans and LED lights in all the classrooms and offices.



Update from Ros Philips in the Australian Office Cont'd

Fundraising activities this year have been difficult, with the annual Movie Night at Roseville Cinemas postponed until such events can be held. Entertainment Membership (digital) can still be purchased at the following link, and 20% of the purchase price will be donated to Zambia's Child - <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/210v650>

Planning is underway for the Annual Gala Dinner which is to be held at the Kirribilli Club this year on Saturday 30th October - please keep the date free. If social events are restricted the event will move 'Online' on the same date (as it was last year) - we will keep you posted. There will be new photos and videos from the school and interviews with Amos, staff and students. You will be able to see the building development at ICS.

There are occasions when Zambia's Child receives donations through the Westpac account which do not have an identifying name - or may have a name without an accompanying email message. This means we cannot send a receipt, as the bank is unable to provide contact details. We have received a sponsorship donation in March this year (with the correct reference of SS21) but do not have contact details of the donor - so are unable to provide a student profile. If this could be you, please contact the office to provide your contact details (see email address and mobile number above).

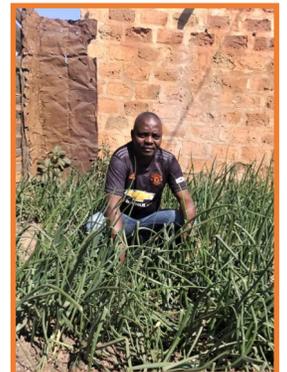
I cannot close without thanking the volunteers who assist in the office - your support is greatly appreciated.



News from Meki Mwape, Principal at MCS, Kitwe



Schools remained closed until this month due to Covid19. Both staff and learners were hugely disappointed as it means a lot of work for pupils to make up after their return. In the meantime the Grade 7 students have collected work from school every week. The teachers were also busy with the school garden. The garden was set up with the help of Anthony from ICS. We first planted a variety of vegetables and this time we have a crop of onions: there are two varieties, white and red onions. Once harvested, the onions will be sold to staff and church members. The money raised will be used to buy school resources. Our sincere thanks to Blessed to Bless for the donation of text books for MCS.



Elizabeth Clarke - Australian Volunteer - ICS

This year marked a special event for Blessed to Bless in Zambia. The Staff of ICS and the Zambian Board held the first Zambian Fundraiser. A dinner was organised for 24 April at Samfred Gardens, a function centre in Chingola. Fundraisers of this nature are not common in Zambia, and the approaches that were made to a myriad of businesses were well received. Edward Sampa (staff) and I were able to turn up and meet the management of various mining, logistics and retail companies, and ask them for donations and invite them to purchase tickets to the dinner.

There was a wonderful response, and we sold 100 tickets and hosted 70 at the dinner. The staff of ICS rose to the occasion and overcame shyness to sell raffle tickets and greet guests, and were an invaluable support to the success of the dinner.

The highlight of the evening was the entertainment, which was provided by sixteen students from ICS, along with some local drummers. The drummers taught the children to dance and sing traditional music. It was very moving and encouraging for the staff to see the students make such an impact on the guests.



Elizabeth Clarke - Australian Volunteer - ICS Cont'd



The Chingola District Commissioner was so impressed that she called her media team to film the students, and they presented their performance a second time. The students really enjoyed this new experience. The event raised awareness of Ipalo Christian School and the work of Blessed to Bless in the local community, and we look forward with anticipation to the 2022 event.



Prayer Points

- Please pray for healing of the staff and students' hearts from the loss of our beloved student.
- Please pray for the safety and health of our students, staff and volunteers as they go about their daily duties.
- Please pray that the school's application for 'exam centre' will be approved quickly, so that students can soon register for next year's exam on the school's own 'number'.
- Praise God for the solar equipment delivered to the school - and pray that the installation will commence soon.
- Pray for wisdom and unity of purpose for the entire team.
- Trust the Lord for a breakthrough in the lives of the ICCS learners; pray for them to grow in a relationship with God, and be freed from the fear of witchcraft and poverty.
- Please pray for safety and security of the school after the discovery that a big chunk of wire fence had been cut.
- Please pray that all the new students commencing at ICS in 2022 will have sponsorship support.

How to Donate



DONATION FORM (Tax Deductible) **Blessed to Bless (Zambia's Child)**

Name _____

Address: _____

Suburb & Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I want to donate to (please circle)

Sponsorship Fund

Building Fund

General Donation

Donation Amount \$ _____

Please circle: Mastercard / Visa / Amex / Diners

Name on Card: _____

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____

CCV: _____

Frequency (Please circle):

Once only / Monthly / Quarterly / Half Yearly / Yearly

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

Donate online: www.anglicanaid.org.au

EFT: Anglican Aid

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

EMAIL: enquiries@anglicanaid.org.au

CALL: 1800 653 903