



From the Director

In the book of Matthew we read that 'the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree and birds come and make nests in its branches'.

I am continually amazed at how from a small vision of a couple of classrooms on a hill in Kantolomba, Zambia, the project has grown into a great tree which the locals now know as the Light Up Ahead School. Interestingly in this parable of Jesus, He mentions the birds that also find refuge in its branches.

Encouragingly the Kantolomba project now offers much more than we had hoped for the 210 children sponsored in the program. Small business and microloan training is offered to over 75 women who participate in the program, and multiple health clinics have been arranged at the school. Now, even more birds will be able to perch in its branches with the introduction of sustainable projects: a chicken farm which

will provide over 200 chickens a month, and a vegetable garden that will provide cabbages, tomatoes and chillies to supplement meals. These industries mean more employment and lower overheads for the project.

A major injection came to the project this year in the form of the Raynor family from Western Australia. The wealth of experience that Brad brought to training teaching staff and Kate to caring for the sick and organising health clinics was invaluable. Even their children Holly and Owen were very involved, helping the students at the school during their four month stay.

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter over a cuppa and thanking God for the great tree He is creating in Zambia and the many people who are now benefiting from its branches. Thank you to those who support the Kantolomba project, your investment continues to help the tree to flourish.

Ray Hockley
Swanmissions Director

2014 Zambia Impact Trip



It took a while for it to sink in that we were in AFRICA! It was a little bizarre but amazing at the same time. Livingstone was lovely; it did concern me a little though when Brad and Kate said that the water pressure was amazing compared to Ndola!! Seeing Victoria Falls and the Safari in Botswana were highlights for me. I love to take photos and there were many opportunities to do so. Seeing animals in the wild was incredible (especially the hippo as I had never seen one before).

The first day at Light Up Ahead School was incredible; as our bus drove up the students all ran to the fence cheering, shouting and waving. It felt like we were movie stars. The children sang us some songs and were a little shy at first but it didn't take long for them to warm to us.

There was one little girl in particular, Esnart who asked me my name then told me hers. I didn't realise it then but she was the sponsor child of one of the families in our church and I had a gift for her from them. It was an incredible feeling to be able to give it to her and meet her mum.

I think that the hardest, most impacting thing for me was walking through the village. While the little children who followed us were happy and laughing, it seemed the older they were the less excited they were to see us. The look of despair in the eyes of the adults and teenagers was obvious and sad. Hearing some of the stories of the families was heart wrenching.

The trip was incredible and life changing and since my return my family has sponsored two children through the program. I would love to go back to meet them in the future and to see how far the school has come.

I was also able to tick an item off my bucket list in that it is one more continent that I was able to photograph.

Rebecca Coleman

Being a part of the Zambia Impact Trip for 2014 was the most memorable and life-changing experience I have had. It was incredible to witness life in such a different culture, connect with people on the other side of the globe, and help with a part of God's plan for this place. From the mighty, misty roar of Victoria Falls to the widened eyes of children staring at these foreign Muzungus, God's powerful presence could be felt everywhere we went. It was touching, inspiring and thrilling. I thank our African friends as well as the entire College team for making this experience truly awesome!

Alexander McKenzie

Teacher Training and Student Progress



Economic poverty can only really be addressed by education and Spiritual poverty by hearing the Word of Jesus Christ. It is with this in mind that we seek to improve the quality of education by addressing the quality of teaching.

Our community can have some influence over health, and a feeding program helps to provide daily nutrition that is lacking, but the capacity to provide long term improvement must come from within the individual. The children of the next generation must have the capacity to think, read, write, calculate and discuss at a level that makes them employable not as rock breakers, labourers or prostitutes, but in safe jobs with a regular income. This will allow them to provide for their family and offer a safe and secure future. Their education must provide knowledge and skills; build self-belief and reliance, and a heartfelt belief of their place in God's community. The quality of education needs to be of a standard recognised by others to ensure that the systemic status discrimination against the Kantolomba community and the children we support does not stand in the way of breaking the poverty cycle. To achieve this the quality and focus of teaching must be addressed. More of the same will only lead us to where we currently are.

The objective of teacher training at the Light Up Ahead School is to raise the standard of student progression and results to

international standards. This year the staff have been provided with several months of training and in-class coaching.

Before the teacher training could start it was important to address the staff's belief in the students.

The beliefs that were built were:

1. All children are created in the image of God with a mind and capacity to learn. All children can learn regardless of where they come from and the only thing holding them back (except physiological issues influencing learning) is the teacher.
2. The children of Kantolomba can reach the same standard as those in the private schools in Ndola and in fact can surpass their results.

With this belief in place and the established structures of the school, teacher training started addressing:

- explicit objectives
- lesson design
- classroom management
- assessment formative and summative (how are they going and where are they at the end?)
- phonetic and phonemic education
- metacognition
- student progression benchmarks
- lesson speed
- visual print and its use in learning
- academic warm-ups to ensure automaticity of key concepts.

To support this training there were daily classroom coaching and demonstration lessons. Additionally, the Principal Mrs Folloshi and Head Teacher Mr Silumbwai work shadowed the coaching and were trained to provide ongoing support.

Brad Raynor

Women's Empowerment Program



This year has seen the launch of the Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) in Kantolomba, Zambia. Sponsors from the Swan

Christian College community have enabled this program to get off the ground. The aim of the program is to give women training in Business and Entrepreneurial skills and provide micro loans. With over 80% unemployment, poor literacy and other issues associated with extreme poverty this program promises to be a lifeline for many of these women and their families.

Interviews were conducted in April this year to find a Coordinator and the successful applicant was Gwen Kapungu. Gwen comes to the project with a wealth of experience in Women's Empowerment having served the government in a similar capacity. She also has training in social work and community development, and is a committed Christian.

Our Coordinator Gwen states, "This process is ongoing, the main objective is to help women become more self-reliant and help them realise the potential they have, to visualise how far they can go in terms of business if they commit themselves to hard work and are determined to improve their standard of living.

I am glad to say that out of the 53 women who were not in any form of business at the start of the WEP, 30 of them are now on board running some income generating activities. I believe that at the end of our training each and every one of them will be up on board running a business."

Over 40 women from the village have just conducted a workshop with the 'Dorcus Society' who based their business principles on Biblical values. They covered topics such as – why do business?, market research, laying a good foundation, customer service, budgeting and business ethics. For those who would like to support the Women's Empowerment Program go to www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ698N to make a tax deductible donation. Please forward a confirmation receipt to wep@scea.wa.edu.au.

Health Clinics



In 2013 a sea container was sent to Light Up Ahead School with a large quantity of donated medicines. The challenge when I arrived was how to get the medications out to who needed them most.

After talking to Veronica we decided to run some health clinics at the school. As a registered nurse who had always worked in a hospital setting this was way out of my comfort zone but with Veronica assisting me I had confidence. I had six weeks left in Zambia so set the goal of three 'under fives clinics' and three 'ladies clinics'.

Our first clinic was under fives. I had already arranged all the medications into types (eg a box of analgesics, a box of diarrhoea medications, etc). With the help of the school guards and cleaners we set up the clinic in a spare classroom. We had two desks set up so I would be able to see patients with Veronica translating and the other desk was for Funny, a local registered nurse and school board member. An important part of the clinic was to begin with health education and at the first clinic I talked about diarrhoea and vomiting.

Mothers and children started arriving at midday, well ahead of time. The health talk started at 2:00pm and the clinic was under way by 2:30pm. There was quite a crowd developing so we decided not to let any more people through the school gates. We were so thankful for this decision because as it was we were still seeing patients at 7:00pm. During the last hour we saw patients in the dark as we had no lights in the classroom, there was no glass in the louvres so the wind had been blowing through all afternoon and it was cold.

Doreen saw the patients first to gather their details and weigh them. We had one thermometer, no stethoscope and for the ladies clinic we had a blood pressure machine. I had to totally rely on what was translated to me. These families had little or no income, no medicines at home and they all wanted to go home with something. We gave out large amounts of Paracetamol, oral hydration salts and cough medicines, and made up a porridge mix to give out to malnourished children. We could have given it out to every family! At that first clinic we saw 41 children.

As word spread about the clinics more and more people came along and sometimes we had to close the gate early depending on how many nurses were helping. At our last two clinics we had extra assistance, with even two doctors coming. The volunteers were all very happy to continue helping, especially if the clinic could be officially registered. Veronica has organised one clinic since I left the country, it is so encouraging that there is a group of local people willing to help those less fortunate than themselves.

We used up the majority of the medications from the container and needed to buy more for the last couple of clinics. In Ndola medicines can be accessed cheaply, even antibiotics and anti-hypertensive medicines. During the six clinics we saw over 230 people and turned away many more that came to the school gate.

I pray that the health talks have empowered parents to seek help and demand better treatment for their families. The ladies and mothers we saw really appreciated the time we made to explain things properly.

Kate Raynor

Life in Zambia



My name is Holly and I went with my family to Zambia to work at the school. We did not have a set job as such, but we played with the kids when they were not in class. I loved Zambia and its people.

With much joy and happiness the girls summoned me every morning at recess. I got lots of hugs from them and five or so little girls would run over to hold my hand. But when they grew bored, a little boy maybe five years old constantly seemed to be there to hold my hand. He was always there smiling up at me and wanting me to swing him around.

The girls' conversations were normally the same – how are you? How was class? What did you learn? How is your family? How was lunch? What did you have today? Then there would be silence and they were content to let me just sit there. I am sure they talked about me in Bemba. Sometimes they spoke in English so I could understand their stories and they laughed at the jokes being told. I was asked so many times – what language do you speak in Australia? Where do you live? Do you eat anything? Do you speak Bemba?

Towards the end of our stay the girls started playing soccer. I must have stepped on their toes so many times with my big clunky boots but none of them ever complained, not once. Because I felt so bad and much to my mother's horror, I started playing soccer in my socks.

All of the kids were so open and willing to let us be part of their lives and family. They were curious, loving and funny. I cannot count how many times I did 'skins and knuckles' and have been hugged and fought over and asked questions. They thirst for attention and love and for you to just take time to sit and listen

to them. Education gives them a future, clinics keep them alive but love – God’s, mine, yours – keeps them smiling, laughing and gives them a reason to hope for a better tomorrow.

Holly Raynor

Owen Zambian stories



Language

The local language in Ndola, Zambia is Bemba. So at school the kids tried to teach me how to speak it. A big group gathered every day full of big smiles with everyone pulling and tugging at my arms. They grabbed my hands and the group would say ‘iminuay’ (which means ‘hand’ in Bemba). I tried to copy what they said but I said it wrong and a roar of laughter erupted. I tried again and said it right and all the kids cheered and the process started again but with a different word in Bemba.

Soccer

The ball came out of the classroom and all the boys cheered as they sorted out the teams. I walked out of the library and down to the patch of grass where the boys played soccer. They told me what team I was on and then the game started. The boys ran forward passing the ball once or twice with other kids shouting for the ball in Bemba. I got the ball, I took it forward as much as I could then someone took the ball off me, I chased after him but he scored and the game started again after a bit of grumbling.

Lego

One break time a teacher brought out some Lego for the boys to play with in the classroom. A small group stayed in the class to build a car and digger. One of the boys walked up to me with a huge smile on his face and showed me a small yellow digger. He said, “I made this.” I replied and then he said, “I’m almost as good as you.” This made me smile.

I could tell you about how poor the kids are but the happy things are more important. We can’t stop the poverty in Ndola but we can help reduce it. The education that these kids get will help them get a better job and help their families.

Owen Raynor

New Steps



Thank you so very much for your support. While building new steps is not a glamorous project it protects a big investment and helps to guarantee the safety of the kids transitioning up and down. Every day we have 180+ students use the stairs for access to their daily meal and to the Pre-school classes, which are at the top of the hill. The kids are finding the novelty so exciting we cannot get them to walk on the stairs today. As you may be able to see we have put in a straight flow on the left and the right has run off drains every 15ish steps.

Vegetable Garden



Chinese cabbage, cabbage round, tomatoes, onions and chilli - there are seedlings and seeds planted. There is a pastor who comes to help and he teaches ‘Farming God’s Way’. The fact he keeps coming to help yet asks nothing in return is a blessing. Please pray for him and his work. The seedlings and seeds have been donated. He next wants Mulanga the gardener to use the pit behind ablutions to build a fishpond. The plan is to breed fish and after a harvest, dry the pond and use the silt to fertilise the crops.

Prayer Requests

Pray for wisdom for the Australian Board of the Kantolomba project as we develop a strategic plan for the next critical phase of the project.

Pray for our Women's Empowerment Officer Gwen Kapungu as she leads the 75 women in the program through training and entrepreneurial skills. Allow the women to catch a vision of what they can achieve with God's help. Bind the women together in solidarity as they work together to support each other with micro financing loans and repayments.

Pray for our in-country coordinator Veronica Sikwengala as she oversees what has become a major enterprise in the Kantolomba Project. Pray that she and her family stay healthy; that Veronica considers how best to delegate responsibilities to ensure sound governance of the project.

Pray for fundraising ideas and donors to be raised up to fund the next building phase of the project where we need approximately \$70 000 to build three more classrooms and a general purpose centre for administration and meeting rooms.

Pray for the teachers as they seek to implement the teaching techniques that they learnt under the leadership and direction of Brad Raynor.

Pray for the Principal of Light Up Ahead School, Margaret Foloshi, as she encourages the teachers to strive to meet the benchmarks for each class group that they teach.

Pray for sponsors for the 15 children currently remaining without sponsorship.



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