



Swanmissions
MERCY, JUSTICE, HUMILITY

SWANMISSIONS / NEWSLETTER / TERM 1 2014



Operated by Swan Christian College

In this ISSUE

Christmas in Kantolomba
Australian Volunteers
Reflections on Kantolomba
from Sponsor Jodie Fairclough

Swan Christian College
381 - 401 Great Northern Highway
Middle Swan WA 6056
PO Box 1516 Midland WA 6936
P +61 8 9374 8301
F +61 8 9374 8301
E swan@scea.wa.edu.au
W www.swan.wa.edu.au

Swan Missions
E raymondgh@scea.wa.edu.au
W www.swanmissions.com

From the DIRECTOR

2013 was a challenging but fruitful year for the Kantolomba Project. The highlights of the year included the official school opening attended by over 500 people; the introduction of 30 new sponsor children into the program; a sea container full of supplies sent from Perth to Zambia and the part construction of a three classroom block.

2014 looks to be full of promise as we welcome Margaret whose wealth of experience in education will be utilised as the new Principal of Light Up Ahead School. We are also blessed to have a number of Australian volunteers working in Zambia who will bring their skills and passion to assist with the running of the project.

This year also marks the commencement of the Women's Empowerment Program. Our hope is that skill training and micro-financing will enable the women of Kantolomba to develop sound businesses that will generate income and break the poverty cycle within the community.

This year, the Kantolomba Project will be focusing on raising funds to enable the completion of the three classroom block at the school. We will also be working

closely with the local board to develop income generating ideas that will enhance the Light Up Ahead School's sustainability. Ideas that will be trialed this year are the school running an internet café and growing vegetables on the school grounds.

Recently the Light Up Ahead School was fortunate to host the Fairclough family who journeyed to Zambia to visit their sponsor child. Their daughter Holly then stayed on for a month to support the work at the school. Please read their accounts over the page.

We also are looking forward to the involvement of the Raynor Family who will serve at the Light Up Ahead School for over three months from March and Stephanie Hewson who will serve the project in July this year.

We would like to say a big thanks to sponsors for your ongoing support and encourage you to please make a note of the upcoming events for this year as we would love to see you involved in some way.

Raymond Hockley
Swanmissions Director



Christmas in Kantolomba

Christmas at the Light Up Ahead School was celebrated in style with gifts of PlayDough kits given out to each child by the resident Santa. Cards from sponsors were distributed and the children had fun and games on the jumping castle that was hired for the event.

Parents and carers of the children were also blessed with food packs containing a bag of mielie meal, cooking oil and beans. Everyone was very grateful for the generous support of their Australian sponsors.

Australian Volunteers

We are privileged to have Brad and Kate Raynor, along with their children Holly and Owen, serving the Kantolomba community for over three months from the beginning of March.

Brad held the position of Deputy Principal in Kununurra and has a wealth of knowledge he can share with the teachers at the Light Up Ahead School. Brad will be assisting through training teachers in working with the curriculum, lesson planning, diversifying lessons and many other areas.

Kate has worked as a Chaplain for the past few years, prior to which she was employed as a nurse. Kate will be assisting the teachers in seeing to the emotional and spiritual needs of the children as well as ministering in the Kantolomba community. Kate would also like to hold a clinic at the school for those who cannot travel to receive medical help.

Holly and Owen will be helping out around the school, specifically teaching the teachers and students how to use computers and programs such as Word, Excel, etc.

We are very excited to work with the Raynor family and believe their experience and skills will be of great benefit to the school and the Kantolomba community.

We invite you to pray for their continued safety and health throughout their stay in Zambia.

Holly's Experience

In January of this year, I spent four weeks volunteering at the Light Up Ahead School in Kantolomba on the outskirts of Ndola. This trip was filled with challenges, highlights, obstacles and humbling experiences, yet all in all, was an eye-opening and growing experience. There were various tasks that I had set myself to accomplish within these four weeks, however my programs were continually changing on a daily basis with unexpected circumstances and new tasks arising.

One of my challenges was witnessing two women, a grandmother and a mother, along with three children, living poorly in a 2m x 2m mud hut. The grandmother had not walked for four years and had only crawled everywhere. This was a result of her frail body and neglecting to treat a past leg injury. The daughter of this woman was living in pain with severe internal injuries as a consequence of physical and sexual abuse. In the care of these women were three young girls under the age of approximately 7 years old, left to fend for themselves with their mother and grandmother unable to assist.

With the help of a teacher who I was working alongside, we realised that something needed to be done. It was a slow process working with social and welfare authorities so we made the decision to take matters into our own hands and book appointments at local clinics and the main hospital. Both women were admitted to hospital at different times, treated and discharged with dramatic improvements. The grandmother who was unable to walk was progressively able to put some weight on her previously unusable leg. From the generous donations which were shipped across from Australia, we were able to give her a pair of crutches to use when she was home. The younger woman was discharged after being diagnosed with a UTI and internal damage. Following her treatment and medication, she was almost completely free from any pain. The pure happiness and gratitude that she showed to us was a feeling I will never forget.

Christine – A grandmother who was confined to crawling for 4 years

Sara (pictured left) – Suffered devastating sexual and physical abuse. Pictured with her three daughters



Fairclough's Sponsor Child Florence



The most humbling moment for me was witnessing so many tragic deaths and sickness within the village, yet the unending faith the people have in our Lord. Jesus is amidst all of this devastation and although I cannot answer why these wonderful people are living in such horrid conditions or have to endure such tragedy, I do know that our God is at work amongst each of these women, men and children.

Kantolomba is truly a desperate community in need of assistance, though improvements are definitely evident. Seeing the school which was established by Swan Christian College is just the beginning of the road to development and improved living conditions. From the darkness that can come with living in an impoverished community, being able to provide accessible education for the children has clearly given the families a sense of hope. Please continue praying for this community and many others who suffer from extreme poverty.

Going to Africa didn't change me

Reflections on Kantolomba from Sponsor Jodie Fairclough

I know that sounds quite shocking, but it just didn't. I am the same person I was before I visited Africa, with the same views, same love of African children and the same determination of wanting to do something to change the plight of those less fortunate than myself. What

it did do was move me. Move me to act. Having good intentions doesn't actually change anything. Actions change outcomes.

This week, I had the opportunity to change a life. I nearly didn't act. One of my staff members is an international student who has been in Australia living with an aunt and uncle since she was 13. She has worked from that age to support herself and pay board to her relatives. As an international student, she had to pay thousands in school fees just to attend the local high school. After 5 years of hard slog, she finally graduated and made it into university. The only problem was that she had to pay nearly \$15000 upfront as an international student before she was allowed to officially enrol. After working close to seven days a week in three jobs since high school finished in November, she was still \$3000 short. If she didn't pay, it was over. She would have to go back to her home country as she wasn't eligible for citizenship without a qualification.

"Let me know if I can do anything to help" I offered, after discussing her predicament with her after work one afternoon. But I knew I could do something to help, I just needed to do it. Reaching out over social media, I was able to raise enough money for my employee to enrol and begin university.

What propels people to help others, often when they don't even know them? I think that we all have an inbuilt desire to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Those feelings of compassion are not designed for us to just experience them. They are designed to motivate us to act. How does this relate to my family's

recent visit to Kantalomba? Seeing the change that occurs when people step up and act is amazing and moving. The impact that Kantalomba is having on the community is massive. If you are a donor, then know that this community is receiving and being blessed by your acts of compassion. If you've been thinking about it, I'll leave you with the photo of our sponsor daughter Florence (or Flora as her friends call her) above. She was a shy wee thing when we first met her. After spending time with Holly (our daughter) on her extended stay in Kantolomba, she absolutely shone. There is so much doom and gloom surrounding life in Kantalomba, and I could have told you of all the sad situations we came across during our time. However, I would much rather encourage you to be part of the solution and give whatever God has placed in your hand to help others. My visit to Africa allowed me to see the effects of peoples' decisions to act. May you be moved to act.

Jodie Fairclough

Prayer Requests



Greetings to you all Australian Committee, I would like to extend my appreciation to you for what God is using you to develop in our country Zambia. My prayer is that God may bless you abundantly and fulfil your needs and you will have a long life. I pray that God shall increase the number of sponsors in your Committee, so that the school here can turn to boarding school one day. As the school is growing I pray that God can intervene in my life by giving me a higher education as well. All most financially, thank so much for my job God bless you (Karen Mwape) Baby Class Teacher.



I Margaret Matabula I would like to greet you all. I thank you for your ministries and what you are doing for us and the children of Zambia. My prayer request is that I have a lot of children and dependants now, I don't have a house where to keep this family and some of them are not going to school because of finances. I pray God can provide a way for to help the family. God bless you!!!!



I Margaret M. Foloshi, Principal of Light Up Ahead School want to thank God Almighty for all the sponsors and people of Australia. May God bless your endeavour, spiritually, physically, financially, socially and psychologically. My request is that God may just unite us in peace and love, sponsors and all the workers under Light Up Ahead School and the children we are handling. If need be, I would just want someone to give me a Bible with large print. I wish you God blessings for what you have done here in Zambia.



I am a single mother with a lot of orphans at home, my request is all the children complete their education and I have a plot but I don't have money to build a house. I pray God can provide for me. (Rose Santimu) Cook



I Helen Mwewa want to thank God for what He has done here through you people. I am very happy, may God bless you!! My prayer request is that I am a widow and a mother of six children, I am facing challenges most especially when it comes to education. My prayer is that God intervenes in my situation. I wish you all the best. (Cleaner)



To all the dear sponsors in Australia, I would like to thank you for the job you are doing here in Zambia to help the orphaned and vulnerable children. My prayer request is for the school to grow and for God to help us so that we can impart knowledge and wisdom to these children. I am very happy to be here and pray God can help me financially so that I can look after my children and family. God bless you all! (Roseria Nsululu) Reception Teacher.



My heavenly Father, I wish the sponsors of Light Up Ahead School and all those involved in the welfare of the school, good health and success. My desire is to visit Australia one of these days. God bless you. (Gracewell Silumbwe) Grade 2 Teacher



I am passing my greetings to you all people of Australia, may God be with you all the time, continue with the same spirit of helping vulnerable and orphaned children here in Zambia. My prayer request is that God can intervene in my life by me gaining higher education studies, because I am planning to start Early Childhood course. May God bless you all. (Rozina Alimasi, Teachers Aid)



I Kunda Machachali I am very happy as you can see here, my greeting to you all the sponsors, I am glad to see this best school in Ndola Zambia for vulnerable and orphaned. I am happy because I know how to operate a computer, thank you very much for your sponsor. I am here today because of you, I promise to do my best to my fellow vulnerable and orphaned, my pray request is: When I went through Kantolomba I found some vulnerable and orphaned children in the area, they need school, about 50% and there is no health centre in the area we can find. Every time we pass through Kantolomba there is a funeral, we even lost two parents for our children at school now, (Dorothy Nguni) mother (Miriam Mwila) father. My prayer is that God can continue to do something in this area. Another prayer request I am like a father to my brothers and sister, I pray God will continue to bless me so that I can support my family. My heart is to have Higher education in Information Communication Technology (ICT) may God bless you all!!! (Teachers Aid)



I Joseph Mulenga, my greeting to you all sponsors and Australian, I am very happy to see the wonderful progress in this school. My request is that I want to continue my education so that I can achieve my goal in life. (Caretaker)



Teacher Marvin Kaonga, it's good that you have offered a wonderful support and development of bringing the school to this Community, in view to uplift the standards of living to lives of vulnerable children, more especially in terms of education. May God bless you for doing a wonderful job to enhance their lives, my prayer request is that I need God to continue blessing me in all my life and give me power, knowledge, skills and values so that I can impart these to the learner's and my entire family to bless them in their aspects of life and lastly I need you to pray for me in that perspective way that God will guide and direct, that I can go for further studies and pursue a Higher Education in my life. (Grade 1 Teacher)

2014 Events

Push ups for Poverty

4 April 2014 @ 10.40am
Swan Christian College Gymnasium

Mother's Day Stall

7 May 2014
Senior School Café @ 12.50pm
Junior School Undercover Area @ 3.00pm

Fund Raising Banquet

Date TBC

Cycle4Change

8 October to 15 October 2014
Second Hand Uniform and Book Sale - December

Prayer Points

Ongoing:

- Families in the community who are struggling with the loss of loved ones, health issues, abuse, etc.
- Wisdom and creative ideas for the Kantolomba Board as they seek to find ideas to generate income to assist Light Up Ahead in becoming sustainable.
- Sponsors for the nine children remaining without sponsorship.

Specific:

- Recovery for the Project Coordinator, Veronica Sikwangala, who has recently had surgery.
- For the new Principal, Margaret, to settle in and lead Light Up Ahead School with Godly wisdom.
- Two students at Light Up ahead who have recently lost a parent.
- Funds to complete the three classroom block - approximately \$3000 is needed to finish the building.

Women's Empowerment Program:

- Interview and selection process for a fulltime in-country Coordinator for the Program.
- Development of training materials for the Program.
- Selection of 40 women in the community to start the program.
- A sense of trust and community to develop in the women's support groups.
- Development of sound and enterprising business plans for each woman in the program.

The Raynor Family (who will visit the project from March to June):

- That God would prepare them and use them in a mighty way to help with the running of the school and caring for the children and families in need in the community. That they would stay safe from harm and be protected from Malaria on their trip.
- Particularly to have good boundaries so they can balance family time with serving at Light Up Ahead.

Praise Points

- The continued encouragement and enthusiasm the students at Light Up Ahead School display to be attending school

We thank you for partnering with us in prayer for the Kantolomba Project and we look forward to witnessing how God will move in each of these situations through our united prayers.