



# Swanmissions

MERCY, JUSTICE, HUMILITY

## Transform Kantolomba

SWANMISSIONS / NEWSLETTER / ISSUE 2 2016

## In this ISSUE

Student Testimonials  
2017 Sponsors Trip  
Sea Container  
Correspondence with Sponsor  
Children  
Child Sponsorship



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## From the DIRECTOR

It was a privilege to lead another team of staff and students for our 6th Zambia Impact Trip since 2008. Each of the 18 girls and five staff on the trip immersed themselves fully in the experience of Africa. They were able to encounter the country in many different ways, from tasting the delicacies like caterpillar, ox hooves, and Nshima, joining in the African style singing and dancing, and getting used to being tugged in all directions by children from the Kantolomba village.

The trip involved a week of running games, craft activities and bible lessons with the children at the Light Up Ahead School. The team also visited the reptile farm and game drive at Nsoke Game Park and Chobe National Park, two orphanages in Kensenshi and Grace Academy. In addition to that, they capped it off by witnessing the wonders of Victoria Falls.

As you will read from the testimonies in this newsletter, the students from Swan Christian College have the sights of poverty firmly etched on their memories. When we compare the living conditions of the families in Kantolomba with those we experience back home it really puts things into perspective and makes many of the issues we complain about pale into insignificance.

I was impressed by the maturity and cooperation within the team. It certainly made our job easy as leaders. The girls put so much effort into the lessons they prepared that they ran seamlessly and you could tell that the children at the school were soaking up every minute of their time with these Aussie girls.

I hope you enjoy reading about the trip and will consider being personally involved by enrolling in our 2017 Sponsors trip.

**Raymond Hockley**  
**Swanmissions Director**



## Student Testimonies

### ***Sophie McCluskey Yr 10***

There were a few times when I felt I needed to put my camera away and just observe. Even though it's the best way to advertise campaigns like this it felt wrong recording and taking photos when we were in the village. Shining a light on how incredibly poor they were with my expensive equipment was just not the right thing to do.

Kantolomba is the village where the kids at Light Up Ahead School came from. The smiles that they brought on their face each day made it hard to comprehend that over the hill was the rest of their family and the thousands of other kids that didn't have a chance of attending school and already had their future set out for them. There was one point where we stopped to look at the water collection point. It cost 15 Kwacha for 20L, which is about \$2 Australian. Although not many could afford it and there were kids sitting under the tap hoping that water would come out for them. Further down the track, there was a little girl drinking and playing in a puddle, which I later realized was sewerage. Initially I was disgusted but then I realized that they didn't know any better, don't have any better, and why would they need to? They were never going to be given a proper chance or opportunity.

This impact trip was challenging, life-altering and best thing I've ever done. I've had amazing experiences with some of the most gorgeous people on this planet, and I most definitely did not come back depressed about the world we live in. I came back with a different perspective and incredibly motivation to help the kiddies have a different future and more hope.

### ***Alexa Coleman Year 11***

When you look at photos that people take on mission trips like these you see children smiling, laughing, playing games and just really enjoying the innocence of life. But what most people fail to see and photos fail to capture is how these kids are actually living. Photos don't tell you their stories or anything about their life. Something that is really important to do countries such as these is to take a moment to listen to some of their stories.

One of the relief teachers at the Light up Ahead school was telling me a little about her testimony. She was orphaned at the age of 8 and she braided hair on the side of the road to get her through high school. As she was telling me this I realised that this is a reality for so many kids and it is normal for them. She has done so well in getting a job and is now studying journalism. After thinking about this for a while it really warmed my heart to think how much we are helping these kids. Just by getting them through school and teaching them how to speak English they will be able to get a good job and afford things like water and food for their families. Something that was really amazing to see was that every little donation goes a really long way and the results are life changing for you and that child.



# SPONSORS TRIP 2017



Dates are still being finalised, however, we are accepting expressions of interest from those who are interested in visiting the Light Up Ahead School in Zambia in 2017.

The trip will involve a week spent at Simba International School in Ndola and visiting the Light up Ahead school each day. There will be an opportunity to visit your sponsor children and their families in the village, help with teaching and practical projects around the school, witness the women's empowerment program and chicken farm project and also help with running a health clinic. The trip will also include a visit to Nsoke Game Park where you will be given an opportunity to witness giraffes, zebras, impalas and many more African species in their natural habitat as well as having an authentic Africa church experience.

#### **How much will it cost?**

Approximately \$3500 depending on the cost of flights excluding immunisations. You will have the option of flying back to Perth after the week trip or visit other destinations such as Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park.

If you are interested in more information about the trip please contact [raymondh@scea.wa.edu.au](mailto:raymondh@scea.wa.edu.au)



# Sea Container

It is amazing the provision both of donations and how to get them to Zambia. A couple of months ago I had an email from someone helping with 'Seeds of Hope' in Zambia. She was requesting books for a school at Nsoke where they are hoping to set up a library using the 40ft shipping container used to transport the books. Unfortunately I couldn't help with books but I asked if they would be willing to hire space on their container. As a result, I am getting a truck load of supplies sent to the school at a fraction of the cost.

At this stage I have uniforms, reams of material, book cases, chairs and desks. If you have items that you think would be useful for the school please do not hesitate to contact us. These could include items such as children's books and DVDs, puzzles, readers, craft supplies, a flat screen TV, laptop, computers, educational wall charts and more. The container will be packed in mid August, therefore donations will need to be processed before then.

If you are interested please contact [raymondh@scea.wa.edu.au](mailto:raymondh@scea.wa.edu.au)

# Update your Sponsor Child!

We would like to encourage you to write to your sponsor child and send photos of yourself, your family or pets. If you would like to send other items please keep it small. This can be items such as stickers or bookmarks which will fit into your envelope. Items will be arranged to be posted over to Zambia in the last week of August.

## How to?

- Drop the letter into the College or post it to PO Box 1516, Midland, 6936
- Include 'Attention Ray Hockley' and your sponsor child's name and code on the envelope.

# Child Sponsorship

For anyone interested in child sponsorship, we have photos of children who currently need a sponsor on our website. Go to <http://www.swan.wa.edu.au/swan-missions/the-kantolomba-project/sponsor-a-child/>, scroll down and you will see a link at the bottom of the page - *Children Requiring Sponsorship*.

Paypal is available, for other payment methods please contact me at [raymondh@scea.wa.edu.au](mailto:raymondh@scea.wa.edu.au).



# Payments

We are pleased that the majority of our sponsors have increased their payments to \$40 per month/ per child to help keep up with increased inflation and teacher's salaries in Zambia. If you haven't yet increased your payment can I please encourage you to do so by contacting Lisa at the Global Development Group at [lisa@globaldevelopment.org.au](mailto:lisa@globaldevelopment.org.au).

Tax receipts for all your donations will be sent to you upon donation.

However, if this is not the case please contact [lisa@globaldevelopment.org.au](mailto:lisa@globaldevelopment.org.au) requesting to do so.

**Swan Christian College is a partner for project N698N Transform Kantolomba Project with Global Development Group ( ABN 57102 400 993)**



**Swanmissions**

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SPECIAL FEATURE:

# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

From 1-3 July this year, Mrs Narelle Williams from Perth conducted a conference for the women of Kantolomba who are a part of the Women's Empowerment Program. Narelle is a Counsellor and Family Therapist for Bethesda Counselling and Family Therapy and I appreciate her giving up her time to volunteer to help the women of Kantolomba.

The conference that Narelle lead focused on emotional healing and helped the women to understand their identity and worth. In this newsletter Narelle will share some of her reflections from about this experience.

**Ray Hockley**

## Day 1

"I arrived in Ndola to sunshine and dust and was taken straight to the Kantolomba school where I was met with the beautiful smiles of many school children.

I entered the conference room where 43 women were singing loudly in their language of Bemba, clapping hands and worshipping God. The only musical instruments they had were their voices and they were using them with gusto. What a joy to join them in their praise and worship time. Pastor Eric was my wonderful and anointed translator, and on the first afternoon, I spent time getting to know these women and listening to their stories. At first, they were a little shy but then one shared, and then another and then another... I witnessed the strength of the human spirit amongst story after story of tragedy, heartache, loss, illness, poverty, depression, anxiety, injustice and trauma.

The women of Kantolomba are some of the most vulnerable women I have ever met; many of them have been divorced by their husbands and abandoned with five, six, seven or more children and/or grandchildren with no way to provide for them. The men move on and marry someone else. The women aren't eligible for government support or assistance. Many of them have been widowed because of AIDS, tuberculosis or other respiratory conditions, or cast out from their families, or orphaned, and many have



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lost more than one child because of illness, lack of food and medication. They live in shanties, with no power and often no running water. They are desperate and need to be empowered and equipped to rise up out of the ashes and be able to make a living for themselves and their families.

I could not just bring spiritual food to these women and leave; Jesus always met a person's physical needs as well as their spiritual needs. I needed to leave them with some money too, so that they could buy fabric and sewing machines, and seed for peanut crops and other business ventures. What I was able to give was so far short of what they need.

These are beautiful and courageous women with hearts just like yours and mine. Their greatest desires often centre on just being able to provide for their families. On our own we can't always do a lot, but together, with each just giving a little, we can help them so much.

I said a silent prayer: "Lord where do I begin; what do these women need to know from You?"

I started with our identity; who are we? How do we define ourselves and where do we draw our value and worth from when the world and culture we are born into defines us by our gender, status, nationality or education? In the process this leaves many of us feeling devalued, unseen, unheard, unimportant – especially in Zambia and especially if you are an unmarried, divorced or widowed woman.

But this is not their identity in Christ. To know who they are in Christ, their value and worth to their Creator, to know that they are precious, highly valued and honoured by God, that they belong to the family of God and that they have an inheritance in heaven that is waiting for them and cannot be spoilt or destroyed or stolen from them – that is their true identity and inheritance. Knowing and believing this brings hope to the human soul.

I ended the day by inviting women to come forward for prayer. We spent time praying for these women individually – they just

kept coming and it soon became dark. I laid my hands on dusty and often frail feet, legs, arms, shoulders, chests, heads, hands – anywhere that these women reported holding pain in their bodies. I've never really done that sort of thing before. I prayed God would show up – He had to; these women had no other hope and I couldn't 'fix their pain' for them.

“ I said a silent prayer: “Lord where do I begin; what do these women need to know from You?”

## Day 2

One of the most precious gifts we can give to another human being is the gift of listening well. To be heard, to be validated, to be shown empathy – all of these somewhat simple acts embody and release great healing power for the human soul. We talked about loss and grief and what grieving looked and felt like. We spent a fair bit of time learning about the sorts of things that get us stuck in our grief; anger, resentment, bitterness, depression and fear. These are normal parts of the grief journey for anyone, but we have to keep moving through them, not set up camp in them. I encouraged the women to bear witness to one another's emotional wounds; I was leaving in 48 hours – the best thing I could do was to give them something that would last long after

I had left. I encouraged them to connect more deeply with each other and to God. They broke into small groups and did some work around trust, acceptance, releasing anger, forgiveness and mourning.

## Day 3

I was eager for feedback. Were these women getting anything out of their time with me? I needn't have worried; God was showing up and doing a mighty work in many of their hearts and even physical bodies. As they released long held anger and bitterness and chose to forgive, many of them reported having a peace and comfort in their hearts that they had not known in a long time. There were many of these women who also reported physical healing and release in their bodies from long standing pain in joints, hands, feet, legs, stomachs, necks and heads. I praised God.

I continued on with our teaching time and focused on anxieties and fears, learning to trust in God. I did some simple Cognitive Behaviour Therapy training – psychologists might credit this to the fathers of their profession such as Aaron Beck and Albert Ellis, but taking our thoughts captive, examining and being careful to fix our minds on what is true, right, noble, excellent and praiseworthy is actually straight from the Word of God – our manual for healthy and good living. I saw women receive revelation and understanding and become empowered in knowing how to “operate” their own minds with their God given will to choose. Praise God!

As I sit in my office back in Perth, I contemplate....  
Never have I felt so out of my comfort zone, so ill equipped and unprepared, so un-elegant (is there such a word?) in my speech, as I did when I spent those three days in Kantolomba. AND never have I seen God show up and do so much in such a short amount of time. How true that when we are weak, He is strong.

**Narelle Williams**



Mary Zambezi (Founder of Emmanuel Mercy and Reach Out Ministries) Gwen Kapungu (Women's Empowerment Coordinator), Narelle Williams and Pastor Eric.

## Support

If you would like to support the Women's Empowerment program to enable these women to learn entrepreneurial skills and train in business skills or support them with a micro loan you can donate through Global Development group [www.gdg.org.au/WEJ698N](http://www.gdg.org.au/WEJ698N) or email [raymondh@scea.wa.edu.au](mailto:raymondh@scea.wa.edu.au) for more details.

Swan Christian College is a partner for project N698N Transform Kantolomba Project with Global Development Group (ABN 57102 400 993), an Australian NGO approved by the department of foreign affairs.