



Swanmissions

MERCY, JUSTICE, HUMILITY

Transform Kantolomba

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From the **DIRECTOR**

For the first time in the history of the Kantolomba Project all of the three Charity partners have been together in the same room. In September, Kelly Chisolm from Global Development Group (GDG) and myself representing Swan Christian College (SCC) conducted a monitoring visit to Kantolomba. It was our pleasure to meet with the project founder, Ms Mary Zambezi from Emmanuel Mercy and Reach Out Ministries (IMROM) to discuss the future direction of the project.

It was divine timing that Kelly booked her flights independently of knowing when I was going to Zambia, and we found ourselves in Kantolomba at the same time. It was great to have all three charity partners attend a board meeting to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each party and establish lines of effective communication and accountability.

GDG's role is to ensure that donations are being used for their intended purposes, the Australian Partner (SCC) has the task of fundraising and advocacy and the Zambian partner is responsible for governing and implementation of the strategic plan.

The three partners are approaching an exciting junction in the history of the project as we are currently working on a strategic plan that will define our objectives for the next three years.

For Mary Zambezi and myself it was a good time to reflect on the relationship that we have established over the past 10 years and to give thanks to God who has grown this vision to what it is today. In July 2008, Mary and I stood on a vacant hill on the outskirts of Ndola, and reflected on what a school could do for the children of the Kantolomba community. Now 10 years later we see 230 children coming to school to receive a healthy meal and a solid education. These children are developing skills that will help them to progress in life despite the adverse circumstances that many of them currently face.

Mr Raymond Hockley
Swanmissions Director

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT



We were warmly greeted by the Women's Empowerment Group with dancing and singing. They were keen to show us the peanut butter which they had produced with the machine that was donated from one of our sponsors in 2016. The women shared with us about their many and varied income generating activities from soap making to pig rearing, rock breaking and sewing garments. They are resilient women who demonstrate a lot of ingenuity in their attempts to provide basic necessities for their families. Our plan for 2018 and beyond is to focus on literacy and small business enterprise training as well as further microloans that will help the women of Kantolomba to run successful businesses.

Joyce's Story

Joyce (name changed) is the face of the battle that many women experience in Kantolomba. Her gaunt cheeks and furrowed brow tell a story of hunger, abuse and hopelessness. I was invited into Joyce's rented house which measured two metres by three metres in its totality. The dirt floors were barren apart from a mattress that I purchased for her on a previous visit. She sleeps on that mattress with her four children. Joyce had been beaten and raped by her husband who is now serving a prison sentence and struggles to survive and provide food for her children. Once she is physically able again, Joyce will have the opportunity to receive literacy and small business training from our women's empowerment program. Hopefully she will be successful in applying for one of our microloans to start a small business and begin moving forward in a positive direction.

To support our Women's Empowerment program and help women like Joyce you can donate to www.gdg.org.au/WEJ698N .



LIGHT UP AHEAD SCHOOL



When we arrived at the Light Up Ahead School in Kantolomba we were warmly greeted by a sea of children who were wearing Swan Christian College uniforms and Red jumpers from Geograph Grammar school. These had been distributed to the families who attend the school and the women's empowerment group.

A special school assembly was conducted to welcome the Australian visitors with a variety of songs, speeches and bible memory verses spoken by the children. A highlight was a traditional dance conducted by the Year 4 and 5 students for which they painted their faces and moved to the beat of African drums. We were also treated with a performance by the Year 4's of the new school theme song entitled "Light Up Ahead".

I was asked to speak and told the students that their sponsors back in Australia who pay for them to attend the school were thinking and praying for them. I then encouraged them to work hard at school and make the most of this opportunity so they could succeed in the future and fulfil their dreams.

Kathleen meets Moses

Kathleen Bailey has been a child sponsor of the Kantolomba Project for the past 8 years. Kathleen was motivated to get involved in sponsoring the project when her daughter Robyn attended the very first Zambia Impact trip in 2008.

Here is a short reflection from Kathleen:

"I have been involved at the Light Up Ahead school from the beginning. My daughter was in the first group that went to Zambia and I can remember when there was only rocks and dreams. My daughter came home saying that the children of Kantolomba were asking for a school so I sponsored a child from the first intake of children. I was wonderful to experience what I have been reading about for so long. There are now ten class rooms with over 200 children and they have a meal once a day. We were given a warm welcome by the children and the staff, I helped with classes and the Women's Empowerment group. It was great to see the chicken project as well.

It was wonderful to meet Moses (my sponsor child) and his family in their home. When I went to the village I saw makeshift shops and the rooves on the houses looked like they would blow off in a strong wind. Many of the children in the village showed obvious signs of malnutrition.

It was wonderful that the school helps these children so much. I would recommend a visit to anyone who wants to see what is happening on the ground. The school at least gives some people hope and is truly a light up ahead. "

Nutritional Lunches

Margaret and Rosemary have been cooking lunches for the children from the inception of the project. Each day they find out how many are in the school and prepare over 200 meals. These range from mince and veg, to chicken and relish, ground nut, to beans and fish. Each meal is served with a large scoop of Inshema which is the traditional maize porridge and the staple of the Zambian diet.

The daily feeding program is part of providing a holistic approach to the children in the sponsorship program. It has been statically proven and seen through firsthand experience in this project that the children who are given a nutritional diet have a much higher degree of success academically.

More Opportunities to Help

Swollen bellies and thin boney limbs are a common sight when we walk around Kantolomba. The raw reality of poverty is inescapable as one looks at the shanty style buildings and witnesses the sheer volume of people of all ages just sitting or walking around aimlessly. With the rate of unemployment at 75% and few employment opportunities, many struggle to eat even one meal a day. Even fresh water is costly causing many to resort to drinking unclean water which contributes to the spread of diseases.

Because of this feeling of hopelessness in the community many youths resort to drinking cheap alcohol and promiscuous behaviour resulting in unwanted pregnancies and diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Low life expectancy has resulted in a large percentage of orphaned children, who are sometimes left to fend for themselves or be taken in by extended families.

To provide the opportunity for another child to be a part of the Light Up Ahead school you can sponsor them for \$40 per month (tax deductible) by going to www.gdg.org.au/CS1J698N .



SWAN MISSIONS NEWS

January Trip

The January 2018 triip will involve meeting with the Zambia board and ratifying our three year strategic plan. The plan will set out goals, KPI's and a budget for the next three years. The strategic plan will help to provide a framework that everyone involved in the project can work towards. It will include plans for the infrastructure, the educational development, Women's Empowerment, Heath Clinic and sustainable projects.

I also plan to meet with representatives from a mining company with the hope that they can provide technical expertise in the area of agriculture and sustainability projects.

Finally the trip will involve bringing someone with the expertise to produce a short film on the project which will help us promote the great things that are happening to potential doners in Australia.

July Trip

In July a team of 25 staff and students from Swan Christian College will visit the project in Kantolomba to help run lessons at the school, conduct teacher training, and support building and sustainability projects. The team will also witness the majestic Victoria falls and go on a wildlife safari at Chobe National Park in Botswana. For more information about other trips and service learning opportunities provided by the College go to www.swanmissions.com .





KEEP US IN PRAYER

Support the team by keeping our 2017 Light up Ahead staff in your prayers as they inspire the village of Kantolomba

- Pray for wisdom for the Zambian board as they consider ideas for the three year strategic plan.
- Pray for Joyce and her children (mentioned in the newsletter) that the Lord will help her through her hardships and show her the way out of poverty for her family.
- Pray for the trips taking place in January and July that these trips will be fruitful and impacting and achieve change for the project and in the lives of everyone who attends.
- Pray for the staff and students at the Light Up Ahead school that there needs will be met and that they would know the hand of God over all that they do.
- Pray for the Principal of the Light Up Ahead school, Sheba, that she would have wisdom as she leads the school and that she would be granted favour from the Zambian Government as she seeks to have the school accredited as a Grant Aided school.
- Pray for sponsors for the 35 children who are still in need of sponsors for the start of 2018.