



Happy New Year January 2012

Welcome to the latest news from **BLESSED TO BLESS** – just a brief update on our major projects at this time. We are excited about this year – this is the year our family (Kim, Ralph, Aiesha, Jordan and Faith) will be moving to Zambia. We are planning to leave in August and there is so much for us to organise before we leave.

Meki's Visit to Australia

We hope that many of you will have the opportunity to meet Meki Mwape (Principal of *Manyando Youth Action Community School*), as he will be visiting us this month, arriving next week (11th January) and leaving on 11th February. Pastor Andrew Chabu (a friend of Mark Holstein's) will also be travelling to Australia for three weeks, arriving with Meki. We will be holding an **INFORMATION EVENING**, on Saturday 21st January. This will be a fantastic chance to learn more about life and education in Zambia, as well as the work of **Blessed to Bless**. We have included a flyer with this newsletter for your information, so please come along and bring your friends as well. Dinner will be provided and any donations towards the work of *Blessed to Bless* will be gratefully accepted.

If anyone would like to take the opportunity to spend a bit more time with Meki, he will be very happy to do some sightseeing around Sydney on some of his (few!) free days. If you are interested, contact Ros Phillips (kamlyn1@yahoo.com / 9144 5452) to arrange a time / day.

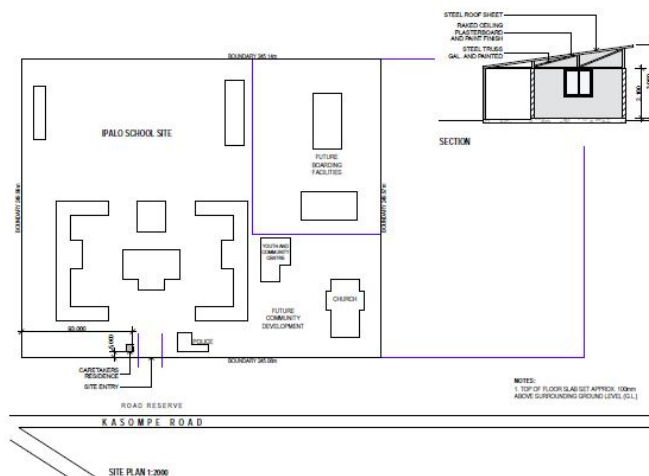
IPALO CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

BUILDING HAS BEGUN!!! There are a few things to update you on in regards to our future school planned for Kasompe:

- Firstly, a big thank you to all who participated in the Building Block appeal towards the end of last year – thanks to your hard work, we managed to raise close to \$5000 (and much of this actually came from two main sources so a HUGE special thank you to those people / groups). This amount was pretty close to what we were initially quoted. However, to bring the slab and building work up to Australian standards, more cement and materials were required, and so the cost increased.

WE ARE STILL IN URGENT NEED OF APPROXIMATELY \$5000 TO FINALISE THE BUILDING AND SURVEY WORK FOR THE CARETAKER'S COTTAGE.

We wish to say a big thank you to Peter Andrews and Associates for their fantastic drawings of the caretaker's cottage.



- Once the caretaker's cottage is complete (it is currently up to roof level so we are nearly there!) **we will need to hire a caretaker to look after the plot.** This will cost around \$110 per month. We will be looking for sponsors for this.
- Member donations have covered the cost of the grading of land on one side to make a wide road which will help deter squatters. Some pine trees have been purchased to plant along the edges, but more will be required as finances become available. These will help to demarcate the land so that people know it is being used and has a purpose.

If you know of any churches, organisations, businesses, schools or other groups who may be interested in hearing about *Blessed to Bless* and especially about our Ipalo School project then we would love to hear from you. We are very keen to visit groups to share and present information about what we are doing in the hope of gaining support.

2012 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

It's that time of year again – school is about to resume for 2012. The staff at Manyando Youth Action Community School should be praised for their amazing efforts in 2011. Thirty-nine (out of a possible forty-seven) Grade Seven students have passed their entrance exams into High School. We are still in need of a further twenty-seven sponsors to take on these High School students, who will not receive any further education if sponsors can not be found for them.

The cost for basic sponsorship this year is \$280 (this covers all their requirements for their studies in 2012, including uniforms). Sponsorship 'plus' is \$320, and this includes an extra \$40 which will be contributed into a 'pool' of money to be used for extra urgent expenses as required by sponsored students.

Please contact Ros Philips (kamlyn1@yahoo.com) or 02 9144 5452 if you are interested in taking on a High School student this year.

Wishing you many blessings throughout the coming year.
We look forward to partnering with you in 2012 and beyond.

Kim and Ralph Mukuka ☺

