

Trip to Zambia - July 2010

A group of 9 (including children) people travelled to Zambia in July 2010, and spent a month there. While there, the group (largely from single member donations) managed to accomplish the following:

For MYACS

1. Over \$1,000.00 value of stationery for Manyando, which included pencils, biros, exercise books, folders, highlighters, sketchbooks, crayons, dusters, chalk, scissors - and on Meki's calculations we are hopeful this will almost carry them through the next year.
2. Approximately \$1,000.00 value of text books for Manyando, including a small selection of secondary school text books for the start of a small library for sponsored students who find it difficult to borrow their necessary texts (wish we could have purchased more).
3. Some products for the toilet block, including toilet paper, mutton cloths, shower curtains, and Panadol.
4. A false ceiling erected below the tin roof in the toilet block - this was a requirement of the local council in Bulangalilo. The ceiling cost about \$1,000.00, and included the paintwork.
5. An HP printer, three extra black ink cartridges and two boxes of copy paper for the school.
6. A metal filing cabinet with lock for storage at Manyando.
7. Four new treadle sewing machines for Manyando.
8. New taps and plumbing hardware to repair defective items in toilet block, and payment to a local plumber (one of the parents).
9. Two bales of clothing (one of girls' dresses, and one of boys' trousers) which were distributed to the children.
10. A bale of bags (with the hope of obtaining a large number of school bags: this was disappointing as there were only a limited number of these, with mostly women's handbags in the bale).
11. A bale of quilts, because we discovered many of the children were cold at night. Unfortunately of the 19 quilts in the bale, only about half of them were effective - the others were flimsy and of rough synthetic material. We had the quilts washed at the guest house before they were distributed.
12. Two bikes with bike chains and padlocks, bells, bike pumps and extra tubes for two of the sponsored secondary students who have a long way to walk to school, and who are back each afternoon and on weekends helping the staff at Manyando.
13. Mobile phones with sim cards and air time for each of the six members of staff.
14. Two pairs of shoes for the staff and for each of the sponsored students - one pair of school shoes and a pair of casual shoes. Also three pairs of socks each, and a tin of book polish so they can keep their school shoes in good condition.

15. One outfit for each sponsored student - a pair of jeans and t-shirt for the boys, and a skirt and t-shirt for the girls.
16. A new school bag with hard cover exercise books and pens for each sponsored student.
17. Tool box and set of basic tools for one of the sponsored children who does carpentry - this boy has been repairing the desks at Manyando. The tools will be stored at the school.
18. Approximately 75 metres of fabric for the Manyando students for their sewing classes, and approximately 30 metres of fabric to make school uniforms.
19. Haberdashery for the sewing classes, including zips, buttons, cotton thread, sewing machine oil, and crocheting cotton.
20. Two sets of bicycle repair kits (including pumps, screw drivers, etc) for two sponsored students who repair bicycles in the marketplace.
21. A wrench for one of the sponsored students who is learning plumbing.
22. Blackboard paint and cement to refresh blackboard, and repair holes in classroom floors.
23. Some provisions for the staff and the most needy of the sponsored students, including 50 kilos of lentils and dried beans, bale of sugar, cooking oil, UHT milk, eggs, and a large bag of groundnuts; some meat was also purchased after we learned that the staff only eat meat once a month when they receive their salaries.
24. Some new clothing for members of staff, and some whitegoods to assist their families (a fridge, two freezers, and a television).
25. A new set of soccer apparel for team sport at the school: this consisted of a goalkeeper's shirt, twelve player's shirts, and thirteen pairs of shorts.
26. We held a party for the children at Manyando on our final Friday in Kitwe. We hired musical instruments, and large speakers with a mixer, so that Shadrach and his band could entertain them outdoors. We also provided a hot meal, and a drink, for each of the children, which was prepared by staff members and senior girls.

For Ipalo (ICCS):

1. An agent was hired for the purpose of completing all council paperwork to get the land up to the stage where we have permission to build.
2. Some very helpful contacts were established, many of whom will no doubt be of valuable assistance to us in planning and preparing for our own ICCS.
3. We visited Eagles Wings, Amano Christian School, Ipusukilo Children's Trust and Luwi International School and Community Orphanage Scheme, to gain some valuable insight into how similar organisations in the area are run.

Other achievements during our July trip:

1. We purchased a Toyota Hiace Mini Bus (14 seater), for current and future use for B2B in Zambia. This was shipped to Zambia and arrived when we were there, and is currently registered, insured, and in storage in a garage at Isaac Chibonga's house. It was used during our trip in July, saving thousands of dollars in car hire. It will be used on any future trips of B2B members from Australia, and eventually it will be used at ICCS.
2. We closed down our Standard Chartered Bank Account, and opened a new (hopefully more efficient) account with Barclays Bank.
3. Some progress was made with paperwork submitted to the ZRA for tax exemption, although this is still currently being followed up on.