

October 2009

Bwanji (hello) sponsors and supporters of New Beginnings Children's Village

Zikomo (thank you) and God bless you for supporting the precious children at New Beginnings Children's Village (NBCV). Whether you are giving finances, prayer, time or goods you are a supporter and we thank you for that. Your faithful giving ensures the children are well cared for. Without your generosity and faithfulness these children would be hungry, cold, unschooled, unloved and suffering abuse of many kinds.

David and I are not long back from our Zambia trip so I wanted to give you an 'eye-witness' report. We have seen the children over a period of 2 weeks and we can testify that they are healthy, happy and full of life. They really are adjusted to a 'new beginning' and see themselves as part of a large, new family. They even consider themselves *privileged* to be living at NBCV, with *3 meals a day*, clean clothes, running water, electricity, an education and most of all people who love and care for them.



(L to R), Back: Victoria holding sleepy Betty, Vincent, Ps Kenny, Charity, Regina, Never
Front: Margaret, William, Musonda, Chrispin, Esther, Oscar, Jean

The Children

Until recently NBCV was home to 4 boys (Musonda, Chrispin, William and Oscar) and 4 girls (Esther, Jean, Margaret and Betty). Now Peter, Tenge, and Major (boys) have just arrived. 12 children! ... and more due to arrive any day. Several other orphans and vulnerable children come to NBCV most days to get a meal and play with the children. Most of these will likely end up at NBCV. What a blessing for them to find an escape from a constantly empty belly.



Welcome to Peter, Tenge & Major.



Grateful kids getting a meal

The kids are just adorable! They love to play kasugo (a ball game) or soccer and competition is fierce. Ken Legg's A team beat the van der Vooren B team and the girls were just as competitive as the boys. Competition aside, they really care for and watch out for one another. For example we arrived one day with some bananas and handed one to each child (or so we thought). In no time at all, they began repeating in ever increasing volume "Betty ... Betty!!!" Betty was not present – she was inside and they feared she might miss out on the treat. Isn't that lovely!

The children now live in an environment that is in stark contrast to where they have come from. They have all suffered in some way ... daily hunger, poverty, physical abuse, and some were even removed from school at about age 7 to go and work to bring in a few pennies for food. Those particular kids have muscles like steel. Now they are well fed, well cared for and safe. They had been robbed of their childhood, and now they are getting it back!! They play, laugh and are loved. With the help of supporters (thank you!) we were able to take over some new things to add to their childhood experiences - kites, frisbees, skipping ropes, balloons, toy cars, dolls, soft toys, books, puzzles, pencils, paints, Australian animal stencils for colouring in, games and some clothes. They are typical kids and enjoy all these experiences to the max!! Neighbouring children come to watch them flying their kites – and don't our kids feel special then!!

School

So far Esther, Musonda and Chrispin are in school and loving it – see photo. The process of getting each child into school takes time, with interviews to determine which grade each child should go into based on prior education and number of years since they've attended school. The Shikoswe Basic School (government 'free' school) is located just a short walk away. I say 'free' because there are still books, uniforms and fees to be paid every term (P&C levies, yes even for orphans). School work can be a big struggle when you are years behind, however the kids are keen to learn!! Children can achieve wonderful things when they are given opportunity, encouragement, support and TLC. Some people in Africa start their education (at grade 1) in their teenage or adult years, and keep going until they eventually graduate from college. Imagine that!! More would do it if they had the opportunity.



Musonda, Chrispin & Esther are in school TV/DVD player, gifts from NBCC Australia

The school curriculum is taught in English yet English is rarely spoken in any home. So the kids are greatly disadvantaged. Some of our NBCV team speak English well and try to help the kids. Charity, (formerly a primary teacher) is at NBCV part-time, doing cooking, cleaning, and secretarial work, yet gives the kids informal English lessons at every opportunity. Before leaving Zambia we organised a TV and DVD player for the kids' – for fun and education. We had taken over about 6 DVDs - what better way to learn English than watching Ice Age and Madagascar. DVDs are light to post – let's add to their DVD library from time to time, *especially things with educational content*. (see those little faces in the photo above – they love it)

The children not yet in school stay at NBCV during the day under the watchful care of the NBCV team. They play outdoor and indoor games, draw, do some informal lessons and a few simple chores. If they want to help in the garden and kitchen they are allowed.

These little children have lost both parents who are the greatest source of love and security for any child, so we ask that you'd consider praying for their emotional and spiritual well-being.

The support team

(see photo front page)

We are so blessed! There is a great support team for the kids at NBCV. Victoria is the house mother with a big heart of love. Together with Charity, Regina and Falise, they do all the usual 'home' things for the kids ... food preparation, cooking, cleaning, washing, playing games, supervising the kids hygiene and night time supervision in the sleeping rooms. They also spend a great deal of the day time supervising the children who are not yet in school. These women have been prayerfully selected; they love God, love the kids, are hard working and sensitive to the kids' needs.



James and Costa working the 'infant' veggie garden

Costa (with a farming background) and Never do the veggie garden, the yard, supervise the boys' dormitory at night, and provide night-time security. Victoria's son James also helps as needed. The veggie garden is in its infancy at present, but we are aiming towards a huge, bountiful produce garden that will one day sustain NBCV in vegetables and some fruit. Never, like Charity, has a heart to teach the children about many things – drawing, science, English language, reading, maths etc. They are an inspiration to the children. Vincent is an accountant and is part-time attending administration and finances. He is a blessing!

This fantastic team has been working on a voluntary basis for months. However they all have rent to pay, families to feed, clothe and educate etc. They need incomes to survive. New Beginnings Christian Church Reedy Creek has just committed to providing full-time wages for Costa and Never (as security was an urgent issue) and part-wages for the ladies and Vincent. Nonetheless providing each of them with a fair (and very well deserved) wage is our goal. If you'd like to sponsor a full-time NBCV worker's wage it is \$30-\$60 /week, depending on the role. What a great investment!!

Kenny (Pastor Kenny) is in charge overall and is called 'daddy' by many of the kids, especially Betty who is only 4. Kenny has a true pastor's heart – loves God, loves the word, loves people, is passionate about grace, and very tender towards the kids. He pastors his church in Kafue, oversees another church in Lusaka and manages the orphanage! He is a busy man, but shares the load with a capable team. We hope to give Kenny a wage one day too! We praise and thank God for these dedicated people.



Raising the Zambian and Australian flags
The New Beginnings Children's Village Dedication by Graham & Jill Gibson in April 2009
was followed by an official Government opening in August.

The environment

Security at NBCV became a big issue in July, when there were several attempted break-ins. Normally a facility such as this would have a high fence around it, *and* full time security guards. We had neither! Kenny quickly had 'grill doors' (bars) installed onto several rooms to prevent break-ins. (Not on bedroom doors, as there has always been a supervising adult sleeping in both the boys and girls dorms at night so the kids feel and *are* safe). At the time of the attempted break-ins Costa and Never were volunteer gardeners /helpers, but as of September they are employed full time doing a roster of night security, gardening and general chores. I'm told everyone feels much happier and more secure. Getting a perimeter fence constructed is much needed. We hope to have funds for construction ASAP.

STOP PRESS!! A large donation for the fence has come in. It covers about 80% of the cost of the fence. Amazing!! Thank you so very much Kaisercraft. Your generosity is overwhelming. What a blessing for NBCV.

Projects: achievements, plans & possibilities

Here are the many and varied NBCV projects ... achieved, in progress or planned. We include some of them here so that you can (a) see the progress being made (b) see the forward plans and possibilities, and (c) if you desire, sponsor a whole or part project of your choice.

Achievements – while we were on the ground in Zambia

- ✓ Outdoor sensor lights installed at both ends of the building (to aid security). We took the lights over in our cases!
- ✓ Mosquito screens placed on windows (malaria prevention – mosquitoes here spread the deadly cerebral malaria).
- ✓ Carpet – large, hard wearing, good quality pieces purchased for the dining-room and kids bedrooms (concrete floor is cold and unsealed so always dusty). The carpets may not have a fancy edge but they add colour and comfort!
- ✓ Partitions added in the sleeping rooms to give the supervising adult privacy when changing (as required by Dept Social Welfare).
- ✓ Fertiliser purchased for garden (started from seed as no funds for seedlings - needs a boost). Also bought pesticide for later.
- ✓ TV/DVD player for the children.
- ✓ Costa & Never employed full-time (security guards /gardeners etc)
- ✓ Water tanks (2) purchased – essential; town water off for up to 6 hrs daily. Construction of steel tank stand and concrete base in progress; plumbing /electrical work to follow. Expect completion October.
- ✓ Met with Mrs Kalila, Dept. Social Welfare Officer. She is very pleased with progress at NBCV, and also provided feedback on improvements needed (mainly the shower and sleeping room partitions).



Sensor lights.

Mozzie screens

Bedroom carpets.



The kids learn English as they watch TV.

Falesi & Margaret; new bedroom partition



Meals on the floor until tables & chairs were donated. Helping to lay the new carpet in the dining room

The tables, chairs and lounges were kindly donated by family and friends of local Member of Parliament, Mr Bradford Machila and his wife Natasha. Zikomo kwambiri!

Projects planned and funded

- Water tanks x 2 with tank stand, concrete base, plumbing & electrical fittings etc – Work in progress. \$2800. Fully funded.
- Brick perimeter security fence. 80% funded in one donation. Awesome!

Projects planned (funding needed)

- 4 Pit latrines. *Urgent need this month* (before wet season). Health and privacy issue (also identified by Dept Social Welfare). Cost \$1960.
- Shower partitions in both boys and girls bathrooms. This is a serious privacy issue! Involves extending concrete bases too. Quote pending.
- Kitchen table. Food preparation is done on a tiny bench. Cost \$120.
- Purchase of 18m x 40m parcel of council land on the border of NBCV. The veggie garden is established there at present (with council permission) and we want to fence it in when the fence is constructed, not later. Cost \$4000 (includes 'legals' to place onto the NBCV title).
- Mozzie nets for beds (both children and workers' beds (cerebral malaria kills people every day) – Cost \$17 per net.
- Remove white-ant-infested ceiling mats. Treat the few roof beams not yet treated (no white ants in roof beams ... yet). Quote pending. Replace ceiling throughout in time.
- Repair and seal multipurpose room floor (the concrete is disintegrating in parts). Cost \$1050. (While these latter 2 are not urgent, the longer we delay, the worse the situation).

Projects planned for NBCV self-sustainability ... funding needed

- Chicken pen. Once the brick perimeter fence is constructed, a chicken pen will be established in a corner. Chickens will be raised for eggs and eating. Always aiming toward NBCV self-sustainability! Cost ~ \$500.
- Grinding mill – income producing! Locals would be charged a small fee for grinding their corn. Other groups report their outlay is recovered quickly. Not a cheap project, but it has the potential to help support NBCV long term. Cost ~ \$4500.
- Extend produce garden. Need seedlings and equipment. Again self-sustainability is the key. Cost approx \$330.
- 100 plastic chairs for the multipurpose room. \$5 each, or \$500 the lot. Much needed for NBCV and church meetings, *and* can also be hired out. Supplementary income! Self-sustainability

The wish list:

- Flooring throughout – tiles, or get the concrete sealed or painted
- Ceiling fans
- Fly wire doors on all rooms
- A garden with grass, plants and shade trees.
- A nearby residence for the administrator, Ps. Kenny. Cost ~\$40,000.

Project Possibilities

The owners of the property next door want to sell. The land is the same size as our NBCV block and has a small mud brick church on it. This could provide an opportunity for more housing (more orphans) or for sustainable projects to supply NBCV needs, income and vocational skills training.



Next door plot. NBCV is on left of photo.
A mud brick church building is behind the reed fence.

Tax deductibility

For those who haven't heard the great news ... we have been accepted to partner with Global Development Group (GDG), therefore donations for aid and development of our approved project "J555 New Beginnings" are tax deductible.

Sponsorship and supporters

Organising orphan sponsorship has been a steep learning curve for us (Marion and Ros). We have had wonderful guidance and support from Robyn Solia at 'Promise Obtainer Projects' – thanks and God bless you Robyn! We are fine tuning the process and you will soon be matched with a child if you so desire. There is no obligation to write to your sponsor child, but you are free to do so if you wish. There are a few simple guidelines we ask you to follow for your safety and that of the children (see end of newsletter).

Some prefer to sponsor the orphanage 'overall' – *fantastic and much needed!!* Overall sponsorship helps pay for many other expenses such as ongoing maintenance /repairs, water and electricity bills, rates, school fees, books and uniforms, providing medical and dental care, etc.

Special circumstances

There may be an occasion when an orphan's circumstances change. It is always the ideal that an orphan could be safely returned to their former home (with relatives or friends) if circumstances were to improve. Kafue Dept. Social Welfare Officer Mrs Kalila has worked with orphans for years and admits there are very few cases of orphans returning to their former home. Should a sponsored child leave NBCV, the sponsor will be notified promptly.

Communicating with your sponsor child

Letter writing is the best way for now.

Letters to your sponsor child:

- Keep letters short and simple
- Share about family, pets, sports
- Encourage your own child/children to write or draw pictures
- Avoid talking about material possessions
- Include full names of child and sponsor in all correspondence
- Please do not send gifts unless first discussed with Ros.

Letters from your sponsor child

- Letters may be written as part of a group exercise
- A NBCV team member may write on behalf of a very young child

*New Beginnings Christian Church Reedy Creek pays the 5% GDG administration costs on all child sponsorship, so that 100% of child sponsorship reaches the target.

Zikomo (thank you) for supporting New Beginnings Children's Village.

God bless each and every one of you.

For donation details, please see next page. To direct your funds to a particular project, please email Ros.

Ros van der Vooren (vooren@optusnet.com.au)

3 ways to make a tax-deductible donation to New Beginnings Children's Village in Zambia

1. CREDIT CARD donations via the web site:

- a) Go to www.globaldevelopment.org.au
 - b) Click on the icon ... "Make a secure tax-deductible donation" ... on the right of the page
 - c) Enter details (name, address, etc)
 - d) The KEY line is "I prefer my donation to go to" ... you need to insert **"J555 New Beginnings"**
 - e) Then enter your credit card details
- You will receive a receipt in the mail for your end-of-year tax records.

2. DIRECT DEPOSIT donations - 2 steps:

Step 1

Direct bank deposit (online or in branch) to:

Commonwealth bank Australia

Global Development Group

BSB: 064118

Account No. 10200094

Note: Ongoing regular deposits need to be arranged with your bank.

Step 2

Email your donation details to GDG, info@globaldevelopment.org.au

- a) The details of your deposit
- b) Preferred project J number = J555 New Beginnings
- c) The name and address to mail/email the receipt to.

3. CHEQUE donations

Make cheque out to "Global Development Group"

Post to 56 Goorari St, Eight Mile Plains, QLD 4113.

Attach a cover letter outlining

- The amount on cheque,
- Donor details (full name, address etc) and
- Preferred project J number = J555 New Beginnings