

# NEW BEGINNINGS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

SUPPORTING THE ORPHANS OF KAFUE

Changing lives so that other lives can be changed

## Supporter Newsletter

April 2010

Bwanji (hello) again to all the sponsors and supporters of New Beginnings Children's Village (NBCV).

Zikomo kwambiri (thank you very much) and God bless you for supporting these precious children. Whether you are giving of your finances, prayer, time, goods or goodwill, you are a vital part of the support network. None of the good news in this edition would have been possible without your giving. It's with a real sense of satisfaction and gratitude that we now share the wonderful achievements of the last 6 months. In this edition we'd also like to introduce the NBCV team – the wonderful individuals who care for the children. That makes for a longer than normal newsletter, however there are many photos and you don't get to meet the NBCV carers every day. Hope you enjoy this good news story!



Back row (L to R): Esther, Costa, Stella, Victoria, Hazel, Regina, Felisi  
Middle row: William, Peter, Major, Margaret, Tenge  
Front row: Charity, Betty (on her knee), Oscar, Jean, Crispin, Musonda, Never, Kenny

## ***The children***



NBCV is currently home for 12 children and housemother Victoria. The children are happy, healthy and enjoy their new home and all the new things that go along with that: the team of carers, 3 nutritious meals a day, the clean, healthy environment with running water, showers and all weather toilets, the big yard for outdoor play, their indoor dining /relaxation area (with TV!), evening story time, and *one bed* per child (having their 'own' bed - now *that* is absolute luxury to them).

We have 3 former teachers on staff (blessing!) so the children are in an environment of relaxed learning opportunities every day. According to the staff, the emotional health of the children is now very good, in contrast to their state on arrival which was very poor - most of the children are rescued from abject poverty and /or abusive situations. In letters to their sponsors and to me, the children say how they love being at NBCV where they feel safe, loved and part of a new family (and they *do* mention food, story-time, playing ball games, beds, TV and new family).



New school shoes for all the children (Jean absent due to her broken leg)

**All 12 children are now in school.** What a wonderful achievement! Betty and Oscar are in pre-school, while Margaret, Jean, Ester, Peter, William, Major, Tenge, Musonda and Crispin are in primary at Shikoswe Basic School and Stella is in secondary school. Most of these children once had little or no hope of schooling – and they know all too well that education means a better future. They are SO HAPPY for this opportunity. I'm told 4 year old Betty was so excited to be going to pre-school she was up and running around at 5am on the first day, calling out "... it's time for school, time for school".



A few of the children have had health challenges but recovered well with good treatment from the local hospital. Jean was playing in the yard when she slipped and broke her leg in 3 places! She was \*taxied 5km to Kafue (local) hospital where an injection was given to relieve the pain and the broken leg placed in a back-slab. Jean was then discharged home to wait 4 days for the leg swelling to subside before a full plaster cast could be applied. Once that was on Jean was soon walking with the help of crutches especially made by a local carpenter (crutches are not available 'off the shelf'). We thank God for the wonderful medical care, Panadol in our first-aid box and the TLC given by the wonderful NBCV team. Jean is doing well and is now back in school.

\* A taxi was used to get Jean to hospital because there is no ambulance service in Kafue and NBCV has no vehicle.



### *Ice-cream story*

We received money from a Queensland donor for 'ice-creams and education' so we sent it over to NBCV labelled for that purpose. We soon got this news from Kenny ...

"When I told the kids that they would all be eating an ice cream because someone from Australia had donated some money for that, Betty the youngest asked me what an ice cream was because until that day she had never heard that word. So when the day was finally come I asked all the kids to go with Charity to get their favourite ice cream. Others like Tenge, Major and Peter had also never tasted an ice cream. They went to a local shop called "Shop-O-day" where each child picked their favourite flavour (favourite colour really). They enjoyed the "food" such that up to this day some of them have kept the ice-cream cups as a souvenir. They say it's really good to be at NBCV and may God bless the sponsor of the ice cream. Then I told them that God should not only bless the sponsor of the ice cream but all the sponsors of NBCV."



## ***Meet the NBCV staff – a dedicated team of carers***

**Ps KENNY BISHA GOMA** is pastor of New Beginnings Christian Church Kafue and **Director and Project Manager of NBCV**. Kenny has a real father's heart for the children of the orphanage and also for the orphans and vulnerable children of the community. Kenny attends to the daily oversight of NBCV including pastoral care, financial management and is project manager of all development activities, e.g. self sustainable projects: produce garden, chicken run, hammer mill; construction of pit latrines, water tanks, security wall fence; maintenance works; community education planning and delivery. Kenny is assisted by a hand picked, multi-skilled team who genuinely care for these children.



NBCV family photo

**VICTORIA is house-mother and caregiver. The children call her mum.**

(back row, wearing blue shirt, waving)

**Interests:** gospel singing, bible studies, and caring for small children

Victoria does many domestic chores that any mother would do, and helps the children with grooming and hygiene, but her special focus is relating to them one-on-one, spending time with them to hear about their day, their friends and teachers at school. In the evening Victoria sits with the children – usually outside around the fire (brazier) – as they share stories and riddles just like any African family would do. “The children are warm and lovely; we enjoy each others company” she says.

**CHARITY** is general supervisor, administration assistant, children's after school tutor and 'Aunty Charity' to the kids. Charity is a qualified primary teacher and secretary and is currently undertaking a Diploma in Social Work. Her heart is to make a difference with social problems in Africa, especially with orphans and vulnerable children. Her interests include socialising especially with children, reading story books, watching cartoons and baking.

Charity inspects all areas of NBCV daily for cleanliness and hygiene, attends to the accounts/book-keeping, and maintains accurate and up-to-date records (Oh she is a blessing!). Most mornings and afternoons Charity gives a 2-hour classroom style lesson to the children because in Zambia children attend school for only a few hours each day, e.g. from 7 until 11am or from midday to 5pm. When it is time for the art class "... the children and I dig up some wet clay soil ... to make clay pots, toy cars, toy dolls etc and they really love it, although these don't last (they easily get broken). I also supervise the children with various different sport activities ... like soccer". Charity says there is no community playground in Kafue - she would love to have swings at NBCV so local disadvantaged children could come and enjoy them.



(L to R) Hazel, Regina and Charity – Christmas preparations

**REGINA** is married with 3 children and is caregiver/evening cook. Her background includes working in a community school and psychosocial counselling, and hobbies include cooking, travelling, reading, music, sports and making friends. Regina describes the children's response when dinner of meat, vegetables and mealy meal is served for dinner ... [remember the children are often very malnourished when they arrive].

" ... the kids wait quietly and watch the process. This is something the kids have never imagined a few months ago, before they came to NBCV. Orderly the kids walk to the dining table where the food has been served by their friends on duty. I join them and ask one of the kids to pray then eat. Afterwards, we ... have prayers, God's guidance, protection at NBCV and the

people in Australia is always in our prayer. My dream is to continue helping these precious souls of the Lord come up so that they too will be of help to their families whose lives continue to be entrapped in hopelessness”.

**HAZEL** is the day time cook at NBCV, and looks after all the kitchen equipment. A qualified primary school teacher, she likes reading, baking, travelling, going to church and meeting friends. Hazel describes a typical breakfast scene with the children

“I sit with them, then and ask one of the kids to pray for the meal .... We only start eating after prayers and when all the kids are around. The kids have learnt how to give thanks for the food before they eat. Their prayers will go like, “thank you God for this food and thank you for the people in Australia who send us money for food, may you bless them in Jesus name AMEN”. Other small kids, like Betty and Oscar who are just learning some English words would just mumble their prayer, “thank you ... Lord ... Australia ... AMEN!”

**FALESI** is ‘Aunty Faile’ to the kids. (back row next to Victoria in the NBCV family photo above). She likes singing gospel songs, dancing and netball, but especially loves working with the children. Here she describes part of her day.

“I am Falesi, a general worker and also sleep-in child minder in the girls dormitory. I wake at 5am and spend time in prayer before waking the children at 0530. ... the little ones like Oscar and Betty are always sleepy and I sometimes bathe Betty and Oscar with their eyes closed - *pretending* to be sleeping. After breakfast of tea and scones or porridge, I escort the pre-schoolers to school. .... then I clean and tidy the bedrooms, do the children’s laundry [hand-washing], then sweep, mop and dust all the other rooms and corridors. On weekends the children help with the chores”.

**NEVER** works as night-time security guard one week then on alternate weeks develops and maintains the produce garden. Married with 5 children, he worked as a mechanical fitter for 19 years. He likes football, bible studies, gardening and caring for the children.

The children call me **grand pa** (Ambuye in Nyaja, maybe because I am the oldest). Each day I water the vegetable garden ... the boys like helping because they like splashing each other! Sometimes they help me to remove the weeds ... and put in manure. During this time I also watch over the gates or keep an eye on the children playing.

I always teach the children the importance of having the garden. I have to see to it that I plant a wide variety of vegetables as this will help us not to walk long distance to buy veggies. In the new orchard, the children ask “when will these banana plants grow? Are they going to be ready by tomorrow? Can you give each one of us a plant to take care of? Can I have this banana plant please?” Since there are 10 plants, 15 banana plants, 6 guava plants and 2 lemons, I tell them I would give each one a plant if they pass well at school.



Costa (left) and Never  
(Infant orchard in foreground; sweet potato crop in background)

**COSTA** works as night-time security guard one week then on alternate weeks develops and maintains the produce garden. He is a tireless worker with abundant (youthful) energy!! Costa was born 7<sup>th</sup> in a family of 12. He has just turned 21, is single and likes gardening, football, cycling and TV. His background is maize farming and he dreams of owning some land one day where he can raise crops on a commercial basis. Costa loved the opportunity to learn brick-laying during construction of the NBCV fence. The children call Costa “Ba Costa” (BA is like Mr, a term of respect when addressing an older person).

### ***Caring for the carers – sponsor a staff member***

We are seeking sponsors for staff wages so we can retain these wonderful people. If you would like to sponsor a staff member’s wage, it is \$15 - \$60 per week, depending on the role. What a great investment – caring for the carers!! These wonderful people are currently given a ‘part wage’ and are deserving of a full wage. They too have rent to pay, families to feed and children to educate. If you would like to sponsor a staff member either in part or in full, for 1, 2 or 3 years, you can donate on-line via our web site, [www.newbeginningschildrensvillage.com](http://www.newbeginningschildrensvillage.com) and select the ‘support the kids’ tab. Please contact Ros on 0401962169 or at [nbcv.kafue@gmail.com](mailto:nbcv.kafue@gmail.com) to advise me of your donation. If you would like more information about staff sponsorship, please contact Ros (same contact details). Your help would be greatly appreciated!

## ***Home improvements***

### ***A kitchen table - Just like home***

NBCV didn't have a kitchen table & chairs, but thanks to a \$200 donation that changed. We engaged a local carpenter to build a table and 2 chairs (much cheaper than purchasing ready built). The table not only provides an area for food preparation, but also provides a homely atmosphere for the kids as they sit with the ladies and chat as they prepare meals together. Cooking is a vital life skill that the kids must learn and maintain.



Regina and Charity sit at the new table while preparing dinner

### ***Dining room hand basin***

This has been installed to assist with the children's hand washing before meals. Africans eat meals with bare hands, so if your hands aren't clean you can get very sick!

### ***Christmas gift***

We gave NBCV \$160 at Christmas time to get something special for all to share. They decided on a satellite dish (decoder) for free to air educational TV programs.

### ***Hair clippers***

Zambian males usually prefer their hair very short! A \$200 donation made these very good quality hair clippers possible. (Cheap ones kept burning out with the workload!). The kids love it! Even the neighbours come to watch.



### ***Internet***

We now have internet connected thanks to a special donation. It provides the essential element of communication! For effective project management we need almost daily emails, and consistently good access to the internet means we can do just that. It's fantastic! We hope to access on-line education modules for the kids too (down the track a little when we can afford more than 1GB/month).

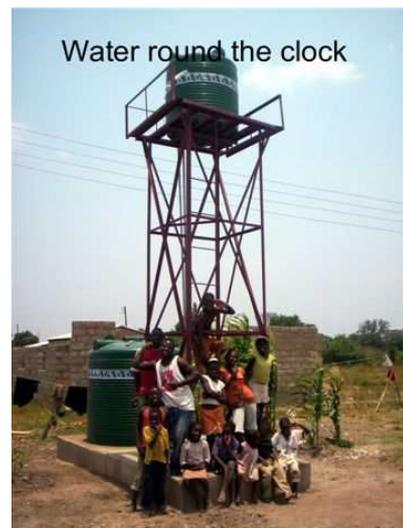
### ***Kitchen sink installed and porch floor resurfaced***

The concrete porch floor outside the kitchen was deteriorating badly so in January it was resurfaced and painted and a double sink was installed. Prior to this the tap in the yard was used for washing food and dishes. They just love it!



### **Water tanks installed October 2009 - guaranteed 24-hour water supply.**

While in Kafue in August 2009 we discovered that the town water supply was turned off for 4-6 hours every afternoon. Can you imagine trying to *hygienically* prepare dinner for 20 people with no running water? We let our supporters know we needed water tanks urgently. One supporter turned her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration into a water-tank fundraiser and raised most of the needed funds! NBCV now has water 24 x 7, and they say "zikomo" (thanks) it's FANTASTIC!



### ***Produce garden – improving the children’s nutrition and NBCV self sustainability***

The vegetable garden was established from seeds in August 2009, and from mid-September to December produced almost 100% of NBCV requirements for tomatoes, onions, Chinese cabbages, rape (green vegetable), carrots and spring onions. That’s fantastic! A crop of maize (grown from seed) was recently harvested – this corn will be ground to provide breakfast mealy meal. A sweet potato crop is almost ready for eating. The wet season is now over so okra, eggplant and rape have just been planted. A fruit orchard is in the infant stage with orange, lemon, guava, banana and mango seedlings.



Produce garden



Pit latrines in the midst of the maize field

### ***Construction of 4 pit latrines, November 2009***

Kafue has a naturally high water table, so during the heavy rains of the wet season (Nov—March) waste couldn’t effectively drain away from the regular ‘flush’ toilet system. Oh dear!!! So, 2 adult and 2 child friendly pit latrines were constructed to provide all weather toilet access. (Pit latrines are the environmentally friendly toilets you find in some National Parks). An additional benefit is that visitors to the site will use the pit latrines rather than the children’s toilets, further enhancing a sense of ‘home’ and privacy for the children.

### ***Land purchase***

The purchase of an 18m x 40m parcel of land adjoining NBCV (previously owned by Kafue District Council) was made possible by a donation and it is such a blessing! It increases our land size to 78m x 40m (from 60m x 40m). This provides **many** benefits including: direct road access at the rear of the property, and more space for the produce garden, maize field, orchard, and the planned chicken run and hammer mill.



Additional land allows NBCV to grow more food



The beautiful new fence protects the NBCV family and produce garden (created on the recently purchased section of land).

***Perimeter security fence completed March 2010 – Amazing!***

Ps Kenny had made it known that a fence was essential to provide security for both people and goods at NBCV. Construction of the 2-metre brick fence to border the entire 78m x 40 m property has now been completed and provides not just security, but also a *sense of security* for the predominantly female team of carers and the children. The large sliding gates are open during the day (when guard/gardener on duty) and closed in the evening. Planning and overseeing the fence construction (including building plans, council approval, quotation process, quote analysis etc) has provided valuable experience for Ps Kenny, the project manager. Three local men (including our own night guard / gardener Costa) were given opportunity to work alongside the fence builders to learn /develop brick-laying skills thus improving future job prospects. The fence provides ready built walls for the hammer mill and chicken run. FANTASTIC!! We are very grateful to the generous couple from Victoria who funded the entire fence (approx. \$33,000).



New fence at NBCV – the NBCV family feels safer and is safer

### ***Projects planned and partly funded***

- **Multipurpose room (MPR)** **Cost approx \$10,000 Funds raised \$2,600**  
Equip the MPR for educational activities for the children of NBCV, (including on-line education programmes); for vocational training (sewing, basic computer skills, etc); and community education /adult learning programmes (English literacy, malaria/AIDS prevention). Cost includes a polished concrete floor, tables, plastic chairs, blackboard, bookshelves /cupboards, books, AV equipment, 2 desk top computers or 5 laptops.
- **Chicken run (on-site)** **Cost approx. \$1000. Funds raised = \$200**  
Initially chickens will be raised for NBCV meat and eggs. If there is a good possibility of selling these products we'll gradually increase to commercially viable numbers. (Chicken is part of the staple diet here). Self sustainability is the long term aim.
- **Hammer Mill Project (on-site)** **Cost \$28,000. Funds raised = \$8000**  
Grinding maize and peanuts for NBCV and local growers is a very viable commercial venture – self sustainability is the key for long term survival of NBCV.

## ***Projects needing funding***

- Installation of chipboard ceilings throughout

**Cost approx \$8,000**



Ceiling beams being painted with white ant protector. No while ants in beams, but the reed ceiling mats had to be removed as they were infested with white ants.

## ***The wish list***

- A nearby residence so visiting teams have a place to stay. This would double as a residence for Director & Project Manager, Ps. Kenny. **Cost approx \$60,000**
- Land for an agricultural project

**Web site** [www.newbeginningschildrensvillage.com](http://www.newbeginningschildrensvillage.com)

Our NBCV web site is frequently updated with the latest developments at NBCV. A recent audio-visual NBCV update by Ros van der Vooren can be found in the 'Australian Connection' tab.

On the site is a tab "Support the Kids" where you can use a link to make secure credit card payments (tax-deductible) via the GDG 'Make a Donation' page. It is safe, easy to use, and has the added advantage of our project number "J555 New Beginnings" being automatically filled in on the page. You can set up once only or regular monthly payments.



Children celebrating the laying of the pit latrine slab.  
(Never taught the boys how to salute. Fantastic!)

We are giving these children and staff a better life and this has a ripple effect in the whole community – what a privilege. Thank you again for being part of this wonderful and heart warming project.

God bless you all  
Ros van der Vooren and the Aussie admin team

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