

Winter Newsletter 2017



Pictured are children from Twavwane School in Lusaka, who are supported in school by ZOA. They are singing and performing poetry and are so grateful for the help they are receiving, which allows them to develop skills to assist them throughout their lives.

Zambia Orphans Aid UK

Latest news

Uniform appeal: thank you for helping us to raise enough money from our last newsletter appeal to provide 42 children with school uniforms. Community groups we work with have set up tailoring businesses, which support local women to make school uniforms. Purchasing uniforms from these groups allows our funding to not only help children to attend school, but also supports local women to earn an income. Pictured right, is one of the staff from Hope & Faith School in Lusaka holding a jumper knitted for one of their students.



Tertiary results 2016:

*45 students supported
279 exams sat
99% pass rate
13% distinction / A
52% merit / B*

Increased capacity in Zambia:

we have received funding for three years to cover the cost of a part-time Project Coordinator to manage the rising number of tertiary students needing support. Patricia Mbao, pictured right, is the existing project officer at ZOA-Zambia in Lusaka, and has ably stepped into this new role.



My trip to Zambia – Lara Hawkins

We were a jolly team of seven; Elizabeth, who runs ZOA's operations in Zambia, Conard who was driving, my dad – Jim Potter, trustee of ZOA, and Hilary my step-Mum, also Fay and Sorcha – my daughter and niece, both 16 years old. We were greeted at Twavwane School in Lusaka with much excitement for the opening of the new kitchen. The older girls sang and recited poetry – about women's rights and career opportunities. Talking with students put the funding that ZOA is providing into stark reality; we learnt that financing school fees is key, but that support with uniforms, books, food and transport are also important if the children are to be able to continue and excel at school.

At Hope & Faith School we learnt that some schools cannot teach science to Grade 12 due to the lack of science resources. But, thanks to the new science labs funded by ZOA, Hope & Faith students can now study science until they leave school.

In comparison to the two Lusaka schools, the rural school at Lubushi, 30mins drive outside Kasama was not short of space. Under a beautiful group of trees we spoke to staff and students. Many had dreams of a life in Lusaka or outside Zambia. The classrooms were overcrowded but work was underway on a new building for the older children.



Pictured are Fay and Sorcha with children from Nevers Club near Kasama.

“Zambia has always been some sort of mythical place...”

...where Mum and Dad lived before I was born – which has come back into focus as ZOA has grown.

The most striking and common theme during our trip was the inspiring commitment and determination of the staff and volunteers and what is achieved with such limited resources. The support that ZOA provides is so very important to all the children we met.

“An inspiring experience”

Just before sunset we were heading north to Kasama – the long shadows across the road disguising the yawning potholes. We took it in turns to be on pothole watch. At Nevers Club we were met with singing, dancing and a welcome speech in English, from Evance, aged 17. We enjoyed a very happy morning meeting the children, visiting the church and learning about the project.



Pictured is Evance, reading his welcome speech. Evance is excelling at school.



A new kitchen

No one can learn if they are hungry which is why ZOA supports school meals for children attending three community schools. Pictured above are students at Twawwane School in Lusaka outside their new kitchen, which was built in the summer and in use for the start of the school term in September. This kitchen means food no longer has to be cooked outside in all weather, food can be stored securely, and children have a dining room to use during the rainy season.



New textbooks and library shelving for Twawwane School

Last year the Zambian Government introduced a new curriculum, but did not provide the funds needed for community schools to purchase the necessary textbooks.

We have been fundraising to help Twawwane School buy the books and shelving required, so that their students from Grades 1-9, can study for their examinations and continue to progress in their education.

In June, thanks to some very generous support, we met our appeal target of £10,715. All of the books have been purchased and are now being used by Twawwane's students. Pictured above are children using the new books that will help them to stay in school, and left, a volunteer teacher sorts the new books.



Can you give the gift of education this Christmas?

A decent education makes a huge difference to any child's future. This winter your gift to ZOA can help to empower communities so more children get the chance to go to – and stay in – school.



Pictured above, Naomi, who ZOA supports to attend school in Kasama.

What your gift could fund:

- £5-10 – cost of one textbook
- £76 – a child to attend primary school for a year
- £268 – a child to attend secondary school for a year
- £900 – one year's tuition fees for a teacher training course

How you can help

Your support is hugely appreciated, as our work could simply not take place without you. If you are able to make a further gift, here's how to do it;

- Donate online by visiting zoa.org.uk and clicking DONATE NOW on the homepage
- Send a cheque for 'Zambia Orphans Aid UK' to Jim Potter, Treasurer, ZOA-UK, 2A Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham, Cambs, CB21 4ES
- To discuss other ways to help please contact Katy Dore by email, katy@zoa.org.uk or call +44 (0)7727 109413

Thank you.



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