

May 2014

Dear Friends & Supporters,



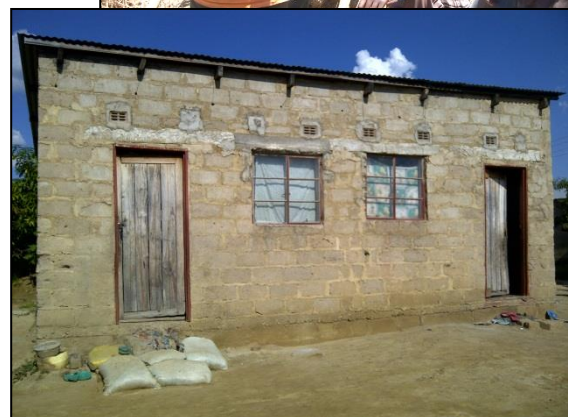
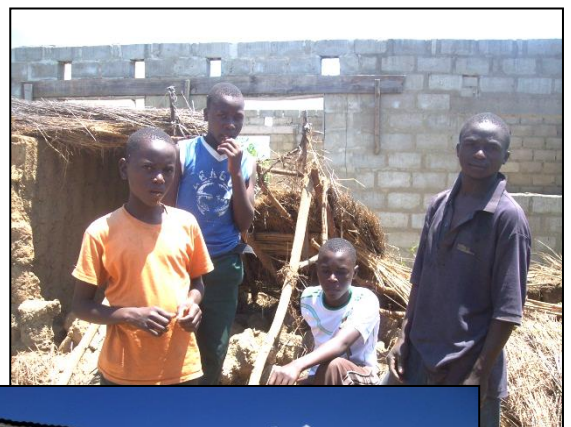
I'm sending you Easter greetings from my home here in Central Africa. Home to the Batonga people, we are situated in Kalomo, a village in Southern Zambia.

Thanks to the prayers and generosity of each of you, our ministry here in Kalomo is expanding and growing! Each year the number of students coming to us for school sponsorship increases. You are helping to send around 60 students to school each year! The gratitude of the students is overwhelming. The most effective way out of poverty is education, and your sponsorship helps provide the greatest opportunities in life for these eager students.



Along with the formal educational opportunities, we are also in the process of building a Skills Training Center (pictured on left). Thanks to the help of many of you, the center is getting close to completion. We have applied for a grant to complete the final stages of the building. The building is on the property of the Catholic parish. The center will enable us to offer skills training in various areas. We will be teaching computer, tailoring and carpentry skills. There will also be a room to offer workshops and meeting facilities.

Our newest project is the Child Headed Homes Building Project. Child headed homes are defined as anyone under the age of 18 living in a home without an adult. The need for this project, which is still in the beginning stages, came about as we increasingly found ourselves sponsoring students for school who did not have a family to live with. Some of these students are orphans; some are from the bush villages and attend school in town. This project will give the students in this situation a place to stay that is conducive to learning and studying. The land has been purchased and we have met with a planner to draw up the building plans. We are very excited to begin building!



Right: Some of our students whose house was washed away with the heavy rains. Our Child Headed Homes Project would build homes modeled after those seen here that are used by the Parish.



Above: Wendy Allaman with Kids Against Hunger

We also had a few people from the USA come to visit our mission this year and do some volunteer work. Wendy Allaman came from Illinois to see how we were using the Kids Against Hunger shipment of food aid that their organization sent to us. It was great to have them with us and look forward to more visitors in the next couple of months!



Right and below: Sister Deb with one of the families and kids who received food from the Kids Against Hunger shipment.



I will continue to keep you updated as our projects advance. I call them “our” projects because all of you are full partners in the ministry with those who have been made poor here in Kalomo. None of this would be possible without you!

All of our donors and friends remain in our hearts and prayers each day. On behalf of myself, all the sisters, and the Batonga people, I say thank you and God bless your care, compassion and generosity!

Blessings,  
Sister Deb Nelson



Right: Sister Deb and Anna.