

March 2015

Kaoma, Zambia, Africa

In mid-January, I returned to Zambia after some time in the U.S. Immediately, I learned that our sewing center and my office had been broken into the previous week. All of our curtains, sheets, buttons, sewing machine needles, and some school uniforms, sweaters and yarn were taken. They even took the circuit beaker and light bulbs from my office, which is a separate building. The good news is that the police have found nearly everything so we are back in business. Being vulnerable to such invasion is part of living in a country where people are so poor.

Many people are always poor and live from day to day. However, during the rainy season, the majority of people have little or no food. Their food supply depends on their maize crop, which won't be harvested until April or May. Sister Inez and I visited schools last month to tell the heads about the availability of Kids Against Hunger food for the children. When we arrived at one of the schools, we saw that two of the classrooms had been taken over as home for two of the teachers and there were no children in the other four classrooms. The headmaster informed us that the teachers' houses had been destroyed by the rain and that the children who couldn't pay their school fees of K50, about \$8, were sent home. Those few who could pay the fees were taught for about five weeks. Then there was no more chalk so they were also sent home. Chalk is essential because the children do not have books. Much of what they have to learn is written on the black board.

We were fortunate to receive a half container of Kids Against Hunger food. Because this is the time of year that people have little food, we decided to give enough packages of food to schools in the bush. We have given enough food for 11 schools to feed their children one day a week for four weeks. This totaled about 5,000 children and their teachers. We also gave food to about 50 widowed men and women to feed their families about six times.



Recently, we were approached by a former agricultural agent. He has taught over 100 farmers how to raise organic chickens and has asked us to partner with him. We have agreed. We will purchase the farmers' eggs, hatch them and sell the chicks back to the farmers. They will raise the chickens, using a special diet. Our partner already has contracts with international markets to purchase these chickens. We have purchased a solar incubator and are ready to begin this project, which will help us to generate income for our other projects. It will also provide income for farmers and provide high-grade chickens for consumption here and abroad.



We have a solar drier that we use for drying moringa leaves and other ingredients for chicken feed. The moringa leaves are a rich source of nutrients for the chickens as well as for human consumption. We plan to purchase a second drier to dry fruit and vegetables for packaging as part of a food supplement that we will give to the poor. We also plan to sell some of the packages to generate income.

We are most grateful that new opportunities for assisting the poor keep emerging. Thank you, also, to those of you have supported us financially and through your prayer and encouragement. May God bless you abundantly.

Sister Virginia McCall  
[virginiapbm@gmail.com](mailto:virginiapbm@gmail.com)