



“Christian Development Spanning Generations”

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Hello Everyone,

We have really exciting news to share with you. We are able to begin construction on the three room community school at Kasongo this month! It may not sound like much to you, but to the residents plus the orphans and other vulnerable children there who are too poor to attend regular public school, it must seem like a dream come true. Of course, as we have reported to you some time ago, we actually began this community school in 2006. It has been maintained only by the cooperation of local pastors by allowing us to hold sessions in various churches (and great volunteer teachers who agreed to work for a mere stipend). We had, however, yet to have our own building. While we have some way to go (getting doors and tin sheets for a roof, etc.), they have made the foundation and begun the laying of the homemade mud bricks. What a coup for these people! God has proven Himself strong on their behalf.

While we have helped them do many things, it is the first tangible building – something they can see every day and know that they made it possible. This not only builds their self-esteem and increases the future possibilities for their children, but they know it is because of God’s favor and enablement. What part did the people themselves play? Despite their abject poverty, they chose to look forward to the future. Not only did they make the choice of education and ask us to help them make it a reality, they took part by clearing the land, making the bricks, supplying the labor to build, etc. They understand much better now what we mean when we say ‘a hand up rather than a handout.’ With the completion of the school they will feel other projects are possible for them. While perhaps poor in monetary goods, they are rich in talent and spirit. They will realize that God has been a part of the process, and they will be proud to know that they chose to take steps to leave a heritage of literacy for their children.

Moreover, as an added bonus, those children whose parents do not attend any church at the present time will now have the chance to hear the gospel, as our teachers will school them in the basics of the Bible. Every class in every public school in Zambia has a religion class, and ours is no exception. While the government schools must be somewhat inclusive of various other religions in the area (which include Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam), we can go deeper in our teachings of the Bible and Jesus Christ. We have some wonderful Christian teachers and we feel assured they will do a great job.

So we thank you for your help in making this dream a reality. Without supporters like you this would not be possible because even though the people of Kasongo supplied the labor (some were paid a bit for making the bricks), the cement, framing, doors, and roofing sheets are material needs that must yet be purchased. I read an interesting article recently which stated that ‘one dollar spent in the Kingdom of God lasts forever.’ Now *that’s* a good investment!

God bless you abundantly,
Ruth for the entire Bridge Team

We invite you to visit us at www.bridgeinternationalzambia.org for an up-to-date account of what God has accomplished through us for the Kingdom since we began Bridge in 2005.

You may send support by check to Bridge International, 78 Brookside Drive, Terre Haute, IN 47802.

-OR-

You may make a bank transfer directly to our ministry account in Zambia. For simple instructions on how to do this please contact me at mcclintock_ruth@yahoo.co.uk, or write the address above. **Either way is tax deductible.** Thank you!

“Not a hand-out, but a hand up”