



# Newsletter



No. 12 March 2022

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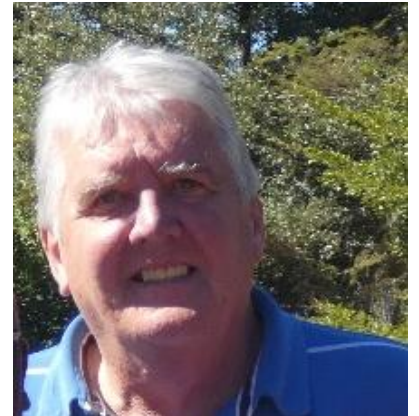
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## Welcome

Writing this piece amidst the acute Ukrainian crisis, with no indication yet of an end to the suffering, I am very conscious that life is fragile and offers none of us any guarantees. However, there are also many areas of the world where chronic hardship continues to be the daily expectation for millions of people, including Zambia, where life itself hangs by a thread.

Since our last newsletter, a great deal has been achieved by Future Pillars through the determination and hard work of our trustees and supporters, as well as by Family Future Community School in Kabwe. I hope, like me, you will feel really encouraged as you read this newsletter which provides a flavour of what has been going on. Here is an appetiser:



- In the autumn, we received a heartfelt request from Moses Kopa, Head of FFCS, to collect shoes for the children. Read about the unbelievable sequence of events that followed. At the time of writing, we still await news of the shipment date.
- Progress has been made on an important strategic issue – school governance. I know that several supporters have been keen for this development.
- As a Christian-based charity, we are very conscious of God's guiding hand over all that we do, and we give thanks for that. Many of you support us through prayer and, again, we are grateful to you for that commitment. As we move forward, Rosemary Stanbury will be preparing updates to inform our prayer support.
- Moses Kopa's report – Headlines – provides a good update for us and details several successes from Kabwe. We also have an update on the new building and the Skills Centre from Patrick Sichilima.
- Where would FPZ be without Sponsored Walks? Peter (The Step) McAughey provides an update on what is planned.

After a few years of not being able to visit Zambia, we are planning our next visit for May/June. The itch to get back out to the children and staff at the school is beyond words!

On behalf of Emma, Kathryn, Nick, Peter, and Rosemary please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support. We hope you are as exhilarated as us by the progress being made on such a broad front for the orphaned and vulnerable children in Kabwe. *Barry Gransden, Chair, Future Pillars*

**“Your support has really changed the story of many youths here in Kabwe, bringing hope to the children who once had no hope and are now future pillars of their families.”**

## News from Kabwe

### New building progress report

*Patrick Sichilima, FPZ Administrator, writes*

The new building is on the wall plate level, which means the brick work is almost done apart from the filling of the gaps between the roof and the walls, which will be done after the roof is completed. The roof timbers have been treated with preservative and is now ready for the setting of the roof. This will be done at the same time as the plastering on the ground floor and wiring on the down floor, fitting of the door frames and window frames, and, upon completion of the roof, the wiring of the first floor and then the plastering and fitting of the window frames and the door frame will be done.

Progress is slow for several reasons, mainly to do with accessing materials, but we are set for completion in the first week of May.



### Family Pillars Vocational Skills Centre

Following the examination period in December, our trainees achieved an 80% pass rate. While this is very good, it would have been higher had Covid not interrupted us causing closures and 3 tutors decided to leave.

The national accreditation body, TEVETA, has responded positively to our application for government funding in 6 courses – carpentry, bricklaying, metal fabrication, plumbing and sheet metal, power electrical, and designing cutting and tailoring – requiring us to train 125 students at trade test level III. We are set to receive k60,000.00 per course (approx. £25,000). This is a great result for us, so now we must deliver the standard required. Another reason for being pleased is that this money will reduce our dependence on FPZ funding.

We are so grateful for the continued support for our vulnerable children in Zambia. Your support has really changed the story of many youths here in Kabwe, bringing hope to the children who once had no hope and are now future pillars of their families.

May God continue to bless FPZ.

*Patrick*

### Headlines

Greetings to you all. As always, I am delighted to share with you news from Family Future Community School.

We are sincerely grateful to God the Creator who has preserved the children and staff from the Corona Virus pandemic. We had some of our staff and learners catch the virus, but they all recovered and are now up to their respective tasks. We are back to the normal functioning of the school. The roll out of vaccination programs

into schools has seen a good number of teachers and learners receiving their jabs. However, the days given to the schools for the vaccination programs were not adequate as the learners needed to get parental consent and this meant many did not get vaccinated.



**Donate while shopping, booking a holiday or renewing your insurance online – at no extra cost**



We've talked before about easyfundraising giving us a donation from your online purchase, but did you know companies like Booking.com and major insurance companies are part of this scheme – with significant donations coming to us from these high value purchases?

- Log on to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
  - Search for Future Pillars and join us
  - Start shopping
- Or
- Click **Here** to go straight to our easy fundraising page and join us
  - Start shopping

Allow me to move to policy change towards the running of the schools in Zambia. The new government announced last year that education would be free in all public schools, and this has happened. This has led to an influx of place seekers in all the schools, but we thank God that we were ahead of that, and we have managed to stay within our Admission policy limit.

Let me now talk about the reopening of schools in term 1 (January). We had a series of meetings prior to the opening date with the Ministry of Education officials. This was largely to orientate the School Managers (Heads) on the manifesto of the new government. One of the interesting topics discussed was the full implementation of the Zambian National Curriculum of 2013. This caught my attention to hear that we are to implement it in full now! I'm glad to say that we have had massive support in implementing the ZNC and we are very much on course.

We had a very good start at school with almost all the necessary things being in place and learners were taught on the first day with all teachers ready with all the teaching documents authenticated by their respective supervisors in the Senior Leadership Team. We are looking forward to having a very productive term especially now that Covid 19 disruptions seem to be waning. We are aiming to recover in the classes that were affected by the school closures.

Let me now talk about the 2021 results at both Grade 7 and 9. We have been improving our results at Grade 9 but we are still dealing with literacy challenges at Grade 7. My investigations have shown that we still have to arrest this problem in the primary section and this is happening currently. I have also planned that when Barry & Becky visit us this year we will do further CPD to reorientate the teachers, especially those who have recently joined us.

Great News! Yes! Charity Kapambwe, one of our new Grade 10 pupils, has shown outstanding progress in her academic performance. This was after tracing her results from Grade 7 up to Grade 9 in the national examinations, in line with some value-added analysis that we have been doing with Barry. As a way of motivating her and other learners, we will award her at one of our school assemblies – our whole project is about making progress, whatever your starting point.



All in all, the future looks brighter, and we salute your continued support to the children and staff.

Cheerio! *Moses Kopa, Headteacher FFCS*

## **Family Care & Orphan Board (FCOB)**

*Barry reports on encouraging progress towards local governance.*

As we look to the future, on the eve of our 5th birthday, it is pleasing to report that significant progress towards local governance of the Family Future Community School has been made in the last six months or so.

When CONTESA was formed in 2005 and then Future Pillars Zambia in 2017, there was a commitment to work closely with the Church Family Mission on whose site the school is built. That commitment, however, expressed in a Memorandum of Understanding, has not worked effectively, with church politics around leadership issues proving a major unsettling distraction for Moses and his team, as well as FPZ here in UK.

**“Empowerment is not just for the children but the whole community in and around the school.”**



*Left to right: Daniel Gondwe (DH in local school), Martha Ngoma (Chair of the Parent Teacher Committee), Frank Bwalya (Chair of FCOB and church pastor), Ernest Mulenga (life skills trainer), Frackson Banda (farmer), Vernon Sinkala (church pastor).*

After considerable discussion, a group of six people volunteered to take on a governance role, the Family Care and Orphan Board (FCOB). Local governance of schools is not commonplace in Zambia, unlike the UK, but FCOB is being registered with the Register of Societies in Zambia as a not-for-profit organisation, giving its status formal credibility.

Between October and December 2021, governor training was facilitated for FCOB via Zoom covering:

- 1 What does it mean to be a School Governor at FFCS?
- 2 The School Curriculum
- 3 School Personnel
- 4 School Finances
- 5 School Premises
- 6 The School of the Future

There has already been encouraging progress on the vital topic of Safeguarding in the school, with the appointment of Menda Nkweto, the lead teacher, Martha Ngoma, the lead FCOB governor, and Rosemary Stanbury, the lead FPZ trustee, to help the effective implementation of the agreed policy and concomitant procedures.

FCOB is also investigating potential sources of funding for the school within Zambia, and the next stage in this exciting development is for FCOB to pursue charitable trust status within Zambia. Whilst there is no time scale for this 'next step', the positive commitment is demonstrable. We are encouraging our friends in Kabwe to reduce their dependence on us, both in terms of governance and funding the project. Empowerment is not just for the children but the whole community in and around the school.

## **Safeguarding**

*Trustee Rosemary writes:*

Safeguarding is an initiative with which we in the UK have become familiar. However, it is a new concept in Zambia. The Trustees feel it is important that at our FPZ project everyone on the campus feels safe and secure in the knowledge that abuse, in any form, will not be tolerated.

To this end I have been appointed Safeguarding Lead.

Barry has already e-led excellent Safeguarding training with the Staff and Governing body (Family Care and Orphans Board). I am developing a sound relationship with Martha (FCOB Lead) and Menda (School Lead). When I visit in May I intend to include the other aspects of our project - Kitchen, Girls' and Boys' Houses and Skills Training Centre - and to consolidate the progress made so far.



**“I really appreciate the great job that Future Pillars Zambia is doing in my life and for the whole nation of Zambia”**

## Sponsored Students

Until now we have had no provision on site for grades 10 to 12 and have sponsored selected students to complete their secondary education at other local schools. I am very pleased to report that the current Grade 11 and 12 students whom we sponsored are working really hard and doing well. Even though I haven't been able to visit them and their teachers since 2019, they appreciate and understand that they are being sponsored and supported in the UK and must, therefore, do their best to achieve good end-of-schooling results. I look forward to seeing them when I visit in the summer.

Thank you to all of you who have supported these children. We are so grateful.  
*Rosemary.*

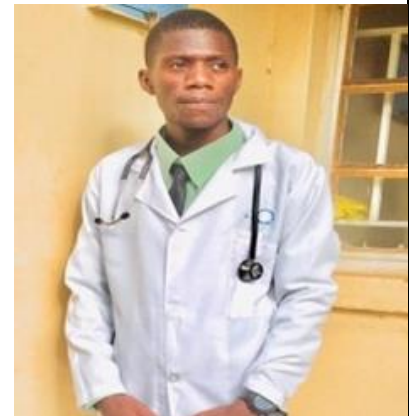
## A student story

My name is Zebrone Chakaila born in 1999. I came to Family Future school and stay in Boys' House where Future Pillars sponsored homeless children, because I had no-one to live with. Future Pillars Zambia started sponsoring me and I completed grade 12 (twelve) in 2019. In 2020 I did Computer skills offered by TEVETA at Family Pillar Vocational and Skills Training Centre (FPVSTC), the institution run by Future Pillars Zambia.

In January 2021 I started a course of Clinical Officer General at Kafue Institute of Health Sciences and Research, and am now in second year, first semester. A lady in England is sponsoring me. I am honoured and I say thank you to the lady.

I really appreciate the great job that Future Pillars Zambia is doing in my life and for the whole nation of Zambia. May God the Almighty continue blessing you as you are doing great jobs for us in Zambia.

God bless you all.



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## News from UK

### Our Feet to Their Feet

During a conversation in September with Moses Kopa, he shared the desperate situation for most of the children at the school regarding their footwear. Photographic evidence provided a bleak picture, with no hope of a local solution. Could we collect shoes and ship them out?

So started our autumn appeal for shoes in a UK climate where the need for food banks and clothes banks – including shoes – is on the increase. What chance? We should never have doubted our supporters! We were simply overwhelmed with the response – schools (Arnewood, Bay House, Blandford, Gomer Junior, Sandhurst Primary), churches (Christchurch Chislehurst, Verwood MC, Wimborne MC), and then many individual champion collectors.



**A massive Thank  
You to all who  
donated  
shoes....2000 pairs  
in total!**

**plus...**

- **Laboratory tables**
- **40 classroom chairs**
- **30 PCs**
- **Books**
- **Classroom resources**

We also received a significant donation of shoes from Blandford Cares – a great charity supporting refugees.

2000 pairs of shoes in total!!!!

A massive Thank You to all who donated shoes. Moses has asked us to pass on his gratitude, safe in the knowledge that the children will benefit hugely. This unexpected level of success then created another challenge – how to get the shoes to Kabwe? How about organizing a Quiz?



### **Quizzers Get Ready for Christmas**

In response to the challenge of how to ship the donated shoes to Zambia, we held a pre-Christmas Quiz on Saturday 27th November. As usual there was fierce competition alongside a great deal of fun. Via Zoom, the 10 teams were tested in 6 rounds on a range of topics – covering literature, cookery, music with a geographical twist, celebrity identity with surnames ending 'son', observation test on a clip from Arthur Christmas, and finally, face blends of famous Christmas celebrities.

The winning team – Life's A Beach, from Cornwall – scored consistently well and were worthy of their first place. Well done again to them and to all the teams for their participation.

A big thank you too to Heidi Mbulu, our daughter, who again led us through the whole evening with great aplomb. All participants were very appreciative.

In addition to team entry donations, we were extremely grateful to receive 3 significant donations towards the shipment costs of the shoes.

### **Gross Footwear to Half Empty!**

So, we started with Moses' request for shoes. Then, to deal with the challenge of how to get the shoes to Kabwe, quite miraculously, came the offer in late autumn to fill half a 40ft container bound for Zambia in early 2022, from a donor, previously unknown to Future Pillars Zambia. Out came the calculator and it quickly became apparent that the available 1280 ft<sup>3</sup> was not going to be filled just by the shoes, now repacked into 144 rubble bags – gross footwear!!

Thanks to the Headteachers and staff at Blandford School and Springfield School, Portsmouth, who have made significant donations of furniture and classroom resources to our previous Zambian-bound container escapades, we have been able to fill the space with laboratory/workshop tables for 2 rooms, 40 classroom chairs, 30 PCs with accompanying monitors, mice, keyboards, and cabling. These bulk items have been complemented by a plethora of books and other classroom resources.

There was then a considerable logistics challenge of getting all this treasure to North London, ready for the container. Suffice it to say that a carefully planned operation over 3 days at the end of February delivered a successful execution. Special thanks to Matthew, our son, and Arnie, our grandson, who helped on day 3 when, 700 miles later, we were really flagging.

We have been asked to contribute to the shipping costs and the designated funds from the quiz and the specified donations have covered that.

Looking again at the title of this brief report, in addition to a wonderful net gain of shoes, we have been given so much more school resource and, certainly, the gifted container is half full! Quite miraculous is an understatement and we thank God for His wonderful provision.

*Becky and Barry Grandsen*



### Blandford School – A Firm Footing!

Congratulations to Blandford School, under the leadership of Sally Wilson, Headteacher, for establishing a culture of conscious support within the school for the needy in society, including the international stage. On the back of furniture and classroom resource donations for our containers over the last few years, the Blandford Charity Ambassadors – a group of Year 12 and 13 students – responded to our request for shoes, which then led to more furniture and computer resources. Thank you so much to Sally, her colleagues, Ian and Dave, together with Kayleigh, Ella and Rosema for their continued understanding, enthusiasm and generosity. Let's meet these three students.....

#### **Kayleigh**

"I am Kayleigh - Year 12 student studying double Health and Social Care, and Sociology. The next steps for me involve going to university to study Children's Nursing, and then eventually specialising as a Health Visitor.

Whilst being a student at The Blandford School, I have taken part in many different opportunities offered to me, including Extended Project Qualification, Sports leaders, The Big Sleep Easy to raise money for the homeless, becoming a Hospital Volunteer and a prefect which led me to becoming a Charity Ambassador of the school. This means that I and two other sixth formers work together to help support local and worldwide charities and to help make a difference from within the school community.

While being a Charity Ambassador, we had been contacted by Becky and Barry giving us the opportunity to work with them in various ways to help make a difference to the children in Kabwe, at the Family Future Community School. I am eternally grateful and forever inspired by the work they, and the other trustees, have put in to help make a difference and I have really enjoyed the chance to be a part of this. We know that The Blandford School has so much to offer that can impact so many others lives and not only this but we, individually, have so much to offer when having left the school ourselves."



**"I have really enjoyed the chance to be a part of this"**



**“I have a huge amount of gratitude and admiration for the amazing work FPZ does and can’t help but want to be a part of it”**

**“Together, we aim to contribute as much as we can to help the less fortunate – abroad and nearer to home”**

### **Ella**

“My name is Ella, and I am 17, studying Maths, Art and Physics. Although I am uncertain as to what the future holds for me, I would love to be able to travel and continue doing art.

During my time at The Blandford School, I have had several different opportunities. From being a part of a student protest within our school inspired by the Sarah Everard vigil, to participating in the Big Sleep Easy to combat homelessness. These activities have encouraged me to become a prefect and then a Charity Ambassador of the school, along with two other sixth formers. After being contacted by Becky and Barry and being able to work with them to help provide various resources for their school in Zambia, it has been eye-opening. I have a huge amount of gratitude and admiration for the amazing work FPZ does and can’t help but want to be a part of it. Hearing them speak of people in Zambia, and the impact this charity has, motivates me to want to be involved with it more, as I feel I have so much to give not just while at The Blandford School, but well after I have left school.”



### **Rosema**

“My name is Rosema and I am a Year 12 student, studying A level Maths, Biology and Chemistry. I am aiming to obtain a medical degree at university, with the aspiration of becoming a doctor.

From several opportunities my school offers, I am grateful to have become a hospital volunteer, a peer mentor, complete an Extended Project Qualification and become a prefect, which led on to me becoming a Charity Ambassador. Together, we aim to contribute as much as we can to help the less fortunate – abroad and nearer to home. Barry and Becky contacted us about the opportunity of supporting young people in Zambia and this has captivated me, and I am grateful to join them to ensure the children of the wonderful school in Kabwe are comfortable and have facilities to ensure the best outcomes of their education. The Blandford School has been able to provide a wide range of resources for the school in Zambia over the last 3 years and Barry and Becky have inspired me to continue to make a difference, even after I leave The Blandford School. ”



Thank you again Blandford School  
*Becky and Barry Gransden*

### **An Evening of Feel - Goodery!**

*Kathryn writes:*

I am still smiling from my local community choir’s first event since Christmas 2019! We reformed in September 2021, committing to support two charities each year, one local and one abroad. Members of the choir had noted my appeal for shoes and chose Future Pillars as one of their charities.

On March 19 we held a Feel – Good concert for all ages, part concert, part singalong. The choir sang in the first half, with each charity having a three-



minute slot to explain their work. (I was still out of breath from singing!) After an interval for refreshments, we moved into a community sing along / karaoke, with many of us dancing as well as singing by the end of the evening!

We raised an astounding £1400 and agreed that as well as supporting our chosen charities we should do something for Ukraine. The easiest way to do this was to share all proceeds between the two charities and the D.E.C Ukraine appeal.

Thank you Sevenoaks Sings. I can't wait till next time! (and thoroughly recommend this format for any other group looking for a fun evening!)



## Looking Ahead

### Family Thought and Prayer Network (FTPN)

#### An invitation....

After much thought and prayer, the Trustees consider the time is right to begin an occasional communication to our FPZ supporters requesting prayer - or thoughts if you prefer.

*I am writing this to invite you to join us.*

I anticipate this becoming an infrequent initiative, when there is a particular need, concern, or reason for giving thanks. Our expectation is that this will be a two-way network between Zambia and UK.

We know that many people regularly include FPZ in their prayers and thoughts, and for these we are grateful.

If you would like to join this network please contact me [rgstanbury@aol.com](mailto:rgstanbury@aol.com)

Thank you

Rosemary



#### Challenges ahead...

*Peter writes:*

As we approach the fifth anniversary of our wonderful Charity, I'm reflecting on our walking challenges. We kicked these off in 2018 with the Saints Way followed in 2019 by the Purbeck Round. After a fallow 2020 we bounced back with the Woolacombe Figure of Eight in 2021. These three walks involving well over 100 walkers (many have done all three) raised £50,900.

When I say that 2020 was a fallow year that's not entirely true, because we kicked off the Trustees Tackle challenge series with a walk of the river Thames from the source to the Thames Barrier. The 200-mile adventure took 12 days, 7 in soggy October 2020 and 5 in a much drier May 2021. All the Trustees took part and we raised £3,200.

## Social Media



Our newsletters give a snapshot of our activities over the last few months. We use social media to share pictures and stories as they occur.

Follow Future Pillars Zambia on Facebook and/or Instagram to see news as it happens - and many more photographs!

## Contact Us

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## Next mass sponsored walk: Bridport 2023

So what's next? Arranging the mass sponsored walks takes about a year so we've decided to try to hold these every two years. The next will be in **May or June 2023** based from **Bridport in West Dorset**. Here's a picture from a reeve walk in March looking towards the wonderful Golden Cap. Watch this space for further details!



## Trustees Tackle 2

Before that is Trustees Tackle 2. We have a date, **16 July 2022**, and a venue, **The Ridgeway** long distance path. The current plan is to walk (and possibly jog parts) from 6am to 6pm, a 12 hour challenge and see how far we can get. Blisters and all.

Don't let it be said that we don't put effort in as FPZ Trustees! If you would like to sponsor the trustees, we have a fundraising page here:

**Peter McAughey is fundraising for Future Pillars (Zambia) ([justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com))**

## Can you help?

We hope you have enjoyed news of the projects you have supported. Can you help us to keep up the good work?

- Could you **organise an event** to spread the word and raise more support?
- Could you make a **regular donation**?
- Could you **help us apply for grants**?
- Could your **company adopt us** as their charity of the year?

Speak to a trustee or contact us using the details provided if you would like to talk about these or any other ideas you may have.

**Thank you**