

# Newsletter



No. 3 October 2018

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### Welcome

Welcome to our third newsletter - and thank you!

Thanks to your generosity we have been able to continue to feed and educate over 1200 children and students. Around 800 come for a nutritious meal five days a week, while we have 1205 children in Family Futures Community School, 30 in Secondary schools, 70 at Future Pillars Vocational Training and Skills Centre and 5 in medical and teaching colleges.

We have experienced exciting times since our January newsletter. In February a second container, sponsored by Barry and Becky Gransden, left for Zambia, jam-packed with donated goods. In April we were pleased to welcome Barry as our 6<sup>th</sup> Trustee. Please do read about Barry – and the other Trustees – on our website <a href="https://www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk">www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk</a>. During May nine of us from UK, including three Trustees, visited Kabwe, in Central Province, 3 hours north of Lusaka; Meg and Ed as general helpers and Becky, Felicity, Bev and Lesley – all teachers – to carry out very successful professional development programmes. July saw the amazing First FPZ Walk, and many other events have also taken place.

I would like to record my thanks to everyone who has supported me since taking over as Chair. We are delighted to report that Margaret's treatment is making excellent progress. Thanks be to God.

If you would like an FPZ presentation for your group we would be pleased to help.

\*Rosemary Stanbury, Chair.\*

### News from Kabwe

## First impressions

Meg Perry visited Kabwe for the first time and shares her reflections:

My trip to Zambia with Future Pillars was one of the most incredible experiences of my life - but having been sick the week before, it didn't get off to the best of starts. Luckily, after a blurry couple of days I was able to pull myself together and make it to the hospital, and by the very next day the antibiotics I was prescribed had me feeling heaps better.





Keen to make up for lost time, I spent my days helping out at the school, carrying out office work and errands or simply hanging out with the children. Despite their disadvantages, they were some of the happiest, keenest children I have ever met, and I missed their infectious energy as soon as we left. The same is true of Zambians in general - everywhere you go you are greeted with friendly smiles and eager hospitality. It really brought home how important the work is that Future Pillars carries out; these children have so much potential left unlocked due to the circumstances that it was their luck to be born into. Birth is a lottery, and those of us more fortunate than others need to do whatever we can to support these children into achieving their dreams. Education is the only true route out of poverty, and so education is what we will promote and provide.

# On line Donations

Did you know that you can now donate on line to Future Pillars?

- Log on to mydonate.bt.com
- Search for Future Pillars

Or

 Use this link to go straight to our page mydonate.bt.com

#### Learner focused education

Barry and Becky tell us about their visit:







Improving the quality of what goes on in the FFCS classrooms is the top priority for Rev. Moses Kopa, who has been head teacher for one year now. Against the backcloth of 5 years of annual visits to Zambia providing CPD for teachers and head teachers, we were keen to assist Moses. Over a 2 week period in June, we took a team of 5 teachers, all now retired, to Kabwe in order to facilitate a number of professional development programmes for the staff at the school and the surrounding district.

Typically, if you were to visit a Zambian classroom, you would experience teacher-focused, didactic lessons, little if any stimulating wall displays and, as a result, poor standards of achievement. With Moses anxious to turn this situation round at FFCS, the team ensured that journey started in May. Beverly and Leslie concentrated on phonics to aid reading and writing with primary teachers, Becky and Felicity focused on Social Studies and Barry on Mathematics. All our work covered generic, professional activity promoting the child at the centre of the lesson. The two of us also did some work with the leadership team and this continues!

All this work will need to be built upon next year as we join Moses and his school team in raising the bar on 'what is good enough'. A programme for next year and who might be involved is yet to be finalised, but we are committed to improving the whole experience of the vulnerable child.



Left to right: Beverly Simpson, Rev Moses Kopa (Head teacher), Barry Gransden, Becky Gransden, Felicity Gunn, Patrick Sichilima (School Administrator), Lesley Majekodunmi, and Mable Hagonka (Deputy Head teacher)

## **Sports Day**

Peter reports :

On a baking hot and windy June day at the local sports pitch, we held the inaugural Future Pillars Sports' event. The event was opened by Rev Moses Kopa, Head of School, and Rosemary Stanbury, FPZ Chair. Peter McAughey, Trustee, was the main organizer, ably supported by Rosemary, Meg Perry and Ed Israel from the UK and many teachers from Family Futures School in Kabwe. Peter and the other Trustees were delighted to have received support from the UK prior to the event which enabled him to bring out to Zambia several trophies and medals for prizes.



The day began with a netball tournament for the girls in grades 6-9. There were group matches, semi finals and a final, all played at great speed on a dusty court. Some children wore shoes but many don't have that luxury. There were netball stands but no nets but that didn't seem to bother anyone, never having played with a net before. Trophies were awarded and the green and red Zambian ribbon colours of the medals went down very well!



In the afternoon the football tournament was underway, ably refereed and fiercely contested by boys in grades 6 to 9. Compared to our lovely pitches in the UK this was an interesting test! Very bumpy ground, dusty, some grass, no nets but there were proper goalposts and we produced a new football for the occasion. Usually the boys play with a ball made from tightly packed plastic bags. Whilst the football continued its group phases, Peter got on with the two

running races for girls, once around the perimeter of the football pitch. After a solo race there was a relay and it was hugely competitive, the winning times being around one minute for almost 300 meters- that's speedy! After a short interlude for a penalty shootout competition involving Peter and two referees (he thinks they let him win...), it was on to a closer contested final. A tight win for one of the grade 9 teams.



Then the final photos, ceremony and closing remarks. Drinks and snacks were gratefully received.

All in all quite an occasion and there is a clamour to repeat this in future years. It is so important for the children to learn about team work and also practise their own skills. There are many life lessons that can be learned in sport and we think they took this onboard really well. You can learn through failure. You can also learn that if you don't compete then you cannot win. So we had over 200 winners that day.

#### Contain Your Enthusiasm!

Barry and Becky report the safe arrival of their container in Kabwe:



In the 3rd week of June, our 40ft container arrived at the school, absolutely jampacked with classroom furniture and a host of resources. We have received a video of the opening and unpacking in Kabwe, and the sheer delight on so many faces is wonderful to see. All items were freely donated and in very good condition – an estimate of replacing the whole inventory with new is in excess of £200,000.



So many people donated items – from North Dorset District Council to Jonathan, an 7 year old boy who decided he had outgrown his desk and 2 chairs - and well over 100 people in between. Our words of gratitude are echoed loudly from the FFCS teachers and children in Kabwe. What is so pleasing is the enthusiasm that has been dedicated to placing the contents of the container – best story so far......there were 22 desktop computers donated and by the middle of August a classroom had been wired and refurbished, creating a computer laboratory, which is now in full working use. Well done everyone – home and away!



Social Media

Did you know that we are now on Facebook? Follow **Future Pillars Zambia** on Facebook to see news of events... and many more photographs!



### Free Skills Training resumes

In September we were delighted to resume free skills training and to welcome a new intake of 70 students at Family Pillar Vocational Skills Centre, Kabwe. We will provide free training for 10 students on each of the 7 programmes ( Carpentry, Electrics, Metal Fabrication, Plumbing, Bricklaying / Plastering, Computing, Tailoring, ) which we hope will act as a launchpad to future success for all of these vulnerable young people, who could not afford to pay fees themselves. The students are pictured here with some of their tutors and the Leadership team. They know they have an incredible opportunity to learn a skill which will enable them to provide for themselves and their family. We wish them well.



### News from UK

# Raising funds by eating at Colehill Methodist Church, Dorset.

On the second Saturday of the month Sue and Cliff provide food for between 30 and 40 people consisting of homemade soup, a ploughman's and a selection of homemade puddings. There is no set charge and people are very generous in their donations meaning that £2,000 has been raised this year to feed and educate children in Zambia. Keep up the good work, Sue and Cliff. And a huge thank you.







#### **GDPR**

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) provides the legal framework that determines how personal information (data) can be used. FPZ is a charity that wants to ensure that data we hold about our supporters complies with GDPR regulations. There are 6 main headings in the GDPR

legislation that are our guide. You, our supporters, need to be confident that information we hold is:

- 1. Lawful (there are 6 legal bases), fair and transparent
- 2. Limited to your support of FPZ
- 3. No more than is absolutely necessary
- 4. Accurate
- 5. Stored only for as long as necessary
- 6. Confidential

We are working on producing a privacy policy and a data protection policy that will explain these things to you in more detail and in language that is easy to understand. So, watch this space.



### Future Pillars Walk raises £22,000!

Kathryn and Rod were amongst those who accepted Peter's challenge



In January we announced that we would be holding the first Future Pillars Walk on 7 July 2018. Our treasurer Peter had already checked out the route, but could not have foreseen quite how much he had taken on, or what the event would achieve.

79 walkers, aged 5 – 74 walked all or part of the 30 mile Saints' Way, from Padstow to Fowey in Cornwall. We gathered at 7am in Padstow, where FPZ Chair Rosemary thanked us all for coming, spoke a little about FPZ, and handed out messages and photos from the children in Kabwe.



The first leg of the walk was uphill out of Padstow. By the time we reached the windfarm above Padstow it was turning out to be a very hot day, and so still that the turbines weren't turning. "Turn on the fans" someone shouted! We were glad of the first of our water stops – a team of helpers moved ahead of us throughout the day, setting up a table of water cups and offering to refill our bottles. With them were 4 St Johns ambulance volunteers, who luckily had little more than a few blisters to deal with.



Our lunch stop was after 15 miles, at Lanivet. We waited for everyone to arrive and have their lunch before saying goodbye to those who were stopping, welcoming a new group for the afternoon and setting off together for a stretch of road walking. We could smell the tarmac melting in the heat!

Afternoon tea was at Luxulyan, where we were glad of the cool of the parish church to sit and rest – and the cakes baked by some of the walkers. Once again we waited for all to arrive and rest before setting off again. The last few miles really put the grim into determination; we became so focused on keeping going that we had little energy for conversation.



Having reached the end of the Saints' Way in Fowey, we continued to the Parish Church, where Rosemary was waiting to photograph us against a Zambian flag. It was 8.55pm. "Where is everyone?" we said....and "what about the pasty?" "Everyone" must have arrived considerably ahead of us as they could be seen standing outside the pub with long cold drinks in hand. As for the pasties...they were "just up there" in the village hall – and very fine homemade pasties they were too. Thank you Fiona McAughey!



Peter calculates that between them the group walked 4,200,000 steps. More importantly we raised just over £22,000! Some of this has already been put to good use paying for the completion of a new two classroom block .What a fantastic achievement! Thank you to all who took part, all who helped organize and cater, and to all who sponsored us.

### Our Website

Visit our website for more information on Zambia, Kabwe and our programmes www.futurepillarszambia. org.uk



# **Looking Ahead**

#### **Christmas Cards**





Would you like to support us - and spread the news about Future Pillars Zambia - by sending FPZ Christmas cards to friends and family this year?

During the trustees' visit to Kabwe the children were invited to design a Christmas card for us to sell in the UK to raise money for their school. Few of them have had much experience of Christmas cards, but many of them had a go, and a pile of designs was brought back by Rosemary.

Two designs have been selected and printed for us. The inside of the card carries the name of the artist and the greeting "Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year". The FPZ logo and charity details appear on the rear of the card.

The cards have been packed in 5s, and are selling for £2.50 per pack. Please speak to a trustee or contact us if you would like some.

### **Christmas Shopping**



Will you be shopping on line this Christmas? Would you like to support us as you shop?

Instead of going straight to your store's website, go to easyfundrasing and search for the store there. If you subsequently make a purchase the retailer pays a commission to easy fundraising – who pass on a donation to us.

- Log on to easyfundraising.org.uk
- Search for Future Pillars and click to join us
- Then start shopping

Or

- Click the link to go straight to our page and join us https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/futurepillarszambia
- Then start shopping

#### **Another Container**



Another 40ft container is in the process of being filled here in Dorset and will be bound for FFCS early in the new year. Through our many contacts and 'word of mouth', the donations, large and small, are gradually coming in - it is a massive team effort. To date, we have packed around 50% of the container. Please contact us directly if you have or you think you might be able to access items of classroom/office furniture, classroom resources – particularly computers.

Barry & Becky Gransden Tel: 07398264762 email: b.gransden@virgin.net

### Can you help?

We hope you have enjoyed news of the projects you have supported. We are going to need to raise £80,000 a year to keep these projects running – and we will need your help to do so:

- Could you organize an event to spread the word and raise more support?
- Could you make a regular donation?
- Would you like to join us on a trip to Kabwe and help out on the ground? Speak to a trustee or contact us using the details provided if you would like to talk about these or any other ideas! Thank you

#### **Contact Us**

Future Pillars (Zambia) Reg Charity no 1173534 25 Vicarage Road Verwood BH31 6DR UK

www.futurepillarszambia. org.uk

trustees@futurepillarsza mbia.org.uk



# Future Pillars (Zambia) UK Registered Charity number 1173534

25 Vicarage Road Verwood, Dorset BH31 6DR trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk 01202 824339

**Empowering vulnerable children in Zambia** 

### **DONATION FORM**

To make a one-off or monthly donation please provide the following information. The easiest way is to set up using online banking but you can also complete and detach section 4 and take this to your bank manager to set up the standing order arrangement.

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| E mail  |   |  |   |   |                                |
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| Please pay the above sum comm-<br>Lloyds Bank PLC, Sort code 30-84<br>writing.  | -   |  |   |   | M                              |

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT