

LR250 / Exilda's Angels ; Chita Primary School official Opening Ceremony – 13th June 2014, and school visit 16 June 2014

Who would have dreamed WE would open a Primary School together – God's purpose and the reality is true strength when we all pull together and achieve so much is testimony, privilege to be part. Now then how do you condense a rollercoaster week into a few pages – well here goes. Attendees :

LOG OF VISIT : Travel out 9 JUNE, 32 hours door to door.

10 JUNE, arrived Lusaka airport and personally met by Patrick and Mr Christopher Sinkamba DEBS and Cynthia, travelled to Mpika with Musanje by bus, finally arriving at ICL 2.30am by taxi on 11 June

11 JUNE, met DESO to discuss ceremony schedule guests speeches and protocols, discussed drgs for secondary school - plus 1st visit to school, such a welcoming ceremony the children were singing and clapping Exilda and myself 'we welcome you to chita school' and was invited to stand in the middle by Winston head teacher, went round the perimeter high fiving all the kids - their welcoming committee formed a circle around the flag. Met headmaster and his teaching staff, shown the classrooms and work done, met Exilda's mum and invited for wonderful prepared evening supper, driven back to ICL. Mr Winston Kaponda kindly lent us use of his car.

12 JUNE, desired that ceremony was something the children and staff and all present remembered – rang HSBC to access Zanaco bank atm, withdrew monies 4,200 kwacha £420 for abundance/feast of food, drink, treats etc, went shopping in Mpika, prepared speech, rewrote speech, dinner at ICL then retired for what would be a most amazing day.

13 JUNE, CEREMONY, breakfast at ICL then walked to school in morning sunshine, scene was like a concert you see of a speeded up video with people facilities equipment, props, catering, pa system, MC, video recordist, things arriving continuously, arena prepared , Official opening programme, ribbon cutting, foundation digging, celebratory meal, Opening remarks Mr Winston Kaponda, speeches, children's poems, Vote of thanks , DVD of ceremony being edited and Photos to follow- after ceremony convened meeting of EC leaders, PTA, headmaster, Alex Chanda (introduced as voluntary project manager), builder etc and introduced everyone – re-inforced objectives and encouraged/established everyone;s unlimited voluntary contribution for their Project/ children's future.

14 JUNE, morning - bought 2 footballs £40,400 kwacha, later we met with Thomas (dvd video recordist) ZANIS and paid 500 kwacha £50 unchecked, spare dvd copy included. Afternoon- inspection tour of school with EC rep, PTA rep, Exilda and myself. I expressed sadness at the deterioration of our brand new building with numerous missing and broken windows and damaged window frames, incompleteness etc. when asked why they had not done so themselves they stated this was new education and asked our forgiveness, of course always was my response.- instigated a repair/maintenance programme and invited annual budget to be prepared. Reminded them that our children must always have 'New', a drop in school facility environment would mean a drop in learning standards and was not acceptable. I also reminded them that many had given and gone without so they

might have. This approach was welcomed and gratefully accepted and the EC would prepare minutes and table at their next monthly meeting for action. The school building looked tired, asked for an external paint system product/costs and internal surfaces too.

15 JUNE, walked to Chita, Chibansa church morning service, met village heads, photos with Nancy from weighbridge to gain perspective and show extensive lands part of our Project of Hope. Retired to ICL and made copious notes.

16 JUNE, we interrupted DEBS 10.00am meeting , introduced Exilda to Mr Christopker Sinkamba (who imagined Exilda would be lady huge in stature !) and his dozen or so senior teachers - discussed ceremony and rules community school registration and lack of materials, and informed we are in breach of rules, again requested drawings for secondary school to be collected by Mr Winston at same time as copy of relative rules. Meeting with teaching staff about 11.00am - left maintenance monies for the window repairs xxxx kwacha £xxx, plus withdrew additional sum 1,720 kwacha £170 much needed monies for books school materials. Left with Father Paul to hundreds of children following the car and waving us goodbye joyfully of how we made change to their lives and everyone associated with them.

17 JUNE,18 JUNE, lift to Lusaka with father Paul on 16 June, finally arrived LHR 07.10hrs / home – travel 32 hrs and to arrive home having achieved so much – made me sleep with a huge smile on my face for many nights.

SUMMARY ACTIONS (no particular order)

Tour of building, with EC and PTA

Meeting after ceremony, points raised

Visit to DEBS on day of departure, school registration, no materials! – contradiction tbc

Meeting on day of departure 16 June

School materials – LR Foundation

Boundary Wall

Teachers Houses

Nursery / pre-school

Maintenance budgets / teaching materials

Teachers recommend/request ; electricity,classroom materials, 100 laptops, toys, footballs, playground equipment, swings, painting kits, water supply, more classrooms 1x2 block

Met respective school headmasters from Mpika and Kabale schools.

PHOTOS 13th June Ceremony; snapshots of visit



1



1A



2



3



4



5



6



6A



7



8



9





11



12





14



15



16

PHOTOS 16th June school visit; snapshots of visit



17



18



19



20



21



22

23



24



End.