

Exildas Angels visit to Chita Village

Representatives from London based LR250 team Exilda's Angels recently visited Chita's village, Zambia, where they are building a primary school as part of the LR250 campaign.

The team arrived to receive the warmest welcome and spent a week working with the villagers and local project manager, making preparations for the construction of the school.

The week also saw the arrival to the village of our Southern Africa Country Manager Brian Merryweather and colleagues who had travelled the 3500 Km over 10 days on BMW motorbikes as part of a 7000Km unsupported circular tour and fundraising challenge.



A ceremonial day was held the next day with a gathering of the villagers together with representatives from the Ministry of education, the local Parliament and media. Speeches were made by the Director of Education, the local MP and LR representatives Alan Shand and Brian Merryweather. The MP praised Exilda for her commitment to the development of her home village and acknowledged the benefits the school would bring to the community, whilst the Director of the Ministry of Education confirmed their commitment to providing education resources and salaried teachers to the school.



This was followed by a foundation digging ceremony followed by dancing, drumming and singing from the villagers and children.



During the week the team held further meetings with the Minister of Education to determine applicable standards and utility requirements, and visited other local schools (including the school Exilda attended) and villagers to assess the different standards.

Following the ceremonies, the team set to work in assisting the villagers digging the foundations. Hand tools only and 1m deep round a 33 x 10m perimeter. Building work is now underway and on schedule for completion by the end of the year.



On visiting the village we realised that we were not just there to lay the foundations of the school building, but something much bigger was also taking place. Foundations were being laid for the development of a whole community. The enthusiasm, energy and willingness of the community to contribute to the work was astonishing and outstanding. A project manager has been employed who is responsible for the sourcing, ordering and delivery of materials, construction progress and scheduling, and management of the labour force and building team. Many of these will be volunteers from the local villagers, although some paid bricklayers, carpenters and roofers are being employed in order to ensure quality of the building work.

Chita Village has also set up a committee made up of headmen and representatives from local villagers, who will work with the project manager and ministry of education to discuss progress, scheduling, building standards, material sourcing and community involvement.

The local community through their involvement in the building, are gaining the leadership, project management and communication and team working skills necessary to become self sufficient, educated and leaders of their own destiny.

In the long term the school will provide education, employment and development for generations to come which will go along way to saving lives and relieving poverty for a small but significant percentage of the human race.

Exilda's Angels currently have an application under review for registration as an official UK Charity with these aims at the forefront.

To view more photos of the village and hear more about project developments and progress visit the Exilda's Angels project page at www.lr250.org. or come to their presentation to be announced in due course.

