

Dear Friends,

Over the past year we have had both challenges and encouragements. Praise the Lord for the developments seen on site and with the children 'old and new'.

We trust this newsletter will update you for your interest and prayers.

'Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.' Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

NEW CHILDREN WELCOMED

In July, after a lot of prayers and research, we received six more children into Ipusukilo. This signalled the opening of Hostel 2 with Marjorie as the house mother. The four boys and two girls have been settling in well together and getting used to their new home. The three older boys are enjoying going to school. In



early February two more children, a brother and sister came too and were welcomed by their excited room-mates. They are gradually adapting to their new life, it is great to see how quickly they have all become friends. We continue to follow up visiting

communities with a view to bringing more children into Hostel 2. This is a vital part of the selection process which also has to be approved by the Social Welfare Department.

STAFF NEEDS

We are very thankful for the three hostel staff we have presently, but very much need further committed Christians with a desire to work with children. In order for us to be able to continue to bring in more children we must have dedicated house parents and assistants to adequately care for their individual needs.

BORE HOLE

In June we had a new bore hole drilled by a company from Lusaka. The rig was on the back of a truck and they progressively drilled adding extension rods to a depth of 50 metres.



They passed through two water tables after the surface one, so we should get a good supply of water.

The man hole chamber has been constructed and the pipe and cable put in the ground. We are ready to move the pump from the shallow bore hole and clean the well out before connecting to the water tower.

CHILDREN IN HOSTEL 1

This school year is a big one for four of the children in Hostel 1; three boys will be taking their Grade 7 exams and one girl doing the Grade 9 level exams in term 3. During the past year we have seen a big change in the children; they all seemed to be growing out of their clothes and shoes having shot up! It is a joy to be able to report a number of the children having told us that they have put their faith in Christ as their personal Saviour. There have been many discussions about making their own decision as some were thinking 'now I am at Ipusukilo, I am a Christian' There have been some steep learning curves as the children are challenged to become more responsible and the impact of their decisions realised. Looking after the chickens, doing jobs to earn pocket money, daily chores, schoolwork and looking after their home makes family life interesting! They are all looking forward to playing a football match at the weekend with Amano Christian School.



MEETING CHOTA

Last April, we collected over 100 treated eucalyptus poles from Copperbelt Forestry Co. to construct a 20m x 8m meeting chota. This is a grass roof shelter which will enable children from all the hostels to gather for communal activities such as school work, Sunday school, worship meetings, games etc

First, holes were dug and the upright poles set in concrete, the ridge poles were winched up then connected to the lintels with the roof poles. Purlins were nailed on to support the grass roof. We constructed the frame and hired a thatcher to do the roof. Concrete was poured to make the floor and a low wall will be built around the perimeter.



Earlier this month we held our first Sunday night singing fellowship meeting under the thatch during a thunder storm. (See Blog).

HOSTEL 3

Construction continued with the external rendering and the ceilings followed by painting inside and out. We received floor and wall tiles from South Africa at the end of May with tiling starting in November using one of our own workers for the job. He hadn't done tiling before but with some training, guidance and setting out he was able to go ahead and do the job alone.

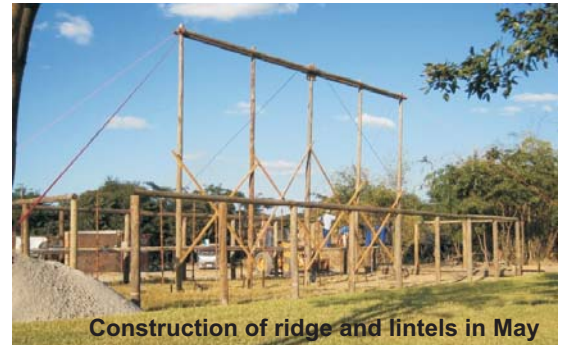


Doors have been fitted and a concrete work top in the kitchen.

With the electrical wiring complete and plumbing nearly done, electrical fittings and sanitary-ware to install together with other fixtures and fittings, we hope to have Hostel 3 building finished by the end of March.



Chota setting out and holes dug in April



Construction of ridge and lintels in May



Roof poles follow on



Thatching started in September



Main construction complete December



First meeting held early February

WEBSITE AND IPUSUKILO BLOG

Our website which can be found at www.ipusukilo.org has been up and running for some time and has just been updated. It now has information on what our current needs are as well as our blog which is updated regularly to give up-to-date news from the activities of Ipusukilo - just click the Blog link. If you receive this Newsletter by post and are able to receive it by e-mail, please contact us on the address below.



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Once the work on hostel 3 is complete, we will finish off some of the other jobs such as the second guest house and build a low wall on the perimeter of the chota. Landscaping will also be needed here too. The main project this year will be to develop a vocational training centre to provide a facility for skills and activities for the children during their free and activity time such as carpentry, computers, sewing etc This will mean moving the site containers which will also free up space for the games pitch.

We still plan to put up a small building to accommodate the site workers with recreation/dining area and toilets. This can be used in the future to facilitate visitors to various organised events.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Give thanks for the children who have trusted Christ.
- Give thanks for good relationships developed with head teachers at school.
- Pray for further staff and young people to come and assist.
- Pray for Annette, Marjorie and Beauty as they work in the hostels.
- Pray that God will guide us in the selection of further children.
- Give thanks Hostel 3 is nearly complete.
- Pray for wisdom in dealing with the daily challenges!
- Pray the new meeting chota will be a blessing to the children and those invited to Ipusukilo.

With Christian Greetings,

Philip and Deborah Cole & Kelvin and Joyce Samwata

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