

Dear Friends,

We are very pleased to report on the amazing progress on site since our last *Newsletter*. The whole place has been transformed and has produced a new landmark in the area. Every time we meet with the Street Children our desire to impact these young lives is reinforced and the real need for the hostels highlighted.

### CONSTRUCTION STARTS

At the beginning of July, Jim returned for 3 months, the concrete floor slab for Hostel 1 had been completed ready to start constructing the walls.



### SEWER LINES

At the end of July the sewer pipes and fittings arrived from the UK. We employed a team of men to dig 120 metres of trenches from hostel 1, passing all the other hostels continuing to the septic tank located at the bottom of the site. The installation of the pipes, man-holes and rodding points was overseen by Paul, one of the group of Brass Tacks volunteers out to help us in August.



### SEPTIC TANK

Once the sewer trenches were dug, the men finished off digging the septic tank. Some 48m<sup>2</sup> of earth was removed before the base slab was poured. While Jim was pouring the slab for the septic tank the workers were frantically digging out the last of the earth at the other end! The tank will be about 2.5m deep and constructed with around 700 x 8" blocks. It will serve the whole site.



### CONCRETE SLAB HOSTEL 2

Meanwhile, work progressed on hostel 2. The compacting of the laterite was finished off and the concrete slab was being layed under the supervision of Colin Breeze (Brass Tacks). Here he employed a different method of floor finish. After the concrete section was poured, Colin and a couple of the workers would get to site at about 6 am the next morning (notice the shadows in the picture) to use the power float in order to obtain a better, smoother surface for the floor.



### RING BEAM

Once the walls were up to the right level a huge job in pouring the ring beam right around the outer walls was to be done. We were very thankful for the Brass Tacks scaffolding in order to undertake this task. The ring beam ties the walls together around and across the building and spreads the load of the roof along the walls. Shuttering was assembled in order to pour the concrete in sections and this was



removed once the concrete had hardened. Alan and Brian who were with us for a month worked alongside the local workers on this job.

### MATERIALS

We have enjoyed a reasonable supply of materials to site recently. Now and again the availability of 6" blocks for hostel construction was a problem so Jim has had to work elsewhere. Timber is sourced locally and readily available however the planks are often not too square!! We are grateful to Steve Studd for his help in transporting these materials. Building sand was brought in from a pit licensed to the mission. We will need to replenish our stock soon, before the rains start.

## ROOF TRUSSES

In the middle of August we welcomed Bernard Delves to site, his challenge was to make roof trusses for the two hostels. The first truss he made was used as a template for all the others, so it was important to get that one right. Two of our workers Moses and Nelson helped on this job. All the timbers had to be treated with creosote to protect the wood from termite attack before being used. Once the concrete ring beam was cast along the top of the outer walls, the wall plate was fixed in place and the trusses started to go up.



## RENDERING

In August we employed David, a local worker to render the walls of hostel 1. He made a start inside and then Jim moved him to render outside so that he could have the scaffolding for hostel 2. This is now completed, so he is back making progress inside. His workmanship is of a good standard which we hope he will maintain throughout the building.



## PROJECT VEHICLE

We have purchased a pre-owned (ex-Japanese) vehicle for the project. It's a Mitsubishi Canter which we will use to carry our smaller loads up to 1.5 tons. The Brass Tacks team have been using it to travel to site. Here it can be seen loaded with one of the new Brass Tacks cement mixers to take to site.



## POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Thanks for excellent progress on the project.
- Good safety record for all workers.
- Eagerness and interest of workers.
- Commitment of Colin, Jim and all Brass Tacks volunteers to project.
- Improved delivery of supplies.
  
- Safety on site during the day, for protection of the site at night.
- Morning devotions and outreach to workers.
- Completion of the Deeds application to Ministry of Lands.
- Preparations for next major phase of project from January (DV).
- Future dealings with Social Welfare Department.
- Suitable people to be raised up to be committed house parents.



With Christian Greetings,

*Kelvin & Joyce Samwata and Philip & Deborah Cole*

