

Dear Friends,

Since our last letter, much has happened on and off site. When Brass Tacks finished at the end of September the roof was complete on Hostel 1. Work continued on site on a smaller scale and we were able to make progress on various jobs. We are in the height of the rainy season just now and this reaffirms the need for this accommodation for the street children we work with. It is our desire to have the first two hostels operational by the end of this year.

HOSTEL 1 ROOF

Once the trusses were up, the galvanised iron roofing sheets that had arrived just in time from the UK through MMN, were fixed in place on the purlins. The roof sheets went up very quickly apart from where cutting was required at the front porch section. Once this was all complete, Jim and Bernard held a 'topping out' celebration on the roof with a Coke for all the workers!



BRANDERING

After Brass Tacks had left we continued with some jobs with a reduced work force. Nelson and Felix made a start on fixing the brandering, the timbers that support the ceiling board, to the roof trusses. This was helped along during the visit of Peter Howe from Northern Ireland in November.



ANT HILL DEMOLITION

The ant hill at the end of hostel 2, which has been worked around so far, was demolished to create more space there. This was a huge task and took 6 men the best part of a month to clear using pick axes, shovels, hoes and wheelbarrows.



CEILINGS

With the brandering complete, the ceiling boards were then started to be installed by Nelson, Felix and Sunday. These are made from 6mm chipboard and were primed with paint before fixing in place.



MATERIALS UPDATE

With the global slowdown and recession, there has been a reduction in demand for copper. This has meant that one of the new mines across the border in DR Congo has ceased construction. The good news for us is that cement is now readily available at the moment and we were able to pay and collect within a few days instead of weeks. We were able to get 100 tons of building sand from our local pit before the rains started but then ran into transportation problems. We have contracted local business people to bring us enough sand from other sources to keep us going with the current commitments.



SEPTIC TANK

The septic tank was completed during the Brass Tacks time and rendered inside by Sunday under the supervision of Peter.



Peter and the workers who played football with the Kasombe community.

BRASS TACKS SUPPORT

We have been promised by Brass Tacks that this year they will support the project with the primary aim of getting the first two hostels to completion. Other priorities include the construction of the front wall.

Jim Smith returned at the end of January to carry on the task he started last year. Mel and Lil Robson have come with Jim on an independent basis to help out on the project.

Last week we welcomed back Bernard Delves who will be overseeing the roof construction on hostel 2. We are hoping that the roof will be finished on this building before they all leave at the beginning of April.



TYROLEAN ROUGHCAST

The lower level finish to the outside of the buildings is to be roughcast which is produced by flicking wet cement mortar at the wall from a flicking machine. This will remain unfinished to reduce maintenance on the building as the bottoms of the walls get splashed with mud during the heavy rains. The smooth rendered section above will be painted up to the eaves. Mel worked with Sunday to perfect the technique of getting an even coverage on the wall.

FRONT BOUNDARY WALL

As mentioned earlier, the front wall is one of the priorities this year. We already have the chain-link fence around three sides of the site, so the wall will give us added security. At the beginning of February, the foundations were being dug and the concrete poured to form the foundations. The finished wall will be around 2 metres high and use some 5,200 concrete 150mm blocks.

There will be a 6m gate forming the main entrance adjacent to Mission Support Zambia's adjoining property.



IPUSUKILO CHILDREN'S TRUST DEEDS

In November, after a 21 month process, Ipusukilo was registered with the Ministry of Lands as a charity and a Certificate of Incorporation is now in our possession.

We are still pursuing the Ministry of Lands for our Title Deeds.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Thanks for continuing progress on the project.
- Good safety record for all workers.
- Eagerness and interest of workers.
- Registration of ICT with the government Ministry of Lands.
- Support from overseas and locally that makes this project possible.

- Safety on site during the day, for protection of the site at night.
- Morning devotions and outreach to workers and local community.
- Willies Mukulumoya, the night watchman who is still missing.
- Meetings with Social Welfare Department planned for March.
- Suitable people to be raised up to be committed house parents.

With Christian Greetings,

Kelvin & Joyce Samwata and Philip & Deborah Cole



Mid September 2008



Topping out, end of September 2008



October 2008



20th February 2009



Main Entrance 18th February 2009



Street Children with their memory verse