

Dear Friends,

After much prayer, searching and work we are delighted to announce the opening of our first hostel. We praise God for His wonderful provision in so many ways that has enabled us to get to this momentous stage. Thank you all for your prayerful support. Please continue to pray for these young lives that they will come to know the Lord as their Saviour.

... to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgiving and with singing... Neh 12:27 ESV

DEDICATION SERVICE

On Wednesday 17th March we held a dedication service in the main room of hostel 1 to praise God for his provision for the work so far and to dedicate the building to his care for the future. Gershom Chioni from Kitwe Chapel was invited to give the main devotion. He read from Nehemiah 12:27-30 and encouraged us to 'keep the original intent' of the



project and not to waiver from it. Philip Grove gave a Vote of Thanks on behalf of the trustees. Philip Cole spoke about the challenges of the past years and getting the hostel ready for occupation. Kelvin Samwata gave the closing remarks which was followed by dedication prayers. During the service, some of the workers sang a hymn in ciBemba.

INTRODUCING THE CHILDREN

Children will be introduced to the hostel room at a time a couple of weeks apart to allow time for them to adjust to the new style of living. Coming from the streets or very poor compounds, they will have not experienced their own bed, flushing toilets, showers, running water, sitting at a table to eat or the love of a family unit. As we start to place children in the hostel, we felt that introducing a small number over a period of time will be the best way for them to adjust and for us to learn how they react to the new surroundings and life at Ipusukilo.



Running water!



New clothes

WELCOME IN THE CHILDREN

The following day, was the long-awaited day! We collected four excited children and their guardians and brought them to Ipusukilo. Their joy and delight showed on their faces as they arrived and walked from the car to the entrance of the hostel - their new home!

The excitement and laughter unfolded as we showed them around the building room by room. Sitting on a sofa. Seeing their own new beds. Running water from taps. Flushing toilets. And the best thing - hot showers



Four new arrivals



Exploring his new bed



A Bath!

ELECTRICITY

At the end of December, ZESCO sent some men to start digging holes for the poles which would carry the overhead powerlines to bring in our electrical supply. There were many visits and phone calls to them to come back and carry on with the work. Over the next weeks, they completed the digging, erected the poles, strung the power lines, put up the transformer, lightning protection, fuses and made the all the connections so that at the beginning of March we were able to have electricity for the first time at Ipusukilo.



Loading the water tower

WATER TOWER

In January, work started on the construction of our water tower at a yard in town. First they made the platform for the top as it had to accommodate two (5000 litre) water tanks, together with the handrails. They then made up six legs and welded them all together with angle iron to make the tower itself. Finally they made the access ladder. The tower then had to be moved to Ipusukilo and erected on the base we had previously made. We hired a crane to lift the tower and Steve came with his truck from Mission Support to transport it. The tower is 4 metres wide lying down on the truck so we had to escort it through town. Once on site, the crane came and lifted the tower into position and hoisted the platform and one of the tanks up.



We enjoyed our first HOT shower!



Washing up

HOUSE MOTHER

We mentioned in our last news that we had interviewed a potential house mother, so now we have pleasure in introducing Annette as our very first house mother, to Ipusukilo. Please pray especially for her as she has the main responsibility of settling in the children and caring for them day by day.



POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Give thanks to God that Ipusukilo has welcomed its first children.
- Give thanks that the electricity and water was completed.
- Give thanks for God's provision of Annette as house mother.
- Interest and witness within the local community.
- Day to day running of home and wisdom and energy for Annette.
- Prayer for provision of more assistants and volunteers for hostel.
- Completion and possession of title deeds.
- Commitment of the workers as they receive formal contracts soon.
- Prayer for trustees as they make decisions and select more children.
- Thanks for approval of Ipusukilo by Social Welfare department.
- Thanks for local and overseas support for this project.

With Christian Greetings,

Philip and Deborah Cole & Kelvin and Joyce Samwata



Off to bed



Good night!