

Project Update: Mpunde Mission Centre

Last year the Zambia Society Trust awarded the Mpunde Mission Orphan Project in Central Province a grant of £3000. Fr. Adam Pergót who runs the Project wrote to ZST trustee Mathias Mbewe to report on how the money was spent:

A Zambian proverb in our Chi Bemba language says: “Umwana wa mupe, tafwa ku nsala” which means, “the child of a generous person does not die of hunger”. You have been helping our vulnerable children for many years; your financial assistance is the result of the care and affection you have for our country and its people. Our youngsters in the Mpunde area are your adopted children. You are an important part of their lives, and thanks to your help and support they have chance for a better and more joyful life.



Please allow me to thank you on behalf of everyone who has benefited from your financial donation, both children and their parents. The whole contribution (Kwacha 47,252.55) was distributed to help with children’s education and improving their living conditions.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to purchase school uniforms for 42 children living in a very remote area located on the Lukanga Swamp. During the rainy season this region (Chirwa Island) is cut off by floods from the rest of our area. 10 students of Chipepo High School were helped in paying for their school fees and received school bags, scientific calculators and hard cover books.

Your funding also helped 14 school children in paying for their school fees, who would not have been able to continue their school education without your support. 45 children were given beautiful blankets and 50 children received soft



pillows. I presume that for you having a blanket and pillow may seem obvious, but for our children it is a dream. Many of them sleep on bamboo mats covered with a simple piece of cheap material. In total 161 of teenagers benefited from your donation.

My dear friends and benefactors, thanks to your financial and spiritual support you are significantly improving the living conditions in our area and the lives of our young Zambians. We are beyond thankful for your help and assure you of our gratefulness and prayers. I humbly implore you to continue helping our youth next year. Do not leave your adopted children without aid.



Thank you very much from the bottom of all of our hearts. We hope that you will see our gratitude in the enclosed pictures of the smiling faces of our children. May God bless you and your families!

Fr. Adam Pergót

AGM: Saturday 16 November 2019

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday 16 November at the Zambia High Commission in London, by kind permission of His Excellency Mr Muyebe Chikonde, The High Commissioner of The Republic of Zambia. It was attended by 55 members. In his report, the Chairman John Barnard recorded thanks to the current High Commissioner for all his support, and noted that a new High Commissioner will be arriving shortly. Thanks were also recorded to his Deputy, Mrs Patricia Sikaala Chanda for her help and support and to our President, James Cairns, and the Committee for their work, and to everyone who has supported us over the past year. John gave an overview of our activities during the year, noting that though we have been able to maintain the level of funding for the projects, fundraising is becoming more challenging. The full report can be downloaded from our website:

<https://www.zambiasocietytrust.org.uk/annual-reports>.



The afternoon session was opened by Mrs Irene Chengo, First Secretary for Trade at the High Commission, who gave a speech thanking the Trust for the work done for Zambia, and giving news of the new High Commissioner, due to arrive in the UK on 24th November.

John introduced Dr Karen Treasure from the University of Plymouth who spoke on her work with Solar Power Zambia. Zambia is experiencing severe drought conditions, partly due to deforestation problems. In an attempt to reduce reliance on firewood and charcoal for domestic use, Dr



Treasure initiated an experiment in 2015 in using Parabolic Solar Cookers for cooking food and heating water for laundry. Crowdfunding was secured to produce 200 cookers. The cookers are completely powered by the sun and no maintenance is required. Research into the project is ongoing and Dr Treasure will return to Zambia in 2021 to review the

results. The cookers are unlikely to replace charcoal and firewood entirely, but have the potential to offer a sustainable alternative.

Our second speaker was Simon Bransfield-Garth,



the CEO of Azuri Technologies who recently launched a pay-as-you-go solar satellite television and home lighting system in Zambia. This innovative idea looks set to transform the lives of people living off-grid in rural areas who cannot afford the capital costs of installing their own solar panels.

Obituary: David Bell

David Bell who died on 24 September 2019 aged 95 was born in 1924 and served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He first came to Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) in 1951 to teach at the



prestigious Munali Secondary School in Lusaka. Munali School came under the African Education Department and was the only government school offering Sixth Form education to Africans at that time. It was the place where many of Zambia's future leaders received their secondary education.

In 1953 he married Margot in St George's Church, Luanshya, and the following year was posted to Livingstone as an Education Officer, which involved visiting the many schools in Southern Province. The decision to build Kariba Dam in 1956 involved the resettlement of some 26 schools which would be flooded. David played a major role in this exercise. In 1961 he became Protectorate Education Officer for Barotseland (now Western Province). He returned to Livingstone in 1964 and remained there until he left Zambia in 1965. David went on to a distinguished career with the British Council, serving in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Thailand, India, Brazil, Ethiopia and Jordan. In 2010 he published his autobiography *A Fortunate Life*.

His funeral service took place at St Symphorian's Church, Durrington, Worthing, on 9 October, and his family asked for donations in lieu of flowers to be made to the Zambia Society Trust. David is survived by his wife Margot and by three of his four sons, the eldest - Christopher - having predeceased him in 2015, and by six grandchildren.