

Naomi's Zambian News



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I have learnt to be content whatever the circumstances.

Philippians 4:11

Mulishani Friends!

I hope this newsletter finds you warm and well. If you received my previous newsletter you will notice that I look rather different in the picture at the top. We are now well and truly in cold season and although many people would not find these temperatures cold, when you are used to weather that is 20 degrees warmer it certainly feels cold. We are all wrapping up and appreciating extra blankets. One thing that seems to make it feel even colder is the lack of electricity. Zambia is facing a power shortage resulting in power cuts of approximately 14 hours a day at the moment. I noticed that I quickly got sucked into the easy conversation of complaining about the power situation which led to easily being dissatisfied with a number of other things. God really challenged me over this as it seemed harder to be joyful and grateful when I was complaining. In fact, there is always so much to be thankful for yet I lost sight of God's goodness as I focused more on what I was lacking rather than what I had. Praise the Lord, He opened my eyes to His wisdom in scripture helping me to re orientate myself on Him and His blessings.



Don't be fooled by the sun – its cold season!

ARISE

When there isn't something happening at school there is something happening at Arise and sometimes both arms of the project have things at the same time so there is always plenty to do. One of my favourite things at Arise this term has been how well the pupils are listening to the Bible story at Kids Club. Some of them even ask questions about the story and they love to show each week that they remember the previous story.

Another highlight is seeing so many of the guardians coming on a Friday. When I think that a few years ago we often had just 5 guardians and now we have 20-30 each week – wow! We managed to harvest 13 bags of maize from our field which will go a long way in helping the families whose crop failed. It's also wonderful to see many of them saving money, making mats and trying to use the abilities God has given them.



Arise guardians shelling the maize from the cobs and packing it ready for distribution over the next few months



Pupils excited to help John position new playground logs at Kapumpe

KAPUMPE

After a strange start to the year and teacher changes we wanted to excite the pupils about coming to school and help them to come each day. One way we started to do this was to improve the playground equipment. We bought a number of new large logs (a whole tree in fact) and began making some new metal structures. The children have been coming each day watching it undergo construction, positioning and now painting. It has been wonderful to see the pupils desperate to try it out.

Our new staff have settled well although in many ways it still feels like starting from scratch with the teachers; there are so many things that happen at Kapumpe that teachers are not trained for in Zambia. These include using resources, active lessons and Christ centered lessons. I'm delighted that the teachers want to learn and grow as professionals in order to help the pupils make more progress.



The children proudly wearing their new hats and keeping warm

Woolly Hat Season

Do you recognise these hats? A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has been knitting and sending woolly hats, or head socks as we call them here. I have been saving them until I had enough to give each Arise child a hat. Pre-school to Grade 12 have now received one and their faces lit up when they were given one in this cold weather. Many children do not take them off all day, they feel so special and warm wearing them.



Ndola Christian Fellowship's temporary meeting space... outside! Brrr.

So here is a challenge for all of us – can we get through each day without complaining but being grateful for what we do have. I know my days are so much better when this is my attitude. I hope that as we choose to live content with our circumstances, more people will come to see the goodness of God in our lives and glorify Him. Thank you for encouraging me to keep going.

Naomi ©

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Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for His goodness and provisions of all that's needed.
- Pray that the children and guardians are able to stay warm and well in this cold season.
- Please pray for teachers to easily adapt to new ways of teaching and engaging the children in order to help them learn more.
- Thank God for the maize we were able to grow and pray that the families continue to find the food they need and for Arise to have wisdom how to help our families
- Thank God that the road is being worked on.
- Please pray for me to continue to find daily reasons to praise God and help others to see His blessings amid life's challenges.

Ndola Christian Fellowship

Some of you may know that NCF is the name of the Sunday fellowship that I regularly attend. Over the years that I have lived here I have become more involved in the Sunday services when I am not speaking at a local bush church. For the past couple of years I have been doing the computer/screen which I find quite funny as I am not very good with technology. We have recently been given a plot of land to build our own premises which is a huge blessing. Until then we are meeting outside in the chilly but beautiful cathedral of nature.

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