

MONZE MAKANI

From the Editor

Dear friends and supporters,

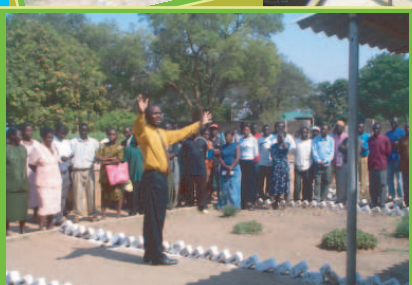
This edition of our newsletter is long overdue. Using a professional sleight of hand we will publish this as a belated 2006 edition, largely because the material was there but time and priorities meant it was not published. However another edition is shortly to be published thus treating all milestones and events with equality. As you will see and read much has taken place, both in terms of the support from our volunteers and donors - and by our friends and helpers in Zambia in getting things done. Our profound thanks to everyone who has ensured that the school and its pupils, and staff, now have improved resources and a fresher environment, and in the case of the orphaned and vulnerable pupils - the opportunity - to undertake their education. When MEF first started its mission in 2003, there were 118 OVCs on the school roll. Sadly this has trebled to 330, reflecting the upward trend of incapacitating disease on the adult population. There is always more that needs to be done, and we thank you for your continued support ...



Before ...



Work in progress ...



Grand opening ...

Renovation complete



Completed interior ...



Domestic Science Building

More good news from the school announcing the completion of the restoration of the Domestic Science Building at the close of 2005. The original structure was in a dilapidated state, no roof, windows or doors. Your donations have paid for a new roof, window frames and glazing, ceilings and doors - as well as complete paint job, inside and outside. The photos here show how it created some work for local craftsmen too. The new classroom is used to instruct pupils in domestic science and hygiene. Head Teacher Edward Chaambwa showed parents and visitors what amounts to a new building.



Clothes - Orphan and Vulnerable pupils have been issued with new school uniforms (see left and bottom) funded through your donations. In addition we were able to provide these pupils with ex-school uniform dresses and boys clothing (bottom right) from St. Nicholas School, Old Harlow. These were in excellent condition, and whilst St. Nicholas had changed school uniform design these items have a second lease of life as 'Sunday best' for the boys and girls in Monze.

Very occasionally Monze Basic confronts tragic news. Just over a year ago one of its teaching staff passed away - and it was of equal sadness to hear that an OVC pupil Namweete Chuuka, died aged 9. Her loss will be as great as those two pupils of Newport Free Grammar (a longstanding supporter of the MEF), tragically killed in a rail accident.



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Pupils' Desks - from scrap to 'good as new'

The younger pupils had for a long time had to squeeze three or sometimes four to a two seater desk and chair combination.

In response to a request for additional desks MEF's Trustee in Zambia, Jerry Grieve, arranged for 17 damaged and part desks to be trucked to Lusaka. Here in a workshop their metal frames were stripped down, welding repairs made and then repainted and finally had new quality wood seats and tops attached. The 'good as new' chairs and desks, together with



Well used desks



... past their 'sell by' date



Staff inspecting repaired desks ...



willing hands ...



additional new desks too !!

Cropserve help to Lusaka

18 additional new desks and chairs were delivered to the school. In addition to this, MEF sponsored the purchase of 55 additional new desks and chair systems for the school.

There was also a need for 12 tables and chairs for teaching staff in the classrooms.

Monze Youth Project

MEF contracted a local Monze based charity called "Monze Youth Project" which teaches wood working skills to young men in preparation for a future in carpentry. These were ordered and have now been delivered to the school.

School's 50th Anniversary

At the time of going to press we were delighted to hear that the school had celebrated its 50th anniversary.

OVCs and fellow pupils, together with friends, supporters and officials from in and around Monze got together to formally mark the occasion with Head Teacher Edward Chaambwa

display finished refurbished and redecorated classroom buildings.



... and cheerleaders !

Trophies

Monze Basic School has not had the luxury of trophies for presentation to pupils. Discussion with the Head Teacher and his staff about the most appropriate incentive for pupils resulted in the establishment of four awards. Three are named after deceased teaching staff of the school:

Douglas Muntanga Trophy awarded for Sporting Achievement

Famili Sibanga Trophy awarded for Academic Achievement

Chief Monze Trophy awarded for Arts and Culture



Andrew Nkana Trophy awarded for Excellence in Citizenship

A supporter of the Fund sponsored the purchase and engraving of the trophies



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Storeroom & Staff room

Another infrastructure project completed this year was the conversion of an old toilet block into both staff offices and a storeroom.

The old building has been unused for some years and whilst used for storage it still had much unusable space. Funding was provided to remove the internal fittings and walls, re-plaster and decorate



Disused toilet block - Before

the inside and outside. This building now provides both secure storage space on one half and a freshly decorated staff room in the other half.



Internal alterations in progress



Installing windows



Renovation complete

Visit to Munda Wanga Zoo

Chilanga, a town just South of the capital Lusaka, is better known in Zambia for its massive cement factory. However it also has an important office for the Zambia Wildlife Authority and nearby is the Munda Wanga Zoo. Zambia based supporters of Monze Basic School arranged for an outing to the zoo for the OVCs. A coach was hired and the youngsters were treated to their first experience of large wildlife in an educational context.



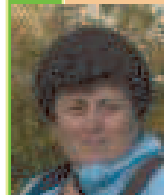
Tiger enclosure

The zoo also has a tiger enclosure. Believe it or not - lions and elephant no longer are present around Monze, although smaller creatures such as reptiles and spiders are !

Volunteers:

During the past year four additional volunteers have offered their time and knowledge for the benefit of MEF administration. Two heard about us through www.idealists.org - after a brilliant suggestion by 'Beanie'.

Lucy Badger



Lucy has been a Trustee of MEF since 2004 and has recently volunteered to manage our supporters desk, which includes OVC sponsorship. Lucy, who once lived in Zambia, has recently retired from full-time teaching and so brings a wealth of experience to our school's programme.

Claire McCarroll



Claire volunteered to help with the Charity's development, particularly through commercial, NGO and similar organisations. Claire is an undergraduate in Cambridge studying and steering herself towards a career in Overseas Development.

Frank McKenzie

A Management Consultant & Accountant by profession, Frank has for the third year running kindly volunteered his services for preparing our Accounts for the Annual Returns to the Charities Commission. A sharp and experienced eye has saved us many hours.

Cath Walker



Cath volunteered to take on the Web Site development and maintenance. An Accountant by training Cath completed her Open University course in Web Development and Management and now provides a commercial web publishing service to her growing client base through her company Goldstar Web Design.

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Twalumba kapati ! *

Event organizers:

During the course of the year unexpected donations arrive through the letter box as the result of a fund raising event. Whilst the value of the donation is always greatly appreciated, so too is the time and effort of those who organise the event and those who patronise the event. Believe us, those hidden hours and minutes which wrap those £'s or \$'s are not forgotten and are equally valued. Twalumba kapati !

Joanna and Jill, formally of Monze, ran a car boot sale in Wiltshire.

Martin West, a consultant in the Radio industry, ran a Quiz Night.

Justice & Peace, ran a parish penny collection



Cub Scouts

The 10th Bishops Stortford Cub Scouts sponsored MEF whilst undertaking their Air Activity Badge programme. The Charity Flights scheme and Scout Association made this possible with help from the Knights of St. Columba



Marathon man

Roger Badger participated in the Edinburgh Marathon last year (a full marathon at that), and successfully completed the course in through the granite city, capital of Scotland, in 5 hours and 5 minutes. "I had a mini-mid-life crisis and, before I knew it, I had committed myself to running in a Marathon". Roger, at the time 58 years young, who had not been a runner before, made this somewhat foolhardy decision last summer and has been training weekly since then to get fit for the



20 miles on ...

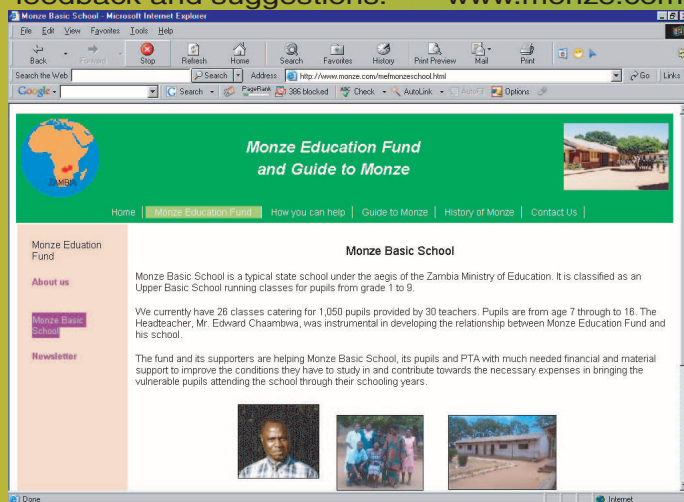


Roger with medal

Edinburgh marathon which took place on Sunday, 12 June. The race started and finished to the sound of pipers in the spectacular setting of Holyrood Park. The weather alternated between very hot sunshine and heavy rain. The last few miles of the course are an uphill climb and the rain did not make it any easier.

Web Site:

Our very own web site has been operational for just over six months. It covers more about Monze, the town, and a bit about its history (did you know David Livingstone passed by Monze ?) - please visit it and provide constructive feedback and suggestions. www.monze.com



Next year's major project - Borehole water supply

The proposed water borehole project has progressed from the first indication of water supply problems, with unpaid water bills, to more detailed discussion about the needs of the school as a whole and informal professional input from Water Aid and, co-incidentally, from one of Water Aid's founding directors Henry Whiteside. A water diviner has also detected 3 streams below ground - so this bodes well for the school. Inadequate and disrupted water supply for hygiene impacts directly on school opening hours - as our Water Aid report showed it greatly disadvantaged girls in particular. MEF Trustees have endorsed plans to finance a borehole and distribution system to maximise school opening hours throughout the year. We have started fund raising for this important infrastructure project.

Tax Man:

Well it is a bit tongue in cheek - for in reality, thanking HM Revenue & Customs we are doubly thanking our tax payers for making it possible to reclaim tax they have paid on their earnings. This additional amount of 28% over and above the donated amount is most welcome - thank you for Gift Aiding when you can !

* Chitonga dialect "Thank you very much"

Trustees:

Mr. A. R. Wood
Dr. D. Letten PhD
Mrs. L. Badger MA
Mr. J. Grieves (Zambia)
Mrs. J. Wood BSc (Hons)

U.K. Charity No. 1101654

Tel: +44 (0) 1279-652-766
Fax +44 (0) 1279-658-020
Email: mef@monze.com
www.monze.com