

Dear Church friends,

I am back in the UK till June 4th and have been able to have a good time in London, Taunton and Yorkshire with friends and family, as well as visiting 34 different venues, contacts or institutions to speak about Chodort or investigate helpful links. A BIG thank you to everybody involved for the warm welcome, fellowship, hospitality prayers and interest shown in the work in Zambia – especially all my “volunteers” – it was great to see you on your home territory! I am however, missing Zambia and will be pleased to fly back on soon for another 3 year term.

Chodort has seen quite a few changes since I left in early March. Andrew Potts returned to Canada after almost 3 years in Choma and Mr Thomas left us after 9 years of service, Christine Siatwinda is now dealing with our bookkeeping. In January Mr Kalumba became our new vice Principal and we were also joined by Todd Jordan another Mennonite, but not strictly a replacement for Andrew, as he will teach IT and look at systems as well as being involved in the carpentry side of Kulilela crafts.

One of the systems Todd has already put in place is converting a container to a solar kiln to help us cure the wood more quickly. This will be a huge asset to carpentry production, as not having properly cured wood can set our work back many weeks.

Certainly our most traumatic event in recent months was the untimely death of one of our supporters from Germany, Gerd Plobner. He died suddenly in Livingstone, the day before he was due to come to Choma for the opening ceremony of our new classroom block.

Rest in peace Gerd, you will be greatly missed by many African and European friends. The postponed official opening was rescheduled to January, and Nathaniel Mubukwanu the Minister for Southern Province officiated as guest of honour.



In contrast, our most uplifting experience has been the success of our under 14 girl's football team! They entered a tournament in April and 5 of them won a trip to Sweden for the Gothia cup www.gothiacup.se This is a remarkable chance for young girls who live in poverty and have never been abroad before. Although air fares and accommodation are free they can't go unless we find about £2,000 of extra costs for equipment (they don't even have football boots!) and Jane's air fare as they can't go without a chaperone. Well done play4all!

Another exciting event will be the arrival of a container this July from Container Ministries Ireland. It is bringing all sorts of goodies for a clinic nearby and ourselves. Thank you very much guys in anticipation!



Containers are useful items, not just for storage. This one is being converted into a library for Kalalaska School by Chodort

Chodort will still be facing challenges for training vulnerable students as funding for this (our main brief) has been difficult to come by, but I thank God for the generosity of friends met in the last few months as we have met the costs of all our students this year and some towards next year too. It no longer seems such an impossible hurdle to overcome to keep the carpentry class open until 2019 when we will again have a level playing field with Choma Trades training centre, as they will not be offering free courses from that date. Our second challenge is the security of the new classrooms as they stand alone and vulnerable on

the new site. Eventually we would like to put a security wall the whole way round the site, but in the meantime we are looking for ways to raise the wall around about $\frac{1}{4}$ of it, which will then encompass the new classrooms. One way suggested was sponsor a brick, and another way was to sponsor a walk to Choma (figuratively speaking!). This would involve having pedometers and jointly walking with other sponsors the 7,358 miles from London to Choma as part of the daily routine.

Zambia too has numerous challenges at the moment. The electricity cuts are getting more prolonged and inflation has more than doubled to over 20% per calendar month. We are also in the run up to national and presidential elections in August, this can be a fervent time, and we need our politicians to put their points over well without inciting their followers to violence.

Items for praise

- 5 girls from Play4all have a chance to go to Sweden and take part in the Gothia Youth World Cup
 - The friendship and generosity of old and new friends during my furlough.
 - The container from Ireland is due to depart in June for Choma
- The benefits of our new solar wood dryer for carpentry production.

Items for prayer

- That we are able to partner with government which will allow us to increase lecturer's wages to government levels.
- For wisdom and insight in the decisions we make about the use of the new college classrooms.
- For Jane and our under 14 girls to be able to go to Sweden
- For the interviews for a new lecturer, and the intake of students for our catering classes which are due to start in August.

With every good wish to you all,

Jenny

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