

Mazereeuws in Zambia

September 2015

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings from Zambia. As we mentioned in our first newsletter one aspect of our project is to provide breakfast for the school children at nine community schools that receive no government assistance.

Bevan Hancock, a volunteer from Australia, is in charge of this aspect of the project and he is teaching a young university student, Kalaluka Kalima, to take over this responsibility.

The needs assessment completed during the planning stages of this project noted that: *The district is experiencing a high level of school drop-out, poor performance in schools and decreased enrolment of pupils largely due to the fact that children walk an average of four to five kilometers distance to school.*

The project therefore proposes to reach out to nine primary schools with a total population of 1,141 (577 female, 564 male) with a provision of daily porridge to the pupils for one school year (which is equivalent to nine months).

During this time, World Renew will also work



A bowl of maize meal porridge.

with the schools to help them set up their own gardens so that they can continue a school lunch program after the project is over.

The schools receive maize meal, peanut butter and sugar which provides a nutritional meal for the children. This porridge is cooked by the members of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), so cooking pots, plates, and utensils were also provided.



This old classroom is being repaired to provide a site where the food will be cooked and to provide a sitting area for the children to eat their meal.

Agricultural Officers accompanied Bevan and taught the PTA members conservation agriculture principles to be used in the gardens at the schools. Bevan is currently working with the communities to determine the best way to get water to irrigate these gardens. This could vary from drilling boreholes to providing treadle pumps for pumping water out of the river.

The Nakumba PTA have been very proactive and have already started a school garden that they water by dragging

pails full of water from the river, up a steep slope.

They are having problems maintaining this method as the temperatures are soaring over 30 degrees, and the vegetables are starting to wilt, so they were provided with two treadle pumps.



A community member demonstrates the new treadle pump

Please join us in praising God for:

- Thankfulness for two complete distributions including maize and groundnut seeds.
- The initiative and capacity of the young university student, Kalaluka, who has been a true asset to our project.
- Safe traveling to the distribution sites for both the truckers and us.
- All the organizing that Rev Sipalos and Deaconess have done with the rural committees.
- World Renew's Country Consultant, Ru, and our manager, Jackie for all their support and encouragement.

Please also pray with us for:

- Continued safe travels. We must travel weekly for 2 hours to Livingstone for fuel, supplies, and groceries.
- Good rains during the rainy season so that the seeds that will be provided can produce a harvest that will ensure food security.

We wish to thank you for your prayers and emails as we enjoy hearing from home.

Christian greetings
Rients & Margaret



(Top) In addition to maize meal, schools receive peanut butter for protein.

(middle) Members of the Parent Teacher Association cook the maize meal porridge for students.

(Bottom) Students wait in line to receive their meal. This important source of nutrition makes it possible for them to stay in school.

