On The Brink!

Ken, Pat, Neil and Den have recently returned from the annual visit to the Falconer Home. What they found there was a home seemingly on the brink of disaster. With no parcels having reached the home for a year and a half, Simon was really struggling to provide for the children. They were desperately in need of new clothes, and feeding everyone was a huge daily challenge. With nothing to use for bartering, every available penny (or kwacha!) was being used to buy food. There was no money left for maintaining and improving the living conditions in the home.

The really exciting news, however, is that the Customs Exemption Certificate has finally been issued, and the flow of parcels can begin again! Our thanks go in particular to Justine, who has worked tirelessly to achieve this, with months of negotiations and meetings in Lusaka and Ndola. He has seen very little of his family in this time, and has faced many challenges in achieving this result.

The release of the parcels will make a huge difference to everyone at the home, and has brought them back from the brink. It is now possible to look ahead to making much needed improvements to the home.

With this in mind, we feel that we are on the brink of an exciting new era! It should now be possible to start investing in renovations to the buildings, making the place safer, cleaner and more comfortable.

We are therefore launching a new campaign, called ‘The Raise The Roof Project’, with the aim of renovating a large dormitory which is currently virtually derelict. You will find more details inside this newsletter, as well as on a separate leaflet.
Raise the Roof!

We are planning to take a work party out to the home in June 2016, in order to carry out renovations to the large boys’ dormitory. The team will work alongside local workers, who will then be trained and encouraged to continue renovation work elsewhere at the home after we have left. As well as looking for volunteers, we are seeking around £30,000 to carry out the work (in addition to our normal support). We would ask you to prayerfully consider how you may be able to help us achieve our goal. Please see the enclosed leaflet for more details.

New CD

During our visit, we made recordings of the children singing, which we are now making available on CD. The CD is entitled ‘Making Melody’, and contains 12 songs. Please write, phone or email if you would like a copy. We suggest a donation of £5 to cover costs, and this money will go towards the ‘Raise The Roof’ project.

New Dresses and Shoes

On our visit, we were able to take with us over 30 dresses made by the girls of 1st Great Somerford Guides. The girls did a fantastic job in making these, and our thanks go to them.

We also took around 40 pairs of new canvas shoes kindly donated by Muriel and her friends, who managed to negotiate a fantastic deal with Sports Direct. The children were very excited to receive their new shoes and dresses. Thank you so much, ladies!
More News from Kabulamema

Miriam paid a visit to the Falconer Home while we were there. She is close to completing her SRN training and plans to return to Kabulamema in January in order to work at the local clinic. She will no doubt be able to be involved once again in the work of the home, where she will be a great asset.

The roller mill in Kabompo should be ready to go into production in the next couple of months, after years of work and preparation. This will provide a much needed income for the home. It is hoped that from the same facility it will be possible to start selling frozen pork, produced from the home’s ever expanding number of pigs. Many other animals are kept at the home, including goats, chickens and turkeys, all of which provide a valuable source of food.

Meanwhile, Back In Norfolk

The Falconer Trust will be holding a concert to raise funds for the ‘Raise The Roof’ project. The concert will feature ‘Early Bird’, fronted by Neil’s son Phil Starling. Tickets will be £5 in advance, or pay on the door. The evening will also include video presentations about the Falconer Home and the work of the Falconer Trust. Please come along and support us if you possibly can. See our website and Facebook page for details of date and venue.

Wool Needed

A number of local knitting groups are keen to knit blankets and items of clothing to send out to the home, but are in need of wool. If you have any spare wool at home, we would be very pleased to receive it. Thank you!
Please Pray…

- … Thank God for the issuing of the certificate and the release of the parcels
- … that the parcels now continue to arrive without further problems
- … for Justine, that he is able to enjoy a rest and time with his family
- … for the new ‘Raise The Roof’ project, that we are able to raise the finance and find the right workers
- … for Miriam, that she successfully completes her studies
- … for the completion of work on the roller mill
- … for the children, that they stay safe, well and happy at the home

Thank You

A very big thank you to all who have supported the work in some way, whether through prayer, finance, donation of goods or any other way. May God bless you richly for your efforts on behalf of the children.

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