

Kondanani Zambia News

Jun
2015

FROM X TO Z: THE FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE

What is the connection between Xavier Jesuit College in Melbourne and Zambia? The answer is the way some remarkable people in Melbourne are coming to the help of Zambia's Open Community Schools (ZOCS).

First there is Rev. Deacon Jenny Preston and her husband John, from the Melbourne suburb of Surrey Hills, Victoria. Jenny ministers with the Uniting Church in Australia (North Balwyn Congregation) and together with John has worked indefatigably for many years to mobilise funds and supplies for ZOCS. Together they have formed Kondonani Zambia Inc., a registered Australian charity, which has sent several containers of school and other supplies for the Community Schools as well as substantial sums of money for school developments (including boreholes & solar electricity).

Next there is Trish Trchala, who used to collect books for Zambia when she was working at the Ivanhoe Municipal Library in Melbourne and has continued this good work since her appointment as Teacher Librarian at Xavier Jesuit College. In October 2014, Trish arranged for Jenny and John to speak to the early years at Xavier College (kinder-garden up to Year 4) about the needs of children in the ZOCS Schools and for the Xavier children to bring in any books they would be willing to donate. The immediate result was that each Xavier child donated a decorated library bag and at least one book for sending to Zambia.

But the work of Trish, Jenny and John had another result, unforeseen and very remarkable. One of the Xavier children, Joshua Abdolkaddous (7½ years of age), brought along his whole collection of soft toys for sending to 'his friends' in Zambia. Then Joshua went even further. Completely on his own initiative he wrote to three Australian companies, asking them to donate items for his friends in Zambia. In his letter to one of the companies Joshua wrote (in his own words and style): *"Dear boss of (footwear company), My name is Joshua. I am 7½ years old i am in year 1. I want to help some childran in Zambia because they are poor. Some of them walk to school in ber feet and that wood hert. Also they eat only once a day. Can you pleas do nate some thongs for Zambian children. They are from 6 to 15 years old and are manly girls. Thank you. From Joshua"*.

As a result of Joshua's appeals, companies have donated over 300 pairs of thongs, brand-new clothing, library books and coloured pencils that will soon be sent to Zambia. And Joshua himself, fired by a sense of compassion and justice for his brothers and sisters in Zambia, is continually on the lookout for opportunities to do something on their behalf. Recently when his Mum mentioned the cost of a car wash, his immediate response was, *"Mum, we can wash the car for free at home and with the money saved buy solar lamps"* (which ZOCS had requested). And when going on an Easter holiday to a mystery destination, Joshua yearned that it be Zambia so that 'we could donate ourselves'.

The mission of Xavier College is to set hearts on fire by an educational commitment to a faith that does justice. It is inspiring to see how vigorous that sense of justice is in one as young as Joshua. The aim of Xavier is to form reflective, compassionate and articulate men and women of Christian faith, hope and love who will provide outstanding service and leadership in today's world. It is truly fulfilling that aim in the way it is encouraging its young students to respond in generous and meaningful ways to the needs of disadvantaged children in Zambia. Xavier and ZOCS may both start with letters very near the end of the alphabet, but they are up at the front in reaching out in support of vulnerable, disabled and orphaned children.

Thank you, Jenny and John. Thank you, Kondonani.
Thank you, Trish. Thank you, Joshua.
Thank you, Xavier.
Thank you, ZOCS.

Michael J. Kelly, S.J.
ZOCS Patron and Trustee



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Kondanani Zambia
Supporting vulnerable, disabled, orphaned children

MEET JOSHUA, OUR YOUNGEST CHAMPION!!!

Joshua and his beautifully decorated donation box!



As mentioned by Fr. Kelly on the first page, Joshua has become a champion for Zambia. He continues to seek out ways to fundraise and awareness raise, enthusiastically supported by his mother, Nivin.

Nivin recounts how Joshua recently made a donation box to collect money for his friends in Zambia, then seizing upon an opportunity at a recent family dinner, presented the box. "It was beautiful to see him pass the 'collection box' (embellished tissue box) and explain to family about the Zambia community and their needs.....he even looked away as donations were made so as not to embarrass the donors in obliging with small or large donations, coins or notes!!

He raised \$70 and was so excited that everyone took his plight seriously and donated!!"

We are so touched by Joshua and his generous, passionate spirit and advocate heart. Once again Fr. Kelly sums up our appreciation perfectly:

"I am enchanted by Joshua. To think that a seven-year old boy could be fired by such a passion for justice and responding to the needs of others, and even more that he should have taken the action he did. Wasn't it well said, "out of the mouths of babes and sucklings comes forth wisdom"! For every month that Joshua has lived, I have lived twelve months - but he has done more in his short time than I could ever have hoped to accomplish in my many years. God bless and reward him for that - and all of you, wonderful people, thank you and may God bless and reward you".

Nivin with a trailer full of donated books as a result of one of Joshua's letters!



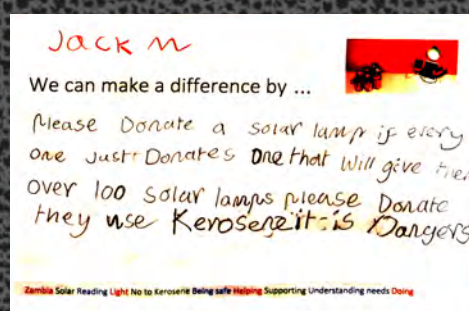
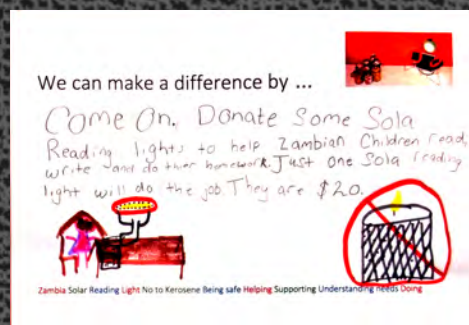
"LIGHT UP THE NIGHT" PROJECT

Xavier College Librarian Ms Trish Trchala, set up a Solar Light Drive, following a request from ZOCS for solar lamps for students.

In Library lessons over 2 weeks the Early Years students learnt about Zambia in Africa and the 'Solar Reading Light' project, in which students were asked to purchase a solar lamp for the students in Zambia. In addition, all students decorated a calico pencil case which were packed with donated crayons. Each light donated will have a special card to place inside the box with a message and who it is from.

Over 50 lamps were purchased from students and their families as well as from Xavier staff.

Some pictures students did for the 'Light up the Night' project.



XAVIER COLLEGE VISIT IN MARCH 2015

Jenny, Trish and John



At the assembly on this day in March, Trish Trchala, Early Years Teacher Librarian & John and Jenny Preston were the guest speakers.

John and Jenny gave a presentation on Kondanani Zambia and Trish explained the Light up the Night project. A number of her students, including Joshua, then proceeded to tell of their efforts at fundraising. Chloe encouraged her father to donate percussion instruments whilst other students listed the amounts of money they had raised. It was truly humbling and delightful to witness.

Through a contact from Trish, we were even donated 5 special children's wheelchairs from Chemtronics Direct for the new Gamela School of Excellence.

For their remarkable efforts, both Trish and Joshua were awarded a certificate of appreciation from Kondanani Zambia.

As a result of the students at Early Years Xavier College's magnificent effort the following was collected:-

- 13 boxes of new books
- 2 boxes of brand new clothes
- 51 Solar Reading Lamps
- 30 Boxes (300 pairs) of children's thongs
- \$100 cash from the Year 1's
- Wheelchairs and medical equipment
- 145 packets of crayons.
- 3 types of percussion instruments (216 Units in total)

We praise God for the wonderful support we have received from Xavier.
"From little things big things grow" as the song so aptly goes!

Jenny & John Preston, along with Nell Potter (Communications volunteer) will be traveling to Zambia to catch up with ZOCS staff and community schools, along with visiting Chodort Training College. These monitoring trips are held every 2 years at our own expense. Along with seeing how the schools and projects are fairing, we will assist with the distribution of the goods from the 2 shipping containers and access the possibility for further ventures to support. We will be away from July 25 to August 11. For those of you who pray, we would welcome your prayers.

2 Shipping Containers are on their way!

Many thanks to our wonderful supporters Greig & Anne Maver of Maverick Equipment and their staff who have put up with us filling their warehouse with the donated goods over the past two years, for the provision of packing materials and transport to collect the different donated items.

Also a big shout out to Kirsten Neilson, from Savi World Transport with logistical assistance in the purchase and navigation of the 2 shipping containers.

Article from The Progress Leader, 19 May 2015

BOROONDARA

Crates of care head to Africa

Greg Gliddon

IT IS amazing just how much you can fit into a shipping crate.

Which is why it has taken a Boroondara-based charity almost two years to fill two crates which are being shipped off to Zambia as part of an international school support program.

Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS) is a non-profit organisation supporting 524 community schools in 41 districts, where an estimated 117,000 students are being taught by over 2340 volunteer teachers.



Joint co-ordinator John Preston (pictured with Jenny Preston and Greg Maver) said a huge variety of good items had been donated by various organisations and schools from all across Melbourne.

For more information, visit kondananizambia.org

'Chipo 4 Life' - Some of the items are:



Remember, these gift cards make great presents. The gift that keeps on giving!

Details of the contents of the Two Shipping Containers

Container One Loaded on Thursday 7 May 2015

In this container there are **six timber crates** containing:-

- 1 Crate of Computers
- 1 Crate Computers, flat screens and key boards
- 1 Crate flat screens and keyboards
- 1 Crate Computers, Laptops, Sewing machines, sewing material
- 1 Crate Stackable chairs, teaching aids, knitted jumpers and singlets
- 1 Crate 4 Special children's wheelchairs, crutches, musical instruments

Then Boxes/Cartons

- 8 Cartons of clothing
- 1 Carton Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 120 Cartons Sporting equipment - Soccer boots -1200 pairs
- 30 Cartons thongs - 300 pairs
- 12 Cartons Percussion/musical instruments
- 1 Carton - 51 Solar study lamps for students
- 3 Cartons Stationary, exercise books, pencils and pencil cases
- 10 Cartons Children's Library books, teacher reference books, Encyclopaedias
- 6 Cartons Student uniforms including sports uniforms
- 4 Cartons Knitted blankets, towels and bedding sheets
- 3 Cartons Carry bags and hand bags
- 1 Carton Spectacles

Container Two Loaded Tuesday 12 May 2015

In this container there are **7- timber crates** containing:-

- 3 Crates of Library and Reference books
- 2 Crates of Student uniforms
- 1 Crate - one special disabled child's wheel chair, knitted children's jumpers and singlets
- 1 Crate of toiletries /soaps

Pallets, cartons and individual items:

- 11 stackable chairs
- 2 disability strollers
- 3 Metal book cases/shelving
- 1 Office Filing cabinet
- 12 Cartons of Clothing
- 11 tables and one desk
- 8 Cartons of Towels and Blankets
- 1 Wood lathe
- 1 Wheel Chair
- 9 Mobile Book Trolleys, garden tools and general hardware
- 1 Food warmer

We are so very grateful to all our supporters!

DONATIONS:

Special gift cards will be provided to the donor for each gift, with information about that project and about Kondanani Zambia Inc.

How to donate:

Cheques to be made payable to :

KondananiZambia Inc;
or make a bank transfer:
Bendigo Bank: BSB 633-000
Acc. No: 144 757 655
Acc. Name:
KondananiZambia Inc.

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