

Partnership between Stiftsschule Einsiedeln and Namwala High School in Zambia Annual Report 2013

In 2013 we experienced a lot of highlights and one disaster. The disaster happened at the beginning of the year: on 8th February a heavy storm hit Namwala and damaged the roofs of classrooms, dormitories and other buildings. The government promised support. In September the money had still not arrived and the rainy season was approaching. In the drawer lay Plan B, which the headmaster and I had prepared, financed by our Namwala account. In October the nail-biter was over: the money for the repair was transferred. An additional problem was the non-availability of the old tiles, so we decided to use the undamaged storeroom tiles for the repair of the other buildings and to cover the storeroom with corrugated iron. The pictures show some buildings just after the storm and after the repair.



Ablution block



Storeroom, on the right with the new corrugated roof



Dormitory, on the right with the new surrounding wall



Assembly hall

At first sight the pictures above have little to do with the project because the financing and the work were totally in Zambian hands. Nevertheless I found it important to show what is possible in Namwala.

Now for the current projects: first of all, the construction of the three classroom blocks. It is important to mention here that the school and the parents paid half of the construction costs. Additionally, the metalwork teacher, with the help of pupils, manufactured the window frames, support beams and furniture. The extension of the school was necessary because the Ministry of Education has demanded that they accept another four classes.



The orchard, which was started in 2010, is making progress. The first two pictures were taken at the beginning. The second and third row show the situation when I visited the school in October this year. The last row was sent to me in December. I am really happy about the success of this project because it depends solely on local effort.



In Einsiedeln two events took place for the benefit of Namwala. On 1st February 2013 the seventh 'Rock for Namwala' concert took place, organised by pupils of the Stiftsschule and supported by the initiator of this series of concerts, Latin teacher Beat Hüppin.



On 10th June life at the Stiftsschule was determined by the sponsored walk, organized by the 6th form pupils. The initiators wanted to show their gratitude for their education at the Stiftsschule by supporting pupils who are in a less privileged position. Pupils and members of staff collected Fr. 41,000.



In Namwala deputy headmaster Robinson Mulamfu has taken over from headmistress Priscilla Mwansa. I hope he will stay longer in office than his predecessor, who only became headmistress shortly before her retirement.

During our trip to Zambia in 2008 we met a few guides in a lodge who bitterly complained about the hunting activities in their area. The lion that I had seen the year before had also been shot by hunters. After arriving back home we wrote an angry letter to the Zambian Wildlife Authorities, but nothing happened. However, at the beginning of this year I read in the internet that the Minister of Tourism had ordered the termination of all hunting in and around the national parks, with immediate effect.

New projects & outlook

In 2014 we hope to start with the extension and renovation of the ablution blocks. The health authorities have objected to the present situation and demand improvements. Additionally, the number of pupils has increased in the last few years from 1000 to 1300. The second project is the installation of solar cells for the new classroom block and for the outside lighting of the dormitories. Like last year we will again pay the school fees of eight pupils of the school. In October 2014 I hope to visit the school again.

When these activities are completed, the main maintenance and upgrading measures will be finished. In the longer term we intend to support the occupational training of the teachers. Crafts teacher Christopher Mukawa has already started a part-time course of studies, financed by the school. This way he commits himself to stay in Namwala for another four years after finishing his training. The school owes him a lot because he is the driving force behind the furniture manufacturing and the planting of the orchard.

I thank all those who have supported the partnership financially and mentally. I would be grateful for your continued support.

Baar, 18/12/2013

Johannes van der Weijden,
Retired teacher of the Stiftsschule Einsiedeln.

Address

Bahnmat 21
6340 Baar
Zug, Schweiz

Donation account

Schwyzer Kantonalbank (SZKB)
6431 Schwyz
Account: 60-1-5
IBAN: CH70 0077 7005 6097 9005 6