Review 2014 and preview 2015

Let us look back to the main issues at the foundation of the Friends Association of the Namwala Secondary School:
- tax relief for donations
- de-privatization of the bank account
- disclosure of the project funds
- minimal organization effort, low membership fees

Thanks to Joshua Blumenthal we have a new website. I think the website looks very good and is, thanks to Christine Lobmaier, even bilingual. At the moment we have 188 members, benefactors and subscribers: 42 are informed by post and 146 by email. 31 people receive their mails in English. The website has different theme categories: projects in Switzerland and in Zambia, events and news, and further documents and literature about Zambia and Namwala. The last category is also an attempt to set up an Ila cultural center in Namwala. Together with the district educational board secretary (DEBS), Mr. Patrick Muma, who is writing his PhD on the subject of Education in the Namwala District, we would like to make literature about the Namwala region locally accessible.

All people in our database who gave us their email address received a newsletter on 22.06 and 14.12.14. The annual report was, as always, sent to everyone at the end of December by email and by mail. Here a problem was discovered: the second newsletter and the annual report were time-wise too near to each other. This experience has consequences for the planning of next year, and there is a proposal to move the annual accounts for this reason.

Regrettably the making and the further development of the website put pressure on the relationship between Joshua Blumenthal and me. Our ideas diverged more and more, and in December we decided to part ways. I thank Joshua for his commitment and the many hours he spent working for the association. Fortunately Beat Oetiker, who made an important contribution to the assembly of the solar equipment in Namwala in 2010, is prepared to take over from Joshua.

In January the christening of the CD of the vocal ensemble ¨The Ravens¨ with Rahel Fröbel and Angela Steinauer (Zambia 2006) and Father Lukas and Abbot Urban took place. With their songs they brought the Namwala project nearer to many people and the financial revenue of the selling of the CD was a big support. My special thank go to Dagobert Fröbel, Rahel’s father, who organized the CD project.

Now for the finances: in 2014 we had, with Fr. 100 000, the biggest investment volume ever.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects 2014</th>
<th>3 759.30</th>
<th>fixed, yearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School fees for 8 pupils</td>
<td>17 565.74</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Three-classroom block: furniture, solar power backup system</td>
<td>4 784.55</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodwork tools for teaching</td>
<td>6 802.66</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar street lights for dormitories</td>
<td>17 747.40</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovation of the school kitchen</td>
<td>1 827.10</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal fence orchard</td>
<td>1 525.50</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grilles for dining and assembly hall</td>
<td>45 622.70</td>
<td>± Fr. 25 000 remains for 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Three-classroom block: building material, windows, doors, furniture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>99 634.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Sponsored Pupils

2. First three-classroom block

3. Woodwork tools

4. Solar street-lights
5. Renovation of the kitchen left 2004 right 2014

6. New metal fence for the orchard

7. Window grilles for the dining and assembly hall
In 2014 I went to Zambia three times: I visited Namwala twice and I also went to Lusaka to attend the funeral of Simon Maonde. Mr. Maonde was the first Zambian headmaster of Namwala, the first Zambian headmaster in the country and also my principal in the seventies. It was a very impressive ceremony with many former pupils from the seventies.

The two other visits were very different: my visit in March was of a pedagogical nature: I held a workshop with the mathematics teachers of Namwala, I visited all the teachers in class and took over some lessons, and afterwards I presented a number of recommendations to the school. These suggestions were with regard to the big classes (up till 60 pupils) and the missing text books.

The second visit had to do with the ongoing projects at the school. The building of the first three-classroom block and the renovation of the kitchen revealed a number of organizational deficiencies. It was the first time that the school had to deal with building projects of this kind. We went through the problems and afterwards we commenced with the building of the second three-classroom block. Unfortunately some problems appeared again in this project and for this reason I decided to formulate the project guidelines for the first time in written form. These guidelines have actually existed from the beginning of the engagement in Namwala, but because of the frequent change of headmasters during the last few years they have tended to be neglected.

Project Guidelines of the Namwala Friends Association
- A new project will be chosen together with the headmaster of the Namwala Secondary School. The project is chosen from a list of priorities. This list is made in cooperation with the Parents Teachers Association and the members of staff.
- Before a new project is started, a budget is required.
- The supplier will be chosen from a list of three different suppliers.
- Supplier and contractor are two different firms.
- Payments of the Namwala Friends Association will be made straight to the supplier or contractor, unless the supplier or contractor has no bank account. In this case the payment will take place via the Namwala boarding account.
At this point I would like to mention metal and woodwork teacher Christopher Mukuwa. I am very happy that he teaches at the school in Namwala. It is mainly because of him that the work in Namwala has continued so successfully, and he is a guarantee for its continuity. We are very grateful for his tireless and self-sacrificing commitment. Recently his health has worried me, and I hope that he responds to the medical treatment soon.

In September Elias Klaey started as a volunteer in Namwala and finished his stay at the end of December. During my second visit I could see for myself that he was doing an excellent job. Elias has published a report of his experiences on the Namwala website. Elias repaired school furniture, erected a metal fence for the orchard and made grilles for the windows of the dining and assembly hall. He must have enjoyed his stay because he is going to Namwala again in March.

This brings us to the preview of the year 2015: On my next journey to Namwala in March I will not only be accompanied by Elias but also by three other young people: a former pupil of the Stiftsschule in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, Christiane Krentscher, has been interested in Namwala for quite some time and will do work for her bachelor degree on the topic of groundwater in Namwala.

A second former pupil of the Stiftsschule, Ariane Albisser, visited Namwala in 2010, and she will be researching for her bachelor degree on the mission history of Namwala. Andreas Moor, Ariane’s friend, is a qualified electrician and will check the electric mains in the school, especially in the kitchen, and repair them when necessary. I am very glad that young people continue to show interest in Namwala and that they are prepared to contribute. I am convinced that Namwala will give them a lot in return.

My part is the carrying out of mathematics workshops in the three secondary schools of the Namwala district in Namwala, Kasenga and Niko.

The most important project this year will be the finishing of the second three-classroom block. Further project will be discussed during my stay in March. Additionally we are again supporting 8 pupils by paying their school fees and pocket money.

I would also like to maintain the interest in the Zambian and especially in the local Ila-culture. Together with DEBS Mr. Patrick Muma I will try to extend the Ila-cultural center.

Klaus Zanker, who teaches physics at the Stiftsschule in Einsiedeln, is prepared to take care of the Namwala project at his school. I am very pleased with this, since our main support comes directly or indirectly from the Stiftsschule.

I would like to thank everybody who supports the Namwala project in one way or the other, and I also thank my colleagues on the association board for their commitment and their support.

Hannes van der Weijden