

Review 2015 Outlook 2016



At the first annual general meeting I said the following words: "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.

Sadly, our hope at that time was not fulfilled. At the beginning of July Christopher's health deteriorated rapidly and so I decided to travel to Zambia three weeks earlier than planned. A few days after my arrival he was admitted to the hospital of Namwala: his headache became worse and additionally signs of paralysis appeared in his legs. Unexpectedly the former headmaster of Namwala, Amos Makasa, arrived from faraway Livingstone. He had also heard about the health problems of Christopher. Relatives, colleagues of the school and many other people from the village passed by and showed their concern. Soon it was clear that the doctors in Namwala did not know how to cope with this situation. The university hospital in Lusaka was not a good alternative: its reputation is not good. For this reason, we decided to drive him to the Fair View private hospital in Lusaka on a mattress in the back of my Land Cruiser. Christopher was very brave and talked a lot during the 450 km to Lusaka. After a few MRI-tests the severity of the situation was clear: they found a tumor of 2 cm behind his right eye and 5 offshoots in his spinal cord. An operation lasting eight and a half hours did not bring improvement, but at least it reduced his severe headaches. He stayed in the Fair View Hospital for four weeks, after which they could not offer him any further help. What remained was the only cancer clinic in Zambia, which is connected to the University Hospital. Unfortunately, Christopher was too weak for a radiation or chemo treatment. After two and a half weeks he fell into a coma and one and a half weeks later, on [22nd September](#), he died. Amos Makasa wrote to me on the same day: 'Finally the inevitable has happened. We have lost Mukuwa. May the sun not shine'.



Report of the visit of March 2015

In March this year Ariane Albisser, Christiane Krentscher, Andreas Moor and Elias Klaey stayed in [Namwala for two weeks](#) and worked as volunteers or did research for their studies. It was a most pleasant and useful visit and I hope it can be repeated next year.

During this time Andreas repaired and installed neon lights in the kitchen, dining and assembly hall, partly together with the school caretaker George Mubiana and Elias. Additionally, he checked the cooking pots and mounted the power backup system on the roof of the first 1x3 classroom block, again together with George and Elias. Elias painted the metal window covers that he made last year. He welded the roof construction of the new 1x3 classroom block and made school furniture.



Christiane, who studies Environmental System Sciences at the ETH in Zurich, took 60 water samples from 21 places in the Namwala area for her Bachelor degree. Christiane did part of her work together with Dalphine Mwiinga, a former pupil of Namwala Secondary School, now a student in Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Zambia.



Ariane, who studies theology at the University of Zurich, analysed the Religious Education Syllabus of Zambia, visited and taught classes. She interviewed a number of Christian clergymen, attended religious services and did Bible reading. It was a part of her Master degree.

My part was the realization of Mathematics workshops at three secondary schools in the Namwala District.



Projects	2014	2015
Scholarships	3759.30	4221.15
1 st 1x3 class room block, incl. furniture and solar module	17492.36	
Tools for wood workshops	4784.55	
Solar modules	6715.56	430.00
School kitchen	17747.40	5062.50
Orchard fence	1827.10	
Window grilles for dining and assembly hall	1525.50	
2 nd 1x3 class room block, incl. furniture and solar module	45622.70	21499.30
Photo camera	160.48	
School furniture		3966.10
Computer power packs		130.00
Total	99634.95	35309.05

The second 1x3 classroom block

The need for more classrooms was not met with [one 1x3classroom](#) block. A second block was therefore started in December 2014. After the bad experiences with the first block a building construction firm from Choma was contracted. However, this time there were also problems. After a few months the Parents Teachers Organization (PTA) intervened and gave Christopher Mukuwa the building supervision. From then on the work went well. The power backup system was installed in October with the help of Christopher Mukuwa junior (picture bottom right). The fixing of the blackboards still has to be done. The total costs were Fr 65'000.



Orchard

Teacher Kebby Malambo has taken over the responsibility of the [orchard](#). An extension with bananas is planned. He has started with the building of a second pond.



School kitchen

The [renovation of the school kitchen](#) was finished just before the beginning of the school year 2015. On my visit in March it was clear that the cooking pots urgently needed to be serviced. Out of the eight pots, only five were operating properly, two only partly and one not all. During the Easter holidays, two servicemen came from Lusaka to do the repairs and to inform the caretaker about how to improve maintenance of the pots.



Another problem was that genuine breakers were not used for the repair of the cooking pots. The consequence was that the pots could not deliver their maximum performance. Caretaker George Mubiana replaced them in July. Afterwards six pots were operating again optimally. George repaired the heating elements of the seventh pot and pot number eight was brought to Lusaka to have the leakage welded. In order to keep the kitchen fully operative, we called a meeting with the kitchen staff and George. It was agreed that in case of a breakdown, George should be informed immediately and only he is authorized to repair the pots. The school administration promised to keep enough genuine breakers in stock. Total cost Fr. 5'000.

The production of school furniture

During the last four years more and more pupils were accepted at the school, without the provision of more furniture. Last year Christopher Mukuwa started [to make furniture](#) again and his relatives are now continuing his work. Too little furniture is a problem in itself but because of this shortage, the furniture is carried from one classroom to the other. This often causes damage and reduces the available furniture. In future the desks and chairs will be numbered in order to assign them to a classroom and a pupil. The aim is to promote a more careful handling of the furniture. In March Christopher developed a new desk, which integrates the chair and table. This way the stealing of chairs can be prevented. Cost: Fr. 4'000



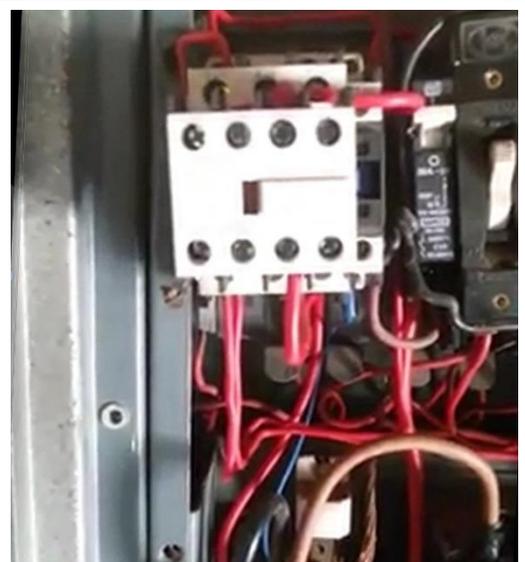
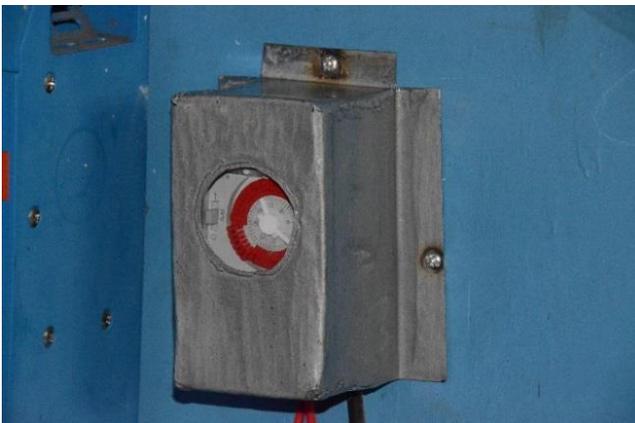
Wood and metalwork teacher Harrison Matinguluka (picture below left) has taken over the repair of the school furniture. The picture at the right shows 80 recently repaired chairs which are now again in the classrooms.



The solar equipment

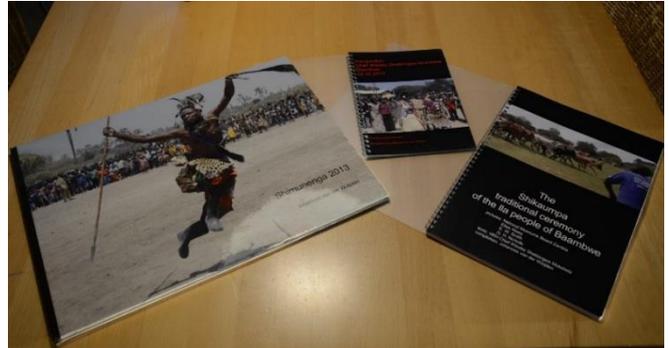
Five years ago [the power backup systems](#) were installed in order to ensure that prep could be done in the evening hours. This year the electrical supply is interrupted daily because [Lake Kariba](#) has little water due to the bad rainy season last year. The power backup system is therefore very important this year.

Unfortunately, in the past this system was also used during the day, although it was only designed for the three evening hours prep. This often emptied the batteries, which decreased its lifetime each time by one month. Consequently, the capacity of the batteries of four systems was reduced to one hour. Fortunately, the batteries of the laboratories were not often used so we swapped them with the batteries of the classrooms. To avoid this problem in the future I took time switches with me from Switzerland in order to limit the electricity purchase to the evening hours. Caretaker George Mubiana (picture middle right) mounted them in all twelve power backup systems. They are covered by metal boxes to prevent unauthorized changing of the times. The metal boxes were made by Christopher Mukuwa junior. In September George connected the two new classroom blocks to the main net. In October he installed the power backup system for the new classroom block. Additionally, he installed an extra switch (bottom right and left) which additionally allows electricity from the net outside the evening hours provided it is available. Here George showed his knowledge as professional electrician.



Ila Culture

I was able to finish the photograph album about the traditional ceremony [Shikaumpa](#) in Baabwe, the seat of Chief Mukobela. I gave it to Chief Mukobela in August. He was very pleased and sent me the texts to the pictures the following day. I will add them to the second edition. I left a second copy at the [Choma Museum](#), which they want to extend with a Baila-section. In Itezhi Tezhi I met Jef Kaande, former Zambian ambassador in Japan and brother of the former Namwala teacher Alex Kaande. He plans to found a museum in Itezhi Tezhi or Namwala. Now I am just waiting to see which project starts first.



Scholarships

Like every year we support a group of pupils at the school in Namwala by paying their school fees and pocket money. The school selects them with clear criteria. Teacher Joseph Mudenda is now responsible for the backing of these pupils. Next year the two daughters of Christopher Mukuwa, who visit the school in Namwala, will belong to this group.



Namstift Committee

The following teachers are members of the Namstift committee: Mr Mukela Kalunga, Joseph Mudenda, Mr Muleya Mainza, Mrs Evalyn Mutenda Chinyama and Mrs Violet Mwansa. They take care of us when we visit the school. Replacements were necessary, because the old members had either left the school or sadly had died.



PTA-Projects

The Parents Teachers Association (PTA) has initiated two projects. Because the water quality of the school does not satisfy the criteria of the health authorities, a new waterhole has had to be drilled. Additionally, it needs three water containers each with the capacity of 10'000 l and a tower to obtain water pressure. Moreover, the electricity poles have had to be replaced. The picture below left shows the board of the PTA after the water was reached.



Sponsored walk 2015

The projects mentioned above have to be financed, and that is why Namwala Friends depends on support. In this connection I am very happy that the Stiftsschule Einsiedeln organized [a sponsored walk](#) for the second time on 2nd June, which not only supports the project but also keeps it alive at the Stiftsschule. I thank the sports teachers Reto Brunner and Fredi Trütsch and physics teacher Klaus Zanker for the organization.



Project Outlook

It was Christopher Mukuwa who brought our attention to the next big project: the cleaning of the sewers. Because of the increase in the number of pupils from 1000 to 1500 the sanitary facilities are chronically overburdened. The cleaning will improve the drainage. Originally the building of ablution blocks was planned, two for the girls' section and two for the boys' section. Some of the material has already been bought. However, this will probably lead to an overuse of the new facilities. That is why the old ablution blocks have to be attended to first: the sewers have never been cleaned since the founding of the school. This work is planned for the December holidays. Afterwards the new ablution blocks will be built, beginning with the girls' section. Moreover, two small projects are planned: the building of a small incinerator for the girls' section and the extension of the orchard with bananas and a water pond. In view of the 50 years' jubilee the surroundings will be cleaned up and the buildings will be painted. In the longer term solar collectors for warm water in the kitchen, a power backup system for the dining and assembly hall and the kitchen and more efficient ovens for the outdoor kitchen are planned. The outdoor kitchen, operating with wood, is used when the main power is interrupted, which this year is often the case.

Financing

The financing has functioned almost automatically so far. The monastery, the school, many parents of former pupils and many other sponsors are buttresses of the project. We also had the sale of [the Ravens' CD](#).

From 10-14 December Elias Klaey, who worked for three months at the school in Namwala last year, will sell art objects at the Christmas market of Zug. I will join him with my lamps.

Three journeys to Zambia

In March I plan a working visit with mathematics workshops in the five secondary schools in the Namwala District. Young people who are interested in a volunteer service in connection with their studies or school (universities or vocational schools) are cordially invited to join me.

At the end of June and the beginning of July we will visit the 50 years' jubilee ceremony of the school in Namwala. I have invited representatives of the monastery and the Stiftsschule. The board of Namwala Friends will be represented by two members. All those who are also interested are invited to contact us. After the visit to the school a safari in the Kafue National Park is planned.

Eventually a third journey is planned in October with the emphasis on a visit of the two big traditional ceremonies [Shimunenga](#) and [Shikaumpa](#). The Ila culture will be the main point of interest (publications, museum plans in Zambia).

Board of Namwalafriends

I would like to thank all board members for their support. I thank Beat Oetiker for the professional website, Christine Lobmaier for the correcting of my English texts, Rahel Fröbel for the encouraging support and Fredi Trütsch for maintaining the contact with the Stiftsschule. It is also a pleasure to mention Friedel Schmid, who corrects my German texts. Finally, I thank everyone who supports the project morally and financially and would be very happy to continue to receive this support in the future.



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

Namwala Friends Association, Bahnmatt 21 6340 Baar, www.namwalafriends.org

Schwyzner Kantonalbank 6431 Schwyz Konto 60-1-5 IBAN CH85 0077 7008 3469 8001 8