



Swanmissions

SWAN MISSIONS / NEWSLETTER / TERM 3 2011

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. (Ps 37:5-6 NIV)

Yesterday I was reading my bible and it fell open to Psalm 37 and verse 6 was underlined. I was really encouraged by the promise that "the justice of our cause will shine like the noon day sun". It is great to know we are not on our own with the work of Swan Missions, but that our Father in Heaven is also promoting the "justice of our cause".

These past few months have been witness to a number of ways that our cause in Kantolomba has been made known and soon the word will spread even further. This newsletter will reflect on some of these events and highlight some of the exciting things to look forward to in the near future. We have also recently seen the return of the 2011 Cambodia team and will read a couple of testimonies of their experience. And finally, the long awaited registered charity status is now a reality with our newly found partnership with Global Development Group.

I am encouraged by events in the past quarter and trust the Lord's hand will continue to be upon us as we look to the needs of those less privileged in our world.

ABC RADIO INTERVIEW

On 20 May I received a call from ABC Radio to ask if I would come in the following day to speak with James Lush on the Saturday morning breakfast program. An ABC staff member was visiting her mother in Kalamunda when she read an article I had written in the local newspaper about the African Banquet fundraiser for Swan Missions. She thought it would be an interesting story to air on their program. It was a great experience; the interview lasted for over 10 minutes which gave me plenty of time to explain our work in Kantolomba. It has been surprising how many people have since told me that they either heard the interview or knew someone who did. One gentleman even contacted me to sponsor a child and another family came to our Banquet Fundraiser.

VISIT OF MARY ZAMBEZI

It was perfect timing for our Zambian director Ms Mary Zambezi to visit Perth for her sister Helen's wedding in June. At our Thankyou Afternoon Tea Mary was able to bring a great deal of encouragement to our sponsors, sharing from her own testimony how she has been able to help a number of children in Zambia to have a better life. One young boy Mary raised was found dumped as a baby, and another was a bright young man who could not afford to go to school. Both of these young men are now very happy and successful thanks to someone reaching out to them in love. Mary left us with a message of hope for the future of the Zambian nation as we continue to invest in the lives of Zambia's Children.

AFRICAN BANQUET



The African Banquet was a fantastic night and raised over \$6000 for disadvantaged Zambian children. A combined effort from staff, students and volunteers made the night run seamlessly with people being treated to a smorgasboard of African cuisine and a broad array of entertainment.

A segment from the documentary 'Light Up Ahead' produced by our Media teacher Chad Peacock together with an address from Mrs Mary Zambezi, the director of Emanuel Mercy Ministries in Zambia, really helped everyone connect with what the night was all about - to help vulnerable children in Kantolomba Village receive meals and education to seek to lift them out of the poverty cycle.

Our signup table for sponsor children received an overwhelming response, with all of the available children finding sponsors on the night. The Kantolomba School Project now has over 110 children sponsored in the program and by the end of the year, 120 children will receive sponsorship.

CASUAL DRESS DAY

On 26 August, staff and students attended school in casual dress in support of The Kantolomba Project. This day followed a lesson conducted during the students DAVE program where they learnt more about The Kantolomba Project and wrote letters to their sponsor children. The Casual Dress Day was a huge success raising over \$1780.

CHARITABLE STATUS

Over the past few months we have been busy in correspondence with Global Development Group to seek charitable status. Global Development Group is an Australian charity organisation carrying out humanitarian projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty in a tangible way. They provide long term solutions through the provision of quality aid development projects in approved countries. Global Development Group is a recognised NGO who is not only able to help us establish our work in Kantolomba but also to provide tax relief for those wanting to donate.

Tax deductible donations for The Kantolomba Project can be sent or transferred to Global Development by:

- **Cheque** - mail to Postal Address at 56 Goorari Street, Eight Mile Plains Qld 4113
- **Credit Card** - (Master Card, Visa, American Express, Diners) by phone 07 3341 6475 or website <http://www.globaldevelopment.org.au/>
- **Direct Deposit/Internet banking:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia Global Development Group BSB 064 118 Account No. 10200094

Nb. It is important to refer to **J698N Kantolomba Development Project, Zambia** when making a donation to ensure the money is channeled to the Kantolomba project.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Exiting news for sponsors is that your donations are now tax deductible! The procedure will be that Direct Debits will be deducted as they have in the past through SCEA every 3 months on 10 August, 10 November, 10 Feb and 10

UP AND COMING EVENTS

BARN DANCE 23RD SEPT

On Friday 23 September from 5:30 to 8:30pm a Family Barn Dance will be held in the Swan Centre (Gymnasium). The aim of the Barn Dance is to facilitate a community event for the whole College and to raise funds for the School in Kantolomba, Zambia via ticket sales and a silent auction. Cost \$10 Adults \$8 Concession. Includes sausage sizzle, dance and icecream. Tickets are available through Trybooking - www.trybooking.com/13562 or the College office.

CYCLE FOR CHANGE 12-19TH OF OCTOBER



In 2010 a group of students and experienced adult riders rode from Albany to Perth to raise funds for Swan Missions Kantolomba Village School project. Generous support from the community resulted in the ride raising over \$30,000 toward providing water and sewerage for the school in Kantolomba as well as building a new kitchen.

This year the Cycle for Change has expanded to include more riders, a stronger support crew and doubled the distance to travel over 1,100 kilometers. With the prayers and support of everyone involved, the aim this year is to triple the amount raised to provide food and education to children in Kantolomba and Cambodia through the Kantolomba School Project, Awareness Cambodia and Hagar International.

Supporting Cycle for Change is your opportunity to join to the community of Swan Christian College in reaching the world's poor with a message of God's Love and hope for their futures.

Donations can be made to individual riders by going to the Swan Christian College website and following the links. www.swan.wa.edu.au

LIGHT UP AHEAD DOCUMENTARY LAUNCH

November 2011 (specific date and location TBC). Go to <http://vimeo.com/26496560> to see the Documentary Trailer and enter password Zambia

SECOND HAND BOOK AND UNIFORM SALE

This is an opportunity for individuals to make money on their second hand books and uniforms and at the same time help Swan missions. Details TBC.

May. We will send a list with the money to Global Development Group (GDG), who will issue you with receipts at the end of each financial year.

Increase – Due to incurring a 7.5% administration cost through GDG and a need to absorb inflation costs for The Kantolomba Project, the development committee has decided to increase Sponsorship to \$30 per month. Our hope is that with the tax benefits now in place, this increase will not be too great a burden to our sponsors. Donors will soon receive a change of payment form to authorise this increase.

FUTURE GOALS FOR THE KANTOLOMBA PROJECT

The area that The Kantolomba Project will focus on is education as a means to empowerment. As the African proverb goes, “give them a fish and they will eat for a day, teach them how to fish and they will fish for life”. Through the development of a school and the enrolment of children and adults who are considered at a level of high risk, plus the training and employment of Zambian Staff, we believe that many of the issues mentioned in the previous question will begin to be addressed.

Unemployment will be managed for some through providing employment opportunities at the school. In the long term both the school program and the adult empowerment workshops will all contribute to enhancing the skill development within the community and increase the job prospects of those involved.

The issue of families not having the basic necessities of food, clean water and education will be dealt with in the short term through the provision of clean water and meals at the school free of charge for those who attend. But long term, to instil a degree of sustainability, we will run education programs in basic horticulture and small business enterprise, even to the point of providing land for farming which isn't accessible to some families. (Nb. A portion of land has been given to us by the Zambian government which can be used for this purpose – See Maps).

Our education program through the school and in the adult workshops will aim at educating the community on the prevention and treatment of HIV. Our goal is to see more tolerance in the community towards those struggling with HIV through the message of love and grace combined with a deeper

understanding of the issues. The program will offer more support for those orphaned through the AIDS virus and the dysfunctional family situations that result. Through teaching sustainable living practices, together with education on the prevention of HIV, the goal is to see the mortality rate decrease.

To deal with a lack of suitable and affordable education our solution is to provide a school with reasonable class sizes and qualified Zambian teachers who will follow the state curriculum with an emphasis on teaching Christian principles. We will also be able to teach the students computing skills which are highly sought after in the developing African continent. Nb. The criteria for enrolment in the program is not preferential to any religious affiliation.

Long term our goal is to provide a health facility on the site where locals can be trained in elementary health care and receive basic treatment and medication from a Zambian trained health professional.

KNITTED JUMPERS

We would like to thank Mrs Margaret Tickner of Mundijong for kindly knitting a number of jumpers that we are able to give to children in Cambodia and Zambia. Mrs Tickner is the grandmother of Sarah Priest; Sarah is one of the College's Year 12 students who attended the 2010 Zambia Mission Trip.

INTRODUCING MURRAY AND PAM GUY

In the past our experience in sponsoring children has often been very frustrating due to poor communication and lengthy time delays in exchange of letters.

Most disappointing for us was the sudden termination of our sponsorship of a girl in the Philippines we had sponsored for over 10 years. With no warning or reason given, it was a grieving process that followed as to this day we have no idea what happened to her.

With the sponsorship of our Kantolomba children, we saw the opportunity to do something towards assisting sponsors and children to build a real and meaningful relationship through effective communication.

This has led to my wife Pam and I offering to take responsibility

for sponsorship coordination and assistance with administrative matters.

The staff at Kantolomba has been asked to have the children do a drawing etc. for their sponsors. These will be directed to sponsors via the College. Sponsors are likewise encouraged to write to their child/children and include a photo of yourself and small flat items like sheets of stickers, ribbon for girls, bookmarks, animal or bird pictures, cards etc.

Please be sensitive to only send material showing basic things that the children can recognise and understand.

All communication should be sent through Swan Christian College to: Kantolomba Sponsorship Coordinator Swan Christian College PO Box 1516 Midland 6936

If you would like to discuss any sponsorship matters, please contact Murray on 0417174441 or email murrayg@scea.wa.edu.au

NEW IN COUNTRY COORDINATOR



Veronica Sikwangala, the sister of Helen and Mary Zambezi is the new coordinator of The Kantolomba Project. Veronica brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise, and is currently settling into life with her family in Ndola, 20 minutes from Kantolomba. She is a qualified accountant who has worked as a Magistrate as well as at a national government level in overseeing international aid projects. Veronica's incredible passion for helping the poor is demonstrated by her offering her services to help us with The Kantolomba Project. Veronica's input will be invaluable and we thank our Lord for her willingness to be involved.



CAMBODIA 2011 TRIP

An excited and expectant group of students and teachers gathered at the Perth airport in the wee hours of the morning sporting their passports (some brand spanking new) and an adventurous spirit. This was the beginning of the Cambodia Trip 2011.

Our first few days were spent in cultural immersion. We visited The Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng which were incredibly moving as we were faced with the stark reality of the Pol Pot regime and the incredible amount of destruction this brought to Cambodia. While stepping over bones and clothing remnants of individuals slaughtered at the Killing Fields, we were told about and shown the barbaric methods in which these people died because they were, or were perceived to be educated. We were privileged to meet and shake the hand of one of only five survivors of the torture facility of Tuol Sleng.

An afternoon of retail therapy helped lighten the mood as we wandered around the Russian Markets, one of the most popular places to shop for Cambodian locals. By now, students were starting to adjust to the heat and the characteristic smell of Cambodia.

Our group spent several days visiting with Hagar, an organisation that

rescues children and women trafficked for sex in Cambodia. Swan students worked incredibly hard beautifying the Hagar school and shelter area by planting new plants, creating a vegetable garden area and doing some basic garden maintenance. Students enjoyed spending time with the children, playing sports, teaching crafts and attempting Khmer dancing, much to the delight of the locals. Hagar staff took us on a tour of their women's shelter that houses ladies and mothers who are at risk. Some of these mothers are as young as 14. We played with and tried to amuse the babies who were not so delighted with our pale faces. The talented ladies tried to teach us the art of flower making with various silks. Some students were amazed at their own handiwork and the ladies enjoyed teaching foreigners something new.

The majority of students will testify that the highlight of the trip was definitely the time spent at Awareness Cambodia with the orphans that had been rescued. These children have no surviving parents and come from families that are too poor to care for them. The Swan students played games, sang songs, shared stories and generally built relationships with the children over 3 days. We had dance nights, tuk tuk rides and ended with a massive water fight on our final day. It was incredibly

difficult to say goodbye. Many letters and names were exchanged and we have received our first load of letters from Cambodia to our students.

Perhaps the most impacting activity on our itinerary was the visit to the Tip School. This is a school that was established in what is now a defunct tip site to encourage parents to send their children to school in exchange for rice instead of sending them scavenging on the tip for anything saleable. We saw first hand the real poverty of Cambodia. Homes built out of rubbish, amongst rubbish. The sight, smell and sounds were sensory overload for many of us. The images we saw on that day will hopefully impact and motivate our students for decades to come.

The final leg of the trip involved rest and relaxation and a time to reflect on all that was seen and experienced. We walked over and through the great temples of Angkor Wat, which was once a thriving city in ancient times. We were treated to an elephant ride to give us a different view of the temples. The intricate carvings and the sheer enormity of the site was inspiring. Although exhausted and ready for the comforts of home, all students agreed that this was one of the best experiences of their life and were all glad they had embarked on this incredible journey.

Jodie Fairclough

PRAYER POINTS FOR SWAN MISSIONS

MARK 9:23

“EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR HIM WHO BELIEVES.”

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

ZAMBIA

THANK GOD FOR THE PROVISION OF CHARITABLE STATUS FOR THE KANTOLOMBA PROJECT. PRAY THAT THIS WILL ENCOURAGE MANY SPONSORS TO COME ON BOARD.

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN IN KANTOLOMBA THAT GOD WOULD BLESS THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES AS THEY GROW IN WISDOM AND STATURE.

PRAY FOR THE RIDERS AND THE SUPPORT CREW IN THE CYCLE FOR CHANGE BIKE RIDE THAT THEY WILL BE PROTECTED ON THEIR JOURNEY AND BE SUSTAINED IN HEALTH.

PRAY THAT MANY PEOPLE WILL GET BEHIND THEM AND SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR ENDEAVOURS.

PRAY FOR OUR IN COUNTRY PARTNERS IN ZAMBIA “EMANUEL MERCY AND REACHOUT MINISTRIES” THAT THEY WILL HAVE WISDOM AS THEY OVERSEE THE KANTOLOMBA PROJECT.

PRAY FOR THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE LIGHT UP AHEAD DOCUMENTARY AND FOR OPPORTUNITY FOR MAXIMUM EXPOSURE OF THIS DOCUMENTARY THROUGH THE LAUNCH IN NOVEMBER AND POSSIBLE TV VIEWING.

CAMBODIA

PRAY FOR THE SPACES THAT WE STILL HAVE AVAILABLE FOR NEXT YEAR'S TRIP THAT THE RIGHT PEOPLE WILL APPLY TO FILL THOSE POSITIONS AND THAT THOSE APPLICANTS WILL LOOK TO GOD TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR FEES.

PRAY FOR OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS HAGAR INTERNATIONAL, AWARENESS CAMBODIA AND FOCUS CAMBODIA, THAT THEIR MINISTRIES WILL FIND RICH SUPPORT AND BE EFFECTIVE IN BRINGING HOPE AND RESTORATION TO THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA.

PRAY FOR THE STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED THE 2011 CAMBODIA TRIP, THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPACTED AS THEY REFLECT ON THEIR EXPERIENCE. MAY THEY HAVE A MORE APPRECIATIVE AND GENEROUS ATTITUDE AS A RESULT OF THIS EXPERIENCE.