

SONGWWE

2017

SONGWWE VISIT



THANKS!

Thanks to all that donated to our 2017 trip to Songwe Village, we had a successful trip. This year Randy and I were grateful to have three guests with us, Brenda and David Kerstine and Don Carpenter. These three were a huge asset to our time in Songwe as they all three just jumped right in to help in any way they could.



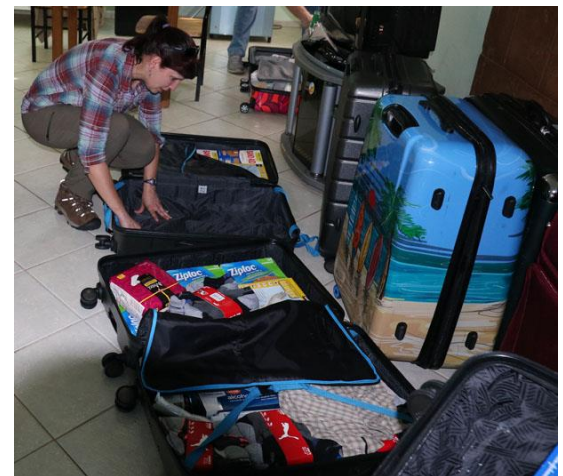
ARRIVALS

BARBARA & RANDY

Randy and I arrived on Thursday May 11th and were met at the airport by Dorothy, our trusted longtime friend, Mr. Fine, the headmaster, and Matthews. This year we had a new place to stay, Gloria's Bed and Breakfast. It was a great relief from the previous very noisy place of previous years.

BRENDA, DAVID, & DON

On Sunday Brenda, David and Don arrived with many suitcases filled with things for the village.



Randy and I had also brought three 50lb bags each so there were lots of needed items for the school and clinic.



THE SCHOOL

Mr. Fine had already prepared the list of requests from the teachers so we could get to shopping right away. Friday and Saturday were spent doing some speed shopping with two vans going in different directions searching for different things. However, I am not sure you can call anything that happens in Africa speedy. Randy was off getting all supplies to paint the clinic and class rooms while I was doing the school supplies. Shopping for school supplies involves going to many small shops where everything is behind a counter, one person takes your order and hand writes each item on a receipt, another puts it together, then you take the receipt to a cashier to pay, a very tedious process. We wanted to get most of the shopping done before our three guests arrived. Our pre-school now has 76 three, four, five and six-year-olds and is a huge success thanks to faithful sponsors.



THE WEEK BEGINS

RAISING THE FLAG

Monday morning, we were all out at the school for the raising of the Zambian flag and the start of a new term.



SUPPLIES

The Vans had delivered the purchased items to the school and two of the offices were full. We went over the items which included pens, pencils, chalk, chalkboard erasers, exercise books and other basics for the classrooms. There were office supplies like toner and paper for the copy machine. Also, many items for the Home Economics, the pre-school and the feeding program. Very important were all the cleaning supplies we purchased for the outhouses, feeding program and general cleaning of the school such as brooms, disinfectants, dish soap, and steel wool to scrub the big pots. Items were purchased for the Tuck Shop which we hope will pay for part of the salary for the second pre-school teacher.



PROJECTS

The big project of getting the clinic painted inside and out was completed with the help of many volunteers. Those that did the painting were volunteers as were the ladies who helped take everything out of the clinic and return it so the inside could be painted. The eight-grade class room and the pre-school class room were also painted by volunteers from the community.



GETTING TO WORK

GENERAL BUSINESS

The salaries of the sanitary lady who cleans the outhouses and Memory, the pre-school teacher, were paid. Memory is also being sponsored to go to college to get her teaching credentials from the government so the government will pay her salary when she finishes. The tuitions of other students being sponsored going to college were paid.

FEEDING & FUTURES

Mr. Wade Hartwell continues to be a huge influence at Songwe School. He continues to see that the students are all fed a meal each day they go to school. The importance of this can't be over stated as this keeps so many students coming to school and sometimes it is their only meal. The computers he donated are a significant addition to the school along with all the other things he continues to do to make the life of the children better. Thanks to Wade, we have more computers than any other school in Zambia.

A few years ago, we were fortunate to get electricity to the school and clinic. Thanks to Wade who put in a water pump the children were no longer having to carry water from the well and the clinic had water. While we were there the water pump went out so a large amount of our money went to replace that water pump which is important to the feeding program.



GIVING & RECEIVING

There are a couple events we do every year that are always a lot of fun not only for those participating but for us also.

“Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people and a heart to forgive the worst. A mind that forget the bad and a soul that never loses faith.”

THE GRANDPARENTS

The best party of the year is the annual giving of gifts to the grandparents. This year we had almost 100 grandparents. Each one is individually handed a bag filled with necessary items, oil, tea, sugar, salt, matches, Vaseline, soap, TP and a candle. There is a lot of dancing and singing, joyfulness, and gratitude.



FUN AT THE VILLAGE

BINGO FOR SHOES

The big event for the ninth graders is the annual Playing Bingo for shoes. This is so much fun and exciting. The student's enthusiasm and eagerness to win a pair of donated shoes or one of the suitcases is awe inspiring.



GOODBYES

The choir sang for us and children did a dance performance.

“Goodbye dear visitors we shall never forget you. Although you are very far away we shall never forget you.”





OUTCOMES

CLASSROOM

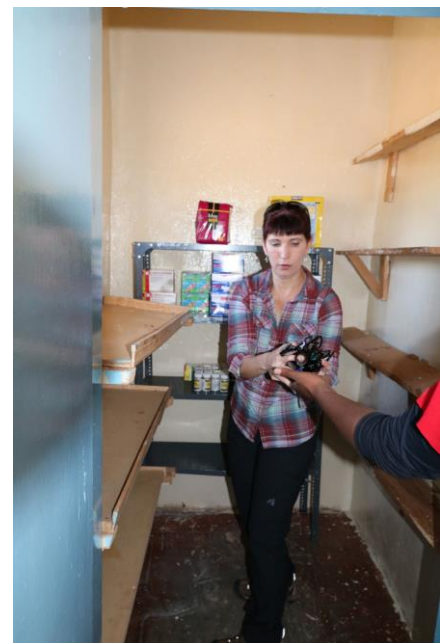


CLINIC



THE STORY CONTINUES

After being at the school for five days Brenda and David committed to making Songwe a part of their lives. They will be part of the team, along with Randy and I and Wade and Sharon that will make the lives of the children in Songwe better. We are dedicated to seeing that the children in Songwe, Zambia get a better chance for an education.



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