



## The Falconer Trust

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Reg Charity  
No. 280864

supporting

## The Falconer Children's Home & Orphanage

KABULAMEMA P.O. BOX 140075, KABOMPO, N.W. PROVINCE, ZAMBIA, AFRICA

CHRISTMAS 1995

# 50 YEARS IN AFRICA!



*Miss Falconer with Luke and Donji*

It was on the 15th January 1946 that Miss Falconer left the UK for Africa and after working as a nurse in a Leper Settlement for a year, in 1947 she started the Children's Home in Kabulamema with her first 6 babies.

Today, aged 82, and having been back in the UK only once in those 50 years, she is still receiving babies into the Home and Orphanage and at present she has 15 babies in her total family of 70 children although about 150-170 people are reliant on the Home for their daily needs.

Altogether she has saved over 550 babies in those years and our picture shows her with Luke, her very first and she is holding Donji who up to August when the picture was taken was her last – 4 more having arrived since.

Miss Falconer's health has been up and down since she was quite ill earlier this year, but the latest phone call from Simon tells us that Mama is much better at the moment 'and is giving orders to us all'.

As we reported in our last newsletter, our son and daughter-in-law (Ken and Pat) paid a visit to the Home on our behalf during August. They flew to Lusaka where they were met by Simon, then on to Ndola and from there the 450 mile journey by road which took them 22½ hours, Ken telling us 'that those dirt roads have to be seen to be believed'.

We are sure that their visit will prove to be a great help for the future of the Home as they have been able to guide us on things to be done immediately in meeting the Home's needs but they have strengthened the liaison with Simon and Sophie – Simon being Miss Falconer's right hand man (and a Paul Harris Fellow) – being the couple accepted by the authorities for the ultimate future running of the Home.

We again SEND OUR THANKS to all the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs together with other groups and individuals, who continue such great support for Miss Falconer and the children in her care. We have been grateful for the large supplies of soups, the groceries, sweets for the children at Christmas, for the 'baby bundles' from the Inner Wheel ladies, for the 'out of date' baby foods and clothing. These together with the financial donations from several Clubs have enabled us to continue to send out a batch of 50 parcels every 3 weeks during the whole of this year. Our son was able to bring back the thanks of Miss Falconer and so many others for what this help meant to them with the ever increasing shortages and high prices in Zambia.

Our house and garage is still full of Harvest Gifts that have come in over recent weeks from many Schools and Churches, all of which we will send out as funds for freight become available. We also hope to meet their needs for a new Hammermill to grind their maize, for new tyres for the Home's vehicles and for their ever increasing running costs.

WATER continues to be a problem at Kabulamema, in Zambia and in parts of Africa generally. All but one of the boreholes dug at the Home at the beginning of the year has stopped producing water as the water table has dropped below the level of the pipes. Additional pipes are being provided in the hope of retrieving the situation. The river at the Home is still their lifeline but it is low and all the water has to be boiled.

Generally, the Zambian Government has just declared 31 districts as drought disaster areas. After 3 years of drought, half of the national maize crop has been lost. Ken and Pat visited the Victoria Falls before their return home and although a mile wide, water was coming over just 50 feet. The water level at Kariba Dam was just 2 metres above the minimum for producing the country's electricity.

The needs of the Home continue as great as ever, for not only are tiny babies still being brought to Miss Falconer but her children of old who married and left the Home are when widowed or divorced coming back under Zambian custom to their original home. Some bring back both children and even grandchildren, thus the family is ever increasing.

We join all at the Home in sending our greetings, with thanks for all your help and support and with best wishes for both CHRISTMAS and THE NEW YEAR.

Yours sincerely,

Henry and Rene Webb



*Victoria Falls in August*