



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 1997

'STILL CARING - STILL SHARING'



One of 600 in 50 years

For over 50 years, Miss Falconer now 84, has been caring for the orphan children in Zambia and although now weak in body she is strong in mind and well in charge of the operations of the Home with the young people carrying on the work through Simon under her instructions.

To show how active her mind is - on the fateful Sunday when the World News reported the death of Princess Diana - Miss Falconer immediately got Simon to go the 34 miles to the phone requesting us to send a letter to the Queen expressing her condolences. This we did and after telling Simon not to expect a reply as there would be many hundreds of such messages going to the Royal family, we were amazed to get

a reply from the Queen and her family from Balmoral Castle within 14 days.

There are still some 70 children at the Home, which includes 45 under 5, but the number of 'old scholars' coming back to the Home when they fall on hard times is increasing. The Home's caring and sharing extends to feeding between 150-170 each day.

ZAMBIA NEWS TODAY

Zambia continues to struggle under its National Debt of £4.5 billion which is 5 times the country's annual export earnings and these earnings have declined by 20% in the year due to lower copper and cobalt production.

We are joining in what is hoped to be 'the World's Largest Petition'. Many Aid agencies are asking for signatures on a petition called JUBILEE 2000 and they hope to present 14 million requests to the World Bank and the I.M. Fund asking them to write off all or some of the national debts of countries like Zambia in the year 2000. (We can send Petition Forms on request).

We heard with dismay of the attempted coup on the 28th October, when plotters led by Captain Solo briefly took over the radio and television complex in Lusaka, but the coup was quelled in 20 minutes with 17 soldiers including Captain Solo being arrested. President Chiluba then went on air saying 'his Government was in office with the full mandate of the people' and everyone should carry on normally.

OUR THANKS FOR YOUR CARING AND SHARING

We continue to be very grateful for all the help that Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs give us especially for the clothing and baby bundles recently received, and with this and the Harvest gifts from many Churches and Schools we have been able to send out 50 parcels a month to the Home containing food, clothing and medicines.

You will remember our efforts to make the Home more self-supporting and our endeavour to meet their request for A LARGE ROLLER MILL that would not only grind their maize, but also grind for the local folk and thus produce an income. We expect the mill to cost in the region of £13,000 and we say A BIG THANK YOU to the 9 Rotary Clubs and the 12 Inner Wheel Clubs who have sent donations towards the project bringing the fund at the moment to just over £8,000.

Our son Ken and his wife Pat who visited the Home in 1995, are planning a further visit for a month in March 1998. This will again be without expense to the Trust and we hope that it will prove as beneficial as their previous trip not only in the exchange of vital information but in the link with Simon and the young people for the future of the Home.

MISS FALCONER AND SIMON have sent a FAX letter in which they express their own thanks for all the help given to them and the family which in turn enables them to care and share with so many in need both in and around the Orphanage.

The letter ends by them sending good wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and adds 'We pray that we go on knowing that God cares for each and everyone of us, and that includes you good people the other side of the seas'.

We add our own Christmas greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Henry and Rene Webb.



Helping themselves