

Please Pray...



- ... Thank God for His constant provision of everything needed for the running of the Home
- ... for the education of the children, that they will have everything they need for regular school attendance
- ... for all of the work taking place to bring about improvements to the Home, including the electricity and water supplies, and the ongoing work at the farms.
- ... for Simon and all of the staff as they strive to provide a safe, secure and loving home for the children.
- ... for the spiritual wellbeing of adults and children.

Thank You

A very big thank you to all who have supported the work in some way, whether through prayer, finance, donation of goods or any other way. May God bless you richly for your efforts on behalf of the children. May you have a happy and blessed Christmas!



The Falconer Trust

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Supporting the Falconer
Children's Home and Orphanage,
Kabulamema, Zambia

Newsletter Christmas 2019



Nothing Is Impossible

"For with God nothing will be impossible"
(Luke 1:37)



When the angel Gabriel confronted Mary with the news that she would bear a child conceived of the Holy Spirit, it is understandable that she struggled to comprehend or believe it. Gabriel, however, explained that with God nothing is impossible. Indeed, scripture is full of seeming impossibilities, made possible by God. The challenge for us is to not dismiss the promises of God as impossibilities, but to have the faith to see them come to fruition.

Facing the seemingly impossible must be a daily occurrence for the staff of the Falconer Home. The challenges are enormous and constant. Will the children be fed tomorrow? Can the necessary repairs be completed? How will the increasing demands of the authorities be satisfied? And yet through prayer, through faith, through trust in God, the Home continues day on day, year on year.

We see God at work at the Falconer Home in so many ways. The old Lister diesel generator, which was inoperable for several years, is now up and running again, thanks to Simon's perseverance and determination. This will mean that running

water can soon be re-established in the main house. Few of us would have considered that this would happen, but with God all things are possible!

We see how God is enabling the farming to flourish, with a great maize crop being harvested this year, and with the promise of greater levels of food production from the livestock.

Of course, these things happen through God's provision, but they require hard work from Simon and his team, as well as constant support from the Falconer Trust - and that support is only possible because of wonderful donors like you! So thank you for all your support, in terms of goods, finance, and most importantly, prayer!



The Children and Their Education



The younger children made animal masks during the visit.

At the time of writing, there are 65 children at the Falconer Home. There are four who are under 2 years of age, 17 of primary school age, and 15 at secondary school. Ten have completed Grade 12, the last year at school (equivalent to our A-Levels). There are around ten children who are preparing to be reintegrated in to their families. The Home has a responsibility to monitor those who return to their families for five years after they have left, and if the child does not settle well in their new home, they are entitled to return to the Falconer Home.

The schools which the children attend are just a short walk from the Home. There is a primary school and a secondary school on the same site. Some classes have as many as 50 to 60 children, due to lack of staff.

It is a requirement of Zambian law that school fees are paid for all children. A significant proportion of the money sent each month to the Falconer Home is used for this purpose. Each pupil must also provide their own stationery, and so the parcels sent from the Falconer Trust regularly include exercise books, note paper, pens, pencils etc. School uniform must also be provided for each child.

Your donations, both in terms of goods and finance, are vital for the education of the children at the Falconer Home.



Time for a haircut!

2019 DVD

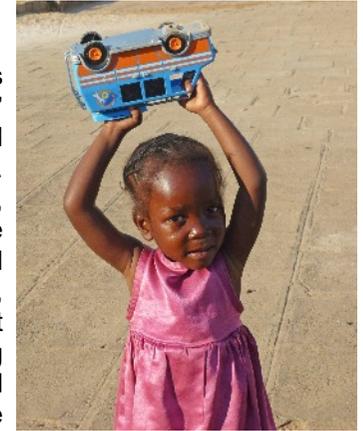
The DVD of the 2019 visit is now available. Please let us know if you would like a copy.

Falconer Trust Visits

Please get in touch if you would like Neil to come and speak about the Falconer Home and the work of the Trust at your church, school, midweek group or other meeting.

Staffing

There is an urgent need to increase staffing levels at the Home. There are currently five 'mamas' (those who look after the younger children), and five other regular staff (cooks, cleaners, guard). There is a need to appoint three more mamas, someone to care for boys over six years, and three more ancillary staff, bringing the total regular paid staff to 17. Under new government regulations, staff must be trained, and must receive at least the minimum wage. Future plans include setting up a nursery school for those not yet of school age, and also establishing a library. Both of these initiatives will require extra staff. This provides a challenge not only for the leaders at the Home, but also for the Falconer Trust here in the UK, as we must find the extra money for salaries.



Repairs and Improvements

Simon writes "We are in our rainy season where challenges are of a totally different nature. Tackling problems becomes a completely different ball game. We shall have our rains right through to April next year. But work has to continue even in the worst rainy situations."

Simon's intention is that the farms produce sufficient food that the children can be fed and some can be sold to produce an income. To this end, two houses are being built to provide accommodation for farm workers, and a poultry house is being constructed.



Work continues on the kitchens in the main house, and a new outdoor traditional kitchen is being built. This is where the nshima is cooked daily.

Although repairs have been carried out on the roof of the main house, Simon is concerned that a more extensive repair is needed. He would like to replace the asbestos roofing sheets, which are very brittle, with tin sheets. Some work is also necessary on repairing the roofing joists.

Of particular importance are the establishing of reliable power and water supplies. Although the Lister diesel generator is now running, it is very old and cannot be relied upon long term. A replacement must be considered a necessity. This will enable to Home to also have a regular water supply from the river.