



**The
Falconer
Trust**

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

Newsletter Christmas 2021



God's Word Never Fails!



For no word from God will ever fail.

(Luke 1:37)

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that she was to become the mother of the Son of God, she asked 'How will this be?' Gabriel assured her that God's word never fails. This was true not just for Mary, but for every Christian throughout the ages.

In all the challenges faced by those at the Falconer Home, the task must sometimes seem impossible, and the question 'How can this be?' Must be frequently asked. God, however, is faithful to his promises, and never lets us down.



The roof replacement project has been fraught with difficulties - time constraints due to the onset of the rainy season; accommodating the children while the work is carried out; removal and disposal of the old asbestos roof; the lorry bringing materials from Lusaka breaking down. And yet God will see it through. In a recent phone conversation Simon seemed quite relaxed that the work would be completed.

He said that although the rainy season has started, there are a few rainy days followed by several dry days, so the work is able to progress. The materials have now arrived, and the photographs shows the steel for the roof trusses being unloaded from the lorry, and the green roofing sheets.



Other projects have had to be put on hold while the roof replacement takes place. Some work has been carried out on the building for the new generator. The inside has been plastered, and a floor has been laid. The roof of the generator house will use the same metal sheets as the main house.

Parcels



The latest batch of parcels to arrive at the Home

The sending of parcels continues to present many challenges. New, more complex customs procedures in Zambia have slowed down the process considerably. We have had to wait for two months for paperwork on the latest batch of parcels to be approved. Until this is done we cannot send a batch, otherwise the parcels will sit on a border or in a warehouse for several weeks, accruing huge storage charges.

Our fourth batch of 2021 has just been delivered to Purfleet, from where it will be put in a container and travel by ship to Durban, then by road into Zambia.

The recent global supply chain crisis has resulted in an increase in shipping costs, from £375 to £400 per cubic metre. This means that

sending a batch of parcels now costs nearly £2000.

We are so grateful for all the donations which we receive, whether in goods or in finance. During the Harvest season we received many wonderful food donations, including the pictured goods from Manor Infants and Manor Longbridge School in Dagenham and Barking.



The Children



Simon reports that all of the children are well, and are happy. The older ones are helping with many tasks around the Home, including working at the farm and in the vegetable garden. In the picture some of the younger children are helping to unload plastic drums from the lorry which brought in the parcels and building materials. The drums will be used to make a pontoon for the water pump in the river.

All of the children are benefiting from the food which is contained in the parcels, especially Weetabix, porridge oats, and tinned fish and meat, which help to maintain a healthy balanced diet.

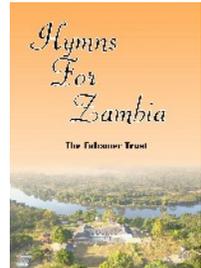
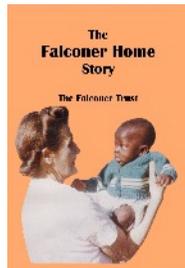
Covid-19

At the time of writing, Zambia has recorded around 210,000 cases, resulting in about 3,660 deaths. There was a peak in these numbers around June and July 2021, and have now tailed off to very small numbers in the last month. Vaccinations, however, remain very low, with only 4% of the population having received two doses.

The Falconer Home would appear to have remained Covid-free so far. Please pray that it remains so.

DVDs

Two DVDs are available: 'Hymns for Zambia' is a collection of eighteen hymns played on the piano, each hymn accompanied by pictures and video clips of some aspect of the Falconer Home.



'The Falconer Home Story' tells of how the Home came into being, from Lilius Falconer's calling to work in Africa, to the challenges of the present day.

If you would like copies of these DVDs, please get in touch. A small donation to cover costs would be appreciated.

News From The Trust

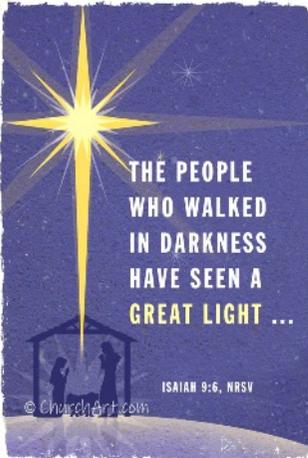
As you may expect, there has not been a visit to the Home by the Falconer Trust this year, and it is unlikely that a visit will take place in 2022, due to the continuing Covid risks.

Neil Starling is available to give talks to churches and midweek groups. If you would like him to visit please email at mail@thefalconertrust.co.uk.



The lorry arriving with the roofing materials

We are most grateful to our volunteers Brian and Margaret Nash, whose help in packing boxes and keeping the unit in order is invaluable. Brian will be having a hip operation in December, so will be out of action for a while. Please remember them both in your prayers.



Please Pray...

- ... that the work on the roof replacement is completed quickly and safely.
- ... that the customs process for parcels can be speeded up, so that we can maintain a regular supply of parcels to the Home.
- ... that the Falconer Home continues to remain Covid-free.
- ... for Brian as he undergoes his hip operation, that the operation goes smoothly and he has a speedy recovery.

Thank You

A very big thank you to all who have supported the work throughout the year 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, blessed, peaceful and safe Christmas!



Margaret and Brian

The Falconer Trust

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