



Persevere!

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12

It is clear that for anyone who undertakes the overseeing of a work such as the Falconer Home, one key characteristic must be perseverance. Difficulties never come singly, but there are always myriad challenges to face - maintaining the buildings and infrastructure, meeting the demands of the authorities, managing the resources available, and of course, most importantly, ensuring that the children are properly cared for.

Simon must often feel like the challenge is too great, but his faith in a God who never lets us down sees him through. In a recent message he spoke of his "great faith in our God. He has been our main support in all our stay here"

The replacement of the roof of the main house is proving to be a much bigger and more challenging task than had previously been thought. The first difficulty is that of providing alternative

accommodation for the children while the work is carried out. Although provision had been made for this, the Social Services have demanded a much higher standard of accommodation, even though it would only be temporary. This has resulted in precious time and resources having to be diverted to upgrade the buildings which had been earmarked for this purpose.

A further challenge is the extra work needed to be carried out in order to provide adequate support of the new roof trusses. Pillars will need to be built to support the weight of the trusses, and a ring beam will need to be installed along the top of the walls. This all adds to the cost and time-scale of the project. Now that the rainy season is ending, it is hoped that the work can be completed before the start of the next one in October.



Steel for making the roof trusses

Video Update



At the end of February a new 7-minute video update was published on YouTube, with news on the generator, the roof project and the Covid situation. To watch the video, click on the link: <https://youtu.be/LfulhJhdsbU>

or go to YouTube and type in the search box 'Falconer Children's Home Update February 2022'.

Visits

As all Covid restrictions have now been lifted in England, Neil is available to give talks on the work of the Falconer Home to churches, midweek groups and schools. Please phone or email if you would like to arrange a visit.

The Generator

The new generator is now in its newly built house, and is finally running. We trust that it will make a significant difference to daily life for everyone at the Home.



Simon with the generator in its new house

Covid

Although the pandemic dominates our thoughts a little less than this time last year, it still presents its problems. Thankfully, the number of infections and deaths in Zambia is low compared to the UK. As of March 23rd, there have been just over 316,000 cases, and almost 4,000 deaths. The vaccination rate, however, is also low, with only 15% of the population having received two doses. For this reason, the Falconer Trust is not planning to visit the Home in 2022. As far as we are aware, no-one at the Falconer Home has contracted the virus, though both Miriam and Clarks have had covid while being away from the Home.



Some Important Visitors



The Ministry of Finance officials with some of the children.

On 1st March the Falconer Home was visited by three officials from the Zambian Revenue Authority (Zambia's equivalent of our HMRC) and the Ministry of Finance. They had come to check that the Home was a bona fide charitable institution, necessary in order to complete all the legal documentation for the Home, in particular the Customs Rebate Certificate. Simon reported that it was a very successful visit, describing it as "a happy and fruitful meeting... they returned full of praise to God for Mama Falconer's dedication to this work. They were so touched that I was left greatly encouraged".

Tuesday 8th March was International Women's Day, and to mark the occasion a large group of women from the Kabulamema community visited the Home, bringing gifts of fresh food, and singing their beautiful worship songs. Simon Said "The proceeds from all areas around the community all came to the Falconer Home. I was grateful as always when local recognition of our efforts pleases the community".



Parcels

The customs clearance process for the parcels which the Trust sends is becoming more and more difficult. The Zambian Ministry of Health now require an enormous amount of information for every item of food which is sent, and this has slowed down the process enormously, making it difficult to dispatch parcels at the rate that we would wish. Falconer Home staff and trustees are negotiating with government officials to see the process can be simplified for them. The parcels are an important part of the support which we offer the Home, and Simon relies on them a great deal, Please pray resolution of this issue.



Please Pray...

- ... for the ongoing work of replacing the roof, and preparing the alternative accommodation
- ... for Simon and his staff as they face the many challenges which the Home presents
- ... for all at the Falconer Trust here in the UK, as we seek to provide the most effective and appropriate help to the falconer Home.
- ... for a resolution of the difficulties regarding the sending of parcels.



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.

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