



## **The Lord Protects and Provides**

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear...*

*(Psalm 46:1-2a)*

In May, Neil and Dennis visited the Falconer Home for two weeks. It was a time of highs and lows, as they witnessed encouraging aspects of the work, but also frustrations and challenges. Most importantly, however, they witnessed God at work amongst His people. Many aspects of the visit are covered in more detail overleaf, but one particular episode bears testimony to God's protection and provision.

A few days into the visit, the Home's vehicle, a Toyota 4x4, was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle on the dirt tracks near to the Home. The car was being driven by Hendrix, one of Simon's young workers, and there were several passengers in the vehicle. There were also several in the other car. Many of those involved sustained injuries, but by the grace of God none were too serious, and all have made a good recovery. The car, however, was seriously damaged, and is unlikely ever to be drivable again.



*The car at the scene of the accident.*

The car is vital not only to the Home, but to the whole community of Kabulamema, so this created a great challenge. Simon was philosophical about it, saying 'perhaps the Lord wants me to remain on site for a while to concentrate on the jobs to be done'.

Neil put an appeal on the Falconer Trust's Facebook page, and immediately supporters started sending gifts

towards a replacement vehicle, and within a couple of weeks we had over £8,000. A replacement was found and purchased through Mechanics for Africa, and by the time you read this it will be in use at the Home.

We are so grateful to God for His protection and provision. We recognise that this provision came through the generosity and obedience of His children, and we are very grateful to all of you who made this possible.



*The car purchased as a replacement.*

# The 2018 Visit

During the last two weeks of May, Neil and Dennis visited the Falconer Home, and experienced the various highs and lows of life in Kabulamema. It was good to see that the children continue to look happy and healthy, and to hear of the many plans to improve various aspects of the work, including upgrades to accommodation, and training for staff. There remain many huge challenges, however, including the need for urgent repairs to the roof of the main house, and much work to be done in order to meet the latest Zambian minimum requirements for childcare facilities.



There is a need to recruit more staff to look after the children, as financial restraints have caused a number of workers to leave in recent years. All staff must also be trained, and much work has gone into the administrative side of staff recruitment. This includes job descriptions, conditions of service documents etc. It is also necessary to improve accommodation and facilities at the home. Toilets are being installed in the main house and the boys' dormitory, but there is a need for much better accommodation for the girls in order to overcome overcrowding and hygiene issues.



Electricity and water continue to provide a major challenge. Throughout our visit Simon worked on the main Lister generator, in the hope of finally getting it running after a very long time out of action. Without this generator the water pump which feeds the water tanks cannot operate, so there is currently no running water. Furthermore, repairs are still taking place on two leaking tanks. Electricity is currently provided by a small portable generator which can power some lighting, and there is some solar powered lighting. Local officials assure us that mains electricity will reach Kabulamema by the end of the year, but even if this happens, the main house will require a complete re-wire.

Before the trip Dennis built a ram pump, which he took out to demonstrate to Simon. A ram pump enables water to be pumped to a higher level without the aid of power. Simon was very excited about the possibilities of this, as it can provide irrigation to land where crops can be grown.

Plans are under way to improve the kitchen in the main house, and to build a second kitchen. This project has received financial support from the Rotary Club



of Sidcup, for which we are very grateful. Work cannot start, however, until the roof repairs have been completed, so that new equipment will not be damaged by leaks.

Since the visit Simon has suffered a great deal with poor health, with chest problems and high blood pressure. This raises concerns not only for Simon himself, but also for the future leadership of the Home.

## **News of the Children**

Since the visit in May, a new baby boy has arrived at the Home. This brings the current total of children and young people to around 89. The children, as ever, seem happy and generally healthy.

## **Parcels**

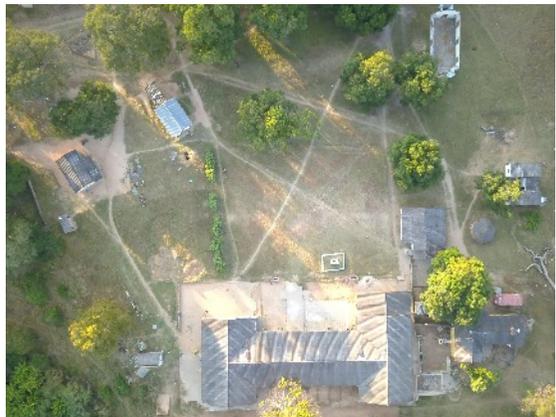
Parcels are arriving safely in Ndola at the rate of six or seven batches of 60 per year. The challenge, however, is getting the parcels from Ndola to Kabulamema. Recently a government lorry was hired to bring a year's worth of parcels to the Home. This aspect of the process is very expensive and quite unsatisfactory, as the parcels need to be collected much more regularly. We are currently exploring ideas for how we can make sure that parcels are delivered to the Home three or four times a year. We are also reviewing what goods go into the parcels, so that we can ensure that they are of maximum benefit to the children.

## **Visits**

Neil regularly gives presentations about the Falconer Home and the work of the Trust. If you would like him to visit your church, midweek group, school or other meeting, please get in touch.

## **2018 DVD**

A DVD of this year's visit is currently in preparation. Please let us know if you would like a complimentary copy when it is ready.



*An aerial view of the main house and surrounding buildings.*

## Please Pray...

- ... Thank God for the protection of those involved in the car accident, and for the provision of a replacement vehicle.
- ... for Simon's health, as he has been ill a number of times recently.
- ... for the various projects which will bring improvements to living conditions at the Home.
- ... for electricity and water problems to be overcome.
- ... for improvements in the staffing of the Home
- ... for the health and wellbeing of all the children and young people
- ... for those who are in leadership positions at the Home: Simon, Clarks, Miriam, Justine, Eunice, that they may have wisdom as they seek to progress the work of the Home

## 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.



*A rainbow over the river Kabompo following a very unexpected rainfall.*

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