



Van Ravenstein Zambia Mission Work – January 2020 Update

“Again, Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. He taught them many things by parables.” – Mark 4: 1-2a

Jesus often taught through stories and parables to those around him and we have come to learn how important stories are through spoken and written word. When we first started sponsoring children in 2013, at a small school in the village that Matildah grew up in, we always had dreams of one day creating a library. This would be monumental for this village, a place to access learning through reading and stories, just as Jesus once had done for his followers.

Matildah, along with Tyler and Tsepo, went to Zambia for 6 weeks in December and January and we are excited to share our update as well as future goals.

School Sponsorship

We have increased our sponsorship program based on the overwhelming support at our last fundraising dinner, now sponsoring 13 students from our previous 6. In addition



to paying the school fees, ranging from \$10/year to \$150/year, we also purchased school supplies for each student. These included new shoes, new backpacks, exercise books, notepad, pens and pencils among other items. The rest of the school was provided with additional notebooks and writing

materials as well as soccer uniforms and balls donated by Tyler's soccer club, Surrey United.



One of our students Cannister has been on our program for the last three years. She is now in grade 7 and last year was one of the top students in her grade. The teachers usually identify new students that require our support based on their family situation and requested we include her brother Bruno. (pictured on the left with his mom and sister Canister, in front of their kitchen) As he entered Grade 9 the family was struggling to pay his school fees and therefore his attendance was slipping. At home, the father was mentally unstable and rarely around, the mother was not only caring for Bruno

and Cannister but also the primary caregiver for their aging grandmother.

Library Construction and Future Plans

In December we officially opened the library and additional classroom block with a ceremony attended by the village headman, parent teacher board, teachers, parents and students. As quoted by Agness, one of our sponsored students in a vote of thanks, "this donation and charitable works have come at the right time. We promise you madam (Matildah) that we shall work extra hard and guard this facility very jealously." The library along with two classrooms will be a source of hope to continue to offer greater education for the students and village as a whole.



We are working with the school to have the finishing touches completed on the library including building up our supply of books. As we look ahead, we are in the beginning stages of discussions to create a science lab at the school. We look forward to updating you further on this in the coming months.

Financials

All of this amazing work would not have been possible without the support that we received in the past year. We continue to ask and encourage you to come along on this journey with us through prayers, financial giving, thoughts and encouragements.

If you would like to join with us in these projects you can do so through the following ways:

1. Online: <https://gcfcanda.com/kevin-van-ravenstein/>
2. By Cheque:

Payable to: The Great Commission Foundation

RE: Kevin Van Ravenstein 602

Can be given directly to Kevin or Matildah or mailed to

Great Commission Foundation
PO Box 14006
Abbotsford, BC V2T 0B4