



## *Van Ravenstein Zambia Mission Work – February 2021 Update*

We just wanted to start by saying thank you so much to everyone that has continued to support, both prayerfully and financially the works being done at the school in Kabuyu, the rural village in Zambia. Despite the year presenting with its own unforeseen challenges, you all have continued to do that which you have always done, supporting the ongoing work at the school.

### *School Update*

The pandemic hasn't really spared anyone and of course the least privileged in society are always the hardest hit. Schools in Zambia were closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic and only reopened for all learners in September (some grades opened earlier to complete annual exams).

Once the school reopened, we continued to work with the teachers at the school with some ongoing improvements to the existing rooms. In the last quarter we were able to send money so that the library / computer lab we built in early 2020, as well as the administration office, could have some additional furnishings. This included additional tables and chairs in the library, chalkboards, office chairs, bathroom sinks and washbasins for additional hand hygiene, in response to the pandemic.

We are so thankful to have honest school management that we can carry on works at the school even while we are in Canada. A final update on the funds sent for furnishings in the fourth quarter will be coming from the school shortly.

### *School Update*

As mentioned in our January 2020 update, we are working on a goal of starting construction of a science lab for the school. We plan to travel in the later part

of 2021 to help with this large project. We are very excited as a new science lab will provide many opportunities for the school and reduce additional costs to students. When students in national exam grades have to write exams, they need to write from a school with a science lab. Schools that do not have a science lab (including our school in Kabuyu), have to send pupils to neighbouring schools, including paying some fees, to use their facilities. The school has to arrange to transport the pupils as well as arrange for them to remain for a couple of days while they write the national exams.

As much as the science lab is an expensive and large project, the massive benefits that it will bring to the school are exciting. It will not only bring increased learning through a more hands-on approach to science but will also potentially be an income source with other schools using the facilities.

Our hope for this year is to travel to Zambia in late 2021 in order to get started on the science lab. When we are in Zambia, we are able to coordinate the construction a lot easier than when back in Canada. Our goal is to raise funds for the science lab and also a portion of our travel expenses. As noted below in our financial summary we have a healthy balance to begin this project, but to undertake this large project even more support is needed.

We look forward to working with you and the village of Kabuyu, to construct the science lab at the school.

## *Financials*

We continue to accept donations through our partner site, The Great Commission Foundation. We once again thank each and everyone of you that have continued on this journey with us. You are part of our source of inspiration so keep on with the prayers, thoughts, encouragements and monetary donations. If you would like to join with us in these projects you can do so through the following ways:

1. Online: <https://gcfcanada.com/kevin-van-ravenstein/>
  - a. See link for U.S. donor page
2. By Cheque:
  - a. For Canadian Donations:
    - i. Payable to: The Great Commission Foundation
    - ii. RE: **Kevin Van Ravenstein 602**
    - iii. *Can be given directly to Kevin or Matildah or mailed to*  
Great Commission Foundation  
PO Box 14006  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 0B4

b. For U.S. Donations

- i. Payable to: Friends of The Great Commission
- ii. RE: **Kevin Van Ravenstein F602**
- iii. *Can be mailed directly to*  
Friends of The Great Commission  
PO Box 6305  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904