

PARTNERPLAN

Jenny Featherstone - Zambia July 2018

Chodort Training Centre, Choma
PO Box 630451, Kitwe, Zambia

Dear Church friends,

Here are a few of the events this year,

In December / January we experienced a severe Cholera outbreak in Lusaka with deaths rising to 3 figures. As a result all schools and colleges were stopped from opening in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease. The reasoning behind this was many schools over here have boarding facilities and the movement of people would exacerbate the spread of germs. At one point it was even considered to stop church assemblies, but that was too much for most Zambians so the ban was just restricted to not shaking hands after church and all schools and colleges were inspected to ensure they had enough hand washing facilities and adequate toilets.

The knock on effect of this was we could not start our new college year till late February, with the new sponsored courses for Level 3 in Tailoring, Food Production and Carpentry. I am pleased to



A level 3 tailoring student

say all those who took the exams in Carpentry and Food production passed, but of those in Tailoring two people failed. This was under exceptional circumstances though, and if given a re-run (Level 3 only does practical not written exams) I am sure they will pass. This is because the exam piece of work they had to do (a pair of trousers) was not on their curriculum and is usually taught at the higher levels 2 and 1.

The houses we were building in 2017 were finished in March but as yet unoccupied. This is because Zesco, our national electricity company has no electricity meters despite many complaints we have to wait just like everyone else.

April saw a visit from four of our German partners from Dortmund who spent some time looking round and talking to us about Chodort. It is evident that we have to make a number of changes to the way we do things as if TEVETA are continuing to sponsor free training to vulnerable people twice a year, this only covers 6 months of the academic year. Also people are reluctant to sign up for a year and achieve levels 1 or 2 if they can hang back and get free training, so our numbers of year students are greatly reduced.

Our volunteer Jakob Zenger is making his mark, not only for his skill in mechanics and starting up our facebook page, but now in bee keeping. We have 2 hives in the garden and around October I am told we can look forward to some lovely honey, I continue to be delighted with the way Jane is running play4all. This year sees another round of the Gothia Youth Cup. Some of you may remember her touching letter about the 5 young girls who went to Sweden in 2016 as part of the Zambian team. Well. This year 3 of our boys have been chosen. This is a remarkable feat for a



The girls dancing in the Gothia cup parade in 2016

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small no-nothing little township where half the inhabitants have no electricity or running water. The tournament is in July and I am sure we will be hearing from Jane about the further adventures of Play4all's footballers.

Here are the links <https://www.gothiakup.se/https://www.facebook.com/ZambiaPlay4All/>

On a sad note, today I am going to the funeral of Muchinta Mukupa. He was a 21 year old who was top of his class in last year's computer intake. He had been complaining of stomach pains for about a week and a few hours after being taken to hospital died at the weekend. I can't help comparing to the health care in the UK where I am sure this sort of event is extremely uncommon, partly because of the facilities in our hospitals but partly because we are generally much more aware of health issues and have better access to doctors than here in Zambia.

Finally to the events of last night, when I was woken by Jet barking, I got up to let him out and immediately he ran to our 3 meter high gate and I saw a youth straddled on top of it. What are you doing I shouted (trying to compete with Jet) amazingly instead of running away he stayed and pleaded with me for several minutes just saying he was hungry and wanted food. Now I am not so naive as to think he was going to raid my radishes, but that sort of excuse speaks volumes in itself.



Jet (left) by the gate with Rocky

Items for prayer

- That the play4all boy's trip to Sweden will be as fruitful as the one in 2016.
- For the grieving Mukupa family and many like them.
- That we will be successful in our tender for a 3rd lot of sponsored training
- That our houses will soon have electricity metres and be ready to rent!
- For the improvement in healthcare in Zambia.
- For a reduction in inflation (currently 20%)

Items for Praise

- The completion of the new houses (almost)
- For the inclusion of Chodort in the first TEVTA programme in 2018.
- For the good work of the guard dogs (both at home and at the classrooms)
- For the new Chodort website by David Horch (last year's volunteer.)
- For the positive influence Zambia has had on Jakob and vice versa.

With every good wish to you all,

Jenny

Jenny Featherstone

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Websites <https://www.facebook.com/ZambiaPlay4All/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Chodort-Training-Centre>