



Dear Friends and Supporters of HELP for Zambia,

I wanted to give an update on our spring 2020 project. As many of you will remember, our team of 7 Canadians were supposed to head to Zambia in May to begin a project, with the help of the local men, to convert the poor village school in Fitanda, into a more functional facility. Our goal was to raise \$10,000 to pay for having a well dug, as well as building materials for a bathroom and second classroom. The existing classroom has a dirt floor but needs a cement floor.

A couple of weeks ago, the Ministry of Health of Zambia visited the school and shut it down, stating that it cannot reopen until there is a proper water source, a bathroom and a second classroom so that the children can social distance.

When I met with Kathy at Loads of Love to add up the money that has come in for this project, feeling unsure that we would be anywhere near our goal, Praise God, after going through the finances, we discovered that you all have helped us raise \$9,920! This amount has been wired to Thandi, my partner in ministry in Zambia. She and her father will oversee the completion of this project so that the children can return to school. We will keep you updated with pictures once the building project is underway.

It is very important to get these children back to school not only so they can get an education, but also to keep the teenagers occupied. During the months that all schools were closed due to Covid, some of the children became involved in drugs and some of the young girls were married off, so these students have not returned to school. We pray that this project will be completed quickly!

Another very exciting project is underway. HELP for Zambia has a heart to help women and children reach their potential by helping them become self-sufficient. A huge way that this can happen is through education. Thandi, her mother, and Mrs. Chiwala, a local widow, have started an Empowerment School for women. 28 women are currently enrolled in this three month program, with many more waiting for a spot in the next session. They are learning basic sewing, how to build a brick oven and make food in it, and how to properly clean a house and care for children so they can be employed as household help. The end result of this training is that these women will have skills that will make them employable. These women are also farming a field we have purchased, to grow food for their families, and the hungry school children.

Mrs. Chiwala has been helping with the empowerment school as well, going into deep rural areas to identify women who are struggling to make ends meet, helping them learn some skills and inviting them to help with the agricultural program. We look forward to seeing how God uses these women for His glory. They will be a blessing to their families as well as to others as they support their families and encourage and empower other women around them to learn and become self-sufficient.

We did a Facebook Fundraiser over the past couple of weeks with a goal of raising \$600 to buy seeds, insecticides, fertilizer, and tools, so the women could work the fields to provide food for the village. Praise God, we raised \$650. No one will go hungry in this village this year!

We appreciate your prayers, encouragement and support.

With Love from Crystal and Thandi, HELP for Zambia