



Action for Children ZAMBIA

A Word from Carol in Zambia

Greetings to all during this difficult time,

My dear friends, we here in Zambia are with you in spirit and prayer each day as we read the news of the coronavirus spread throughout America and Europe. Most of us survived the Cholera epidemic here just a few years ago, we know how difficult this is. As of this moment in Zambia, there are less than 40 identified cases of COVID in the country. Zambia took quick action long before the virus even arrived. Schools closed and travelers coming into Zambia are quarantined for two weeks at the government's expense. As they often say, experience can be the best teacher. We have learned a great deal from past epidemics and pray that the virus remains contained and manageable within our borders.

Here at AFCZ, we made the decision to split the children

evenly among the three childcare sites and to be self-quarantined at each site. We are taking advantage of this time together to work on our educations. I am so grateful that the colleges and trade schools are also closed. With all the "big guys" home and helping, together this quarantine is much easier to handle.

It is an amazing time to sit down and talk with the kids and learn what's really going on in their lives. Many of us are finding enjoyment in being quarantined together. We are also enjoying our Facebook messenger video and text chats with many of you that are at home in other countries and have some free time. The time difference is not a barrier when we set the school schedule and can be flexible. If you and/or your children want to video chat with Zambia, use the Carol McBrady Facebook page messenger. We love to hear from you!

I pray that even with all that's going on, you would please remember us at this time. The month of May means that the second term school fees are due. We are tightening the belt here in Zambia as are many of you.

Just this week AFCZ received an online donation from a doctor who, "Wanted to do something that would make a positive impact." I am inviting you to join Dr. Alicja Ra and help us continue our efforts to make a positive impact in the lives of our children and all of Zambia. As always, we will monitor funds closely and make sure your donation gets to the children and/or is used as you have directed.

May God be your shield of protection. May your faith grow each and every day. And may your 'shelter in place' be short and effective.

God Bless You - today and always,

Mama Carol & Children

AFCZ Newsletter
May 2020

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| A Word from Carol | 1 |
| New Address Info. | 1 |
| Help from Home Fundraiser | 2 |
| Shelter in Place Advice | 2 |
| Redemption House | 2 |
| Education Leaders | 3 |
| Education in the Midst of Crisis | 3 |
| Holy Week Retreat | 4 |
| The Glorious Farm | 4 |

NEW ADDRESS

AFCZ
PO Box 353,
Maple Lake, MN
55358

Or you can contact us through the website.
www.afczambia.org

Stay in Touch
Facebook Pages for Action for Children Zambia or Carol McBrady

“Help from Home” Annual Fundraiser 2020

The **Annual Fundraiser** has changed. We fully recognize that many of our donors’ situations have changed due to the coronavirus and its physical, emotional, and economic effects upon your lives.

We make our request because with your help Carol’s kids thrive within a safe home; get an education, consistent family living, and

enormous amounts of love.

Education and **operating costs** remain our largest expenses. Please **Help from your Home**. We will miss gathering and sharing news in person, but hope to meet up when Carol is back.

As always, **keep Carol** and the children in **your prayers**.

Carol’s Family & Friends

Donations can be made by credit or debit card at our website www.afczambia.org click the **DONATE NOW** button.

Or Facebook page

Or by check in the mail:
Action for Children Zambia
PO Box 353
Maple Lake, MN 55358.

Surviving Shelter in Place Advice from Carol

Here is what we are doing at AFCZ to work with shelter in place. We get that serotonin moving – increase the heart rate for at least one hour every day. We break it into 30-minute periods if possible.

***We go on a morning run after breakfast. By only going with the group you live with, we keep the kids together and safe. Remember to maintain a 2-meter distance with anyone you encounter along the way.

***Turn the music on and Dance – Everyone sings along – preferably at the top of their voices!

***Choose two things that you enjoy and cannot do without them during this time of stress. Check to be sure you have access to them and plenty in stock. Guard these with your life!

***For me, I chose good coffee and baking. Yes – it seems frivolous. But it is a sanity lifesaver.

***Take **E.L.M.A.** time. E.L.M.A. stands for **Everyone Leave Me Alone**. During times of quarantine and high stress, everyone in your house will need to be able to claim some of this time. Be sure there is alternative for care of the children under your roof when you take ELMA time. Use the older kids, work with your partner in parenting and schedule it. Everyone knows what ELMA time is and the rules. The rules we keep are simple – talk to your uncles. If they are not around, unless there’s blood or broken bones – work it out yourselves. You will survive and I will join you soon.

(*Remember, I rarely have kids under the age of 8.)

*** Always remember the ‘**P**’ words. **Practice Patience, Prayer, and Play!**
It is your **Power**.



Isaac was brought to us after being dumped by his caretakers at the church. We are blessed to have him join our family. He loves to cook!

Redemption House Project – Building a New Home

A **BIG SHOUT OUT** to all those that helped us complete phase one of our building project. Our new and permanent Redemption House now has water, village chickens, a security fence, a guard house and an outdoor toilet. Progress continues to be made!

Next up - building children’s homes! Keep this project in your prayers!



Redemption House Building Project

Phase One is complete – (By the boys).

Right picture - outdoor toilet – (The toilet is in the corner in the back!)

Education Excellence



School Leaders: left to right.
Chris Ntimpa, Chris Musonda,
Bupe Chanda, and Matthew Chota

We are very proud of you!

Once again **Action for Children Zambia students** turn out to be good **leaders** at school. Over the years we have produced several **head boys, vice head boys and prefects**. 2020 continues that tradition.

This year, we have two in grade 12. One is the Head Boy at Jatamo Private School and the other is the Vice Head Boy at Smart Private School. In addition, two of the boys were selected as prefects, one from each school.

Congratulations and Keep Up

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

A **Head Boy** is the highest honor bestowed upon Zambian students. He is chosen as the representative of the school in the community and to be the voice of student issues.

The **Vice Head Boy** is the second in line of command

The **Prefect** is the next in line of command of student leadership. They are selected by teachers to assist with classroom needs, represent the school, organize school activities and give voice to student concerns.

Education in the Midst of Crisis

It has been a difficult school term. First, school closed due to rioting. Then, midterm break was followed by a short week with two holidays. And now, school is cancelled due to the coronavirus. To avoid our students falling too far behind, we planned to have class every day at home. Here in Zambia, there is **no distance learning** or online lessons, so we are doing it the **old-fashioned way**. We are so fortunate our college students are home with us and three of whom are seniors studying education! They quickly joined the education at home workforce. The children were split up according to grade levels and locked within the gates of their shelter in place home - along with plenty of soap. **Redemption House** is sheltering the 8th – 12th grade boys. We are blessed that the headmaster of one of their schools, Mr. Kayoka, has joined them. They are busy staying current and making sure our **seniors will be ready for exams**.



The little ones are sheltering at **Kulanga Bana**. Here the staff, along with Raban who is majoring in primary education and Emmanuel, who is a social work student kept them very busy. They are **learning and playing!**

Education continued...



Always time for FUN!

Sheltering at **Salvation Home**, are the 5th, 6th and 7th graders. What a treat! They are fun and **eager to learn**. Mackson and Sunday, our secondary education majors, are doing a great job teaching them every day.

It is going very well. Although there is stress all around, everyone is **settling into a routine** and getting along nicely. We pray the learning will continue and carry over into all the children do.

Holy Week Retreat

The **annual reconciliation retreat** during Holy Week took on a new flavor this year. We were not able to bring all of us together in one place. For those that do not know the history, this annual retreat started many years ago with the help of the brothers from the seminary. We learned early on that **forgiveness** and **reconciliation** are key elements of a child's ability to overcome life in the streets and move into a successful future. This annual retreat is a critical component of that. When possible, alumni and those who have lived under the care of AFCZ join in the retreat. Testimonies are given, stories told and the Gospel studied and preached. It is an amazing **time of transformation**, especially for the new ones, culminating in all night prayer on Good Friday and a spiritual rebirth fire at dawn. The retreat concludes with the Easter Vigil mass on Holy Saturday and a blessed, festive feast on Easter Sunday. This year, we could not gather because of sheltering in place guidelines. Each house followed the Holy Week Retreat format separately. From the reports and stories told the results were wonderful. **Holy Week** continues to be a **sacred time** of renewal - coronavirus could not stop that!



The Glorious Green & Growing Farm

Zambia is **celebrating an outpouring of proper rains** for the first time in six years. Thank you for your prayers. **God was listening** and his response was appreciated by the entire country.

Maize crops are good, and the garden is magnificent. We are **eating the fruits of our labor**. Finally!



Our maize crop!



The garden!

