



Newsletter



No. 6 November 2019

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Welcome

Welcome to our 6th Newsletter. Again, it is full of news of our programmes, facts and figures, and introduces a new feature 'Pure Gems'. Of course, this year has been overshadowed by the passing of our dear friend and founder, Margaret. She has left us a massive challenge – to continue her work, building (literally) on her vision, to support vulnerable children from preschool through secondary education to trade and professional qualifications. The Trustees send you our greetings for Christmas and thank you for your support past, present and in 2020.

Rosemary Stanbury, Chair, Future Pillars

A Tribute to Dr Margaret McDermott

On Monday 30 September 2019 Future Pillars supporters joined hands across 2 continents to celebrate the life of a founding trustee of Future Pillars and a quite extraordinary woman, Dr Margaret McDermott. Verwood Methodist Church UK was full to overflowing as we met to worship and to give thanks for Margaret's life. At the same time, and using some of the same hymns, a thanksgiving service was taking place at FFCS, Kabwe.



The wordcloud below contains all the words that trustees said in tribute to Margaret and is produced in the shape of Africa and with its national colours. Head teacher, Moses, and school administrator, Patrick, sent contributions that were placed alongside contributions made by all the trustees and woven into one tribute read at the service.

All of us are profoundly grateful for Margaret's remarkable vision, resilience and inspirational work as a Future Pillars trustee. We all respected her for her wisdom, her selflessness, her determination, her ability to keep on top of complex detail without drowning in it, her natural collaborative instincts and her tenacious grasp of our goal: to feed and educate children and young people so that theirs is a better future. She combined her superb organisational skills and professionalism with a generous, compassionate and loving heart. Her Christian commitment showed itself in ordinary, open-minded human ways and her enthusiasm was infectious.



Online Donations

You can now donate online to Future Pillars via Wonderful.org Visit Wonderful.org

- Search for Future Pillars
- Or
- Use this link to go straight to our page

Wonderful.org

Let the last words go to headteacher, Revd Moses Kopa, and to School administrator, Patrick Sichilima:

Moses: "The legacy you have left us will outlast the years you were with us in person. You have been a wonderful leader and mother".

Patrick: "We must honour her by doing all her heart desires. She fought a good fight and ran a good race. May she rest in peace until we meet again on the other side of this life".

Indeed, may this be so.

Rev. Gwyneth Owen, Trustee

News from Kabwe

Family Pillars Vocational Skills Training Centre

Greetings,

My name is Mwiza Margaret Lesa, the Manager and Entrepreneurship tutor at Family Pillar Vocational and Skills Training Centre (FPVSTC) a sister institution to Family Future Community School (FFCS). Our Centre provides skills training in 7 courses which are Computer Studies, Bricklaying and Plastering, Electrical, Plumbing and Sheetmetal, Metal Fabrication, Carpentry and Joinery, and Designing, Cutting and Tailoring. All courses also include Entrepreneurship, Trade Mathematics, Technical Drawing and Communication Skills. We have a total staff of 10 though there is need for more academic and auxiliary staff. We currently have 70 students in the various courses who will complete their training this December.

We have been supported so much by Future Pillars and so hereby say many thanks to them and all those who support us by contributing either in kind or cash for the running of this institution.

Special honour and thanks go towards the life of our late beloved Dr Margaret McDermott who made it possible for us to actualize the FPVSTC vision, firstly by having the centre built in memory of her late husband using her personal funds, and then ensuring that the centre was furnished and equipped. She understood the vision of not just providing education and feeding for orphaned and vulnerable children at FFCS but equipping the child that has grown into a youth to have a sustainable skill to help them alleviate poverty in their lives. With this passion she continued ensuring that the centre had enough training materials. She was always encouraging and supportive making sure that challenges were overcome unless it was impractical. She encouraged me personally to stand strong and execute my duties well so that the vision and mission of the centre are achieved. Even towards the end of her life, she would call and ask how we were progressing and what challenges we were facing so that we could discuss solutions together. As FPVSTC we are much indebted to her for the work done so far and her presence from time to time. I salute how the late Dr Margaret has inspired Future Pillars, especially Rosemary and Peter, to have interest in the centre. This has given us hope and we have seen continuity. It has shown us how legends let their legacy be carried on.



Finally, I would like to thank all those reading this newsletter and being inspired to do great works. Running Skills Training is very expensive, I therefore invite you to contribute to the empowerment of these youths through Future Pillars, Thank you.

Do you know of a small business in the UK which recognizes the importance of quality skills training for young people and might be interested in sponsoring one of the skills courses at FPVSTC? Please speak to one of the trustees or email if you think you could help. trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk

Trustee Trip to Kabwe

First impressions...

Emma Berry joined the second trustee visit to Kabwe in July...

Words can't really describe my experience visiting Kabwe in Zambia. I was already aware that Future Pillars did amazing work, but nothing could have prepared me for the sheer impact it has on so many children's lives. I learnt so much about the charity during my visit and helped out wherever I could whether that be through assisting teachers in the classrooms, helping at their annual sports day, doing presentations for the older Skills students and giving as much love and attention to every child as I possibly could. Despite all adversities these children clearly have hope that through the work that Future Pillars do they will be able to create a positive life for the future generations that will follow them.



A typical day in the life of the children looked a bit like this: They would arrive at school often hours before their lessons began to help clean or meet with their friends in the safety of the school grounds. They then started their timetable that offers everything from science to expressive arts and everything in between. All the children are then served their lunch, often their only meal of the day, of beans, cabbage and nshima by the loving cooks who Future Pillars also support (highlighting the complexity of the operation to run a school and feed hundreds of children!). The children then returned to lessons for the afternoon before heading back home. The days the children have are weirdly similar to that of school children in the UK. They have assembly once a week, they go to lessons, they have lunch and they play with their friends at break time. Their positivity almost makes it hard to comprehend the true hardship that they experience in their daily lives.

We had the opportunity to visit some of the children's homes in the local compounds and it really hit home the conditions that they live in. With often nothing more than a single room for the full family, one set of clothes that they often also wear for school and no electricity. School for these children is clearly more than just education, it's a safe place that helps give them hope that they can have a brighter future. Family Futures is an extension of their own family and it's often the reason they survive every single day!

My visit to Kabwe reminded me of how fortunate I am to live in the UK and to have everything I could ever need in life. Since returning I have a new gratitude for life and so much love for the people I met out there. I already know that I want to visit the school again and am keen to understand what else I can do to support the charity.



News from UK

Feed 5 Update

Since the last newsletter, there has been a considerable step forward in the 'mechanics' of letter-writing to complement the sponsorship side of Feed 5. Flare Kanyika, the FFCS teacher responsible for Feed 5, has developed a system. On receipt of letters from UK for a specific group, he arranges for those children to come into school on a Saturday morning, together with a family member, if they have one. They read their own or group letter and then sketch out their response. Then, in the following week(s), the children can get help in writing it up neatly.



Yes, right now we have hit a bit of a snag... with so little rain, all the water reservoirs are dangerously low, and so the supply of hydro-electric power has been severely cut. Currently, in Kabwe and across most of Zambia, the electricity goes off around 9.00 am and comes on again around 11.00 pm every day. Trying to operate a school in such circumstances is very challenging and, understandably, the production of word-processed letters to UK is having to wait.

We still have plenty of groups of 5 children waiting to be sponsored – the packs are ready to go. To sponsor a group of 5 children costs £20 a month and you can be sure that such a commitment will impact considerably on the children, all of whom have been identified as vulnerable, with many being single or even double-orphaned. Learning stands a chance with some food in the tummy. If you would like to become a sponsor, or just find out more about the project, please go to our website www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk and follow the link to Programmes, then Feeding...or click [here](#). Thank you.

Pure Gems

Meet 2 very special people, Margaret and Alan Dymond, long-standing members of Blandford Methodist Church.

During their professional lives, Margaret was a Nursery Nurse and Alan was an Engineer, a role which took them and their children Andrea and Elizabeth to the town of Mufulira, in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia from 1973 until 1977. Margaret and Alan moved to Blandford 17 years ago, and have been tireless in their interest, encouragement and practical support for the work in Kabwe. They have collected items for inclusion on the container and encouraged many others to do the same. Alan spent many hours last winter in the freezing cold helping Barry chip chewing gum off the bottom of 35 classroom desks, and they secured the gift of some double-glazed window units from a local council building about to be renovated. They have also drawn their daughters into donating and Andrea has enlisted the help of friends to give items of clothing and shoes – recently, nigh on 200 pairs of children's pants!! Alan and Margaret support the monthly Colehill Lunch and are now Feed 5 sponsors, involving their grandson, Jonathan, to write to the 5 children in Kabwe.



Blandford Methodist Church has also been generous in its support for Future Pillars, including the donation of all proceeds from the last 2 Harvest lunches. Margaret and Alan have played key roles in facilitating these events. 'Tireless' is an appropriate description of this couple and all that they do for the children in Zambia energises others back here in UK, not least us. We are very grateful to them. Yes, the Dymonds are pure gems!

Container 4 Kabwe

After the drama of Container 3 arriving at FFCS in June just as we were about to leave Zambia, we had hoped for a bit of a rest. Well, the rest is over, and Container 4 is now in the process of being filled.

Continued thanks to Barrie Cooper for enabling us to 'park the next beast' on his farm while it is being filled. With around 40% so far in situ and tightly packed, we are extremely grateful to Peter Symonds College (Winchester), Test Valley School (Stockbridge), The Springhead Trust (Fontmell Magna), and Hampshire Police Constabulary for donating a large number of very good quality, used items of classroom/office furniture and classroom resources. Our gratitude extends to many individuals who have also donated items.

We are pleased to report that Moses Kopa and his colleagues are thrilled with what has been donated so far. We keep them updated as this acts as a huge source of encouragement.



Science Laboratory equipment,
lab stools & aprons.
Art equipment (2D and 3D).
General classroom equipment &
furniture.
Office equipment & furniture.
Computers.

The wish list shown here gives a general flavour of what has been requested by the school to fill the rest of the container.

A detailed list is available from us on request (email: b.gransden@virgin.net).

Please contact us or one of the trustees if you are able to donate any of these items and help us turn their pipedream into a reality!

Thank you from us, too.
Barry & Becky Gransden

Our Website

Visit our website for more information on Zambia, Kabwe and our programmes
www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk

Social Media



Follow Future Pillars Zambia on Facebook to see news and many more photographs!

Looking Ahead

Christmas is coming.... could you support us at this special time of year?



Once again, we are selling Future Pillars Christmas cards, this time featuring photographs of both the Kabwe projects, and some of the UK events of the last year (preview shown here). The cards are A5 size and sold in packs of 5 cards and envelopes for £3.00. Please speak to a trustee or contact us if you would like to buy some.



Some groups decide to sign a shared card to each other and donate to Future Pillars the money they would otherwise have spent on cards. Last year members of Sanderstead Methodist Church for example signed a large card and donated money to Future Pillars.

Other supporters prefer to donate in lieu of sending Christmas cards. You can do this easily at Wonderful.org – and there are no fees for either the donor or the charity. What's more, if your donation is eligible for Gift Aid, these wonderful people will collect that for us and pass it on. Visit Wonderful.org and search for Future Pillars, or use this link to go straight to our page Wonderful.org





What about the Christmas shopping? Will you be shopping online this Christmas? Would you like to support us as you shop?

Instead of going straight to your store's website, go to [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for the store there. The retailer will pay a commission on any purchase to easy fundraising – who pass on a donation to us.

- Log on to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Search for Future Pillars and click to join us, then start shopping

Or

- Click the link to go straight to our page and join us, then start shopping <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/futurepillarszambia>

And another walk... Woolacombe Figure of Eight Challenge



Treasurer Peter McAughey writes:

Here we go again. An opportunity to don your walking boots once more and challenge yourself, your friends and family to walk as far as you can for a wonderful cause. It's the annual Future Pillars Sponsored Walk being held in and around Woolacombe in picturesque North Devon on Saturday 20th June 2020.

We have had two walks so far: The Saints Way in July 2018 and the Isle of Purbeck Round in June 2019. Did you know our walks have raised £36,000 for the vulnerable children in Kabwe? Or that this year we achieved what may be a world first of a simultaneous walk across continents? Over 500 children and adults walked around Kabwe this June and they raised funds there as well.

So next June there will be another simultaneous walk (I made that word up but it seems to work!) and I can't wait. If you are wanting to walk in North Devon, then the booking form will be coming out before the New Year. It will explain the various options but in essence the morning walks will be either 14 or 9 miles approximately. A lovely lunch as ever. And then options of 13 easier miles in the afternoon for Hares and Tortoises (yes... they are back) or 5 miles as a slow recovery amble.

Pasty and pub options to complete what will be a memorable day. And you know that I book the weather in advance don't you...?



Contact Us

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trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk

Can you help?

We hope you have enjoyed news of the projects you have supported. We need £80,000 a year just to maintain the existing activities in Kabwe. If we are to develop these projects, we are going to need to raise at least **£100,000** a year – and we will need your help to do so:

- Could you organize an event to spread the word and raise more support?
- Could you make a regular donation?
- Would you like to join us on a trip to Kabwe and help out on the ground?

Speak to a trustee or contact us using the details provided if you would like to talk about these or any other ideas!

Thank you



Future Pillars

Empowering vulnerable children in Zambia

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DONATION FORM

To make a one-off or monthly donation please provide the following information. The easiest way is to set up using online banking but you can also complete and detach section 4 and take this to your bank manager to set up the standing order arrangement.

SECTION 1 —PERSONAL DETAILS (it is far cheaper and easier for us to send information including newsletters by e mail but please do contact us if you have an alternative preference for communication).

Full name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone _____
E mail _____

SECTION 2 —DONATION SUM All funds are hugely appreciated. We pledge that 100% of funds raised go directly to our approved programmes in Zambia. All UK costs are met by specific donations by FPZ Trustees. As an example it currently costs £4 a month to feed each child a nutritious meal every school day and it costs £12 a month to sponsor a child to Upper Secondary level so they can gain a crucial qualification and have hope for a better future. You can make a real difference. Please pay to FUTURE PILLARS (ZAMBIA), Lloyds Bank PLC, Sort code 30-84-87 account number 39911960. Or kindly include a cheque/cash.

One off donation £ Cheque/cash enclosed
Monthly donation until further instruction £ Date of donation (or first donation) /...../.....

SECTION 3 – GIFT AID DECLARATION

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!

I am a UK Taxpayer

Please treat all donations I make now and in the future and since 22 June 2017 as Gift Aid donations until further notice. I confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains Taxpayer. I have read this statement and want the Charity named above to reclaim tax on the donation detailed above given on the date shown. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year then the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please contact the charity if you wish to cancel this declaration or change address details etc.

X

SECTION 4 —TO SEND TO YOUR BANK

To the manager of _____ Bank at (address) _____
Account number _____ Sort Code _____

I wish to make a regular donation to Future Pillars (Zambia) of £ _____ as stated above, commencing on ___/___/20__

Please pay the above sum commencing on the above date to FUTURE PILLARS (ZAMBIA) , Lloyds Bank PLC, Sort code 30-84-87 account number 39911960, until further instruction in writing.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT