



# Newsletter



No. 7 March 2020

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## Welcome

Welcome to our 7th Newsletter. The team of trustees has gone through considerable change since the last edition. On 1st February, I was invited to take over the Chair. Whilst thrilled to be asked, you may understand the accompanying awareness of huge responsibility as we seek to work together for the children in Kabwe. I am grateful for the outstanding example set by Margaret McDermott and then Rosemary Stanbury, who stepped into the role when Margaret became ill. Rosemary has been tireless in championing the cause of the individual child and we are all so pleased that she is willing to continue as a trustee. I am totally committed to empowering the vulnerable children in Zambia and look forward to leading a great team of trustees as we seek to respond to the Family Future Community School's agenda.

We have also appointed another trustee – Emma Berry. Emma introduces herself below and brings skills which will enable us to take advantage of modern media platforms and broaden our appeal.



In mid-February, Becky and I visited the Zambian High Commission in London. Paul Mihova, The High Commissioner, and his staff were pleased to hear of the work of Future Pillars and asked that their gratitude for all the support received from donors be conveyed.

We thank you for your continued support and hope that you will find this newsletter an interesting read.

*Barry Gransden,  
Chair, Future Pillars*

## Welcome Emma!

*Emma Berry was appointed a trustee on 1 February 2020. You may have read the report of her first visit to Kabwe in our last newsletter – or have met her on one of our sponsored walks. Emma is already widening our reach on social media; one of her first posts has reached over 18,000 people! Emma writes:*

I am so happy to be joining Future Pillars Zambia as a Trustee. After my visit to the school in Zambia last year I just knew I had to be more involved with this incredible charity. The hard work of FPZ not only gives children education and food it also gives them hope that they can achieve their dreams and build a better life for their family. I hope to meet lots of you on the annual sponsored walk this year and I look forward to what the future holds for FPZ.



## Online Donations

You can now donate online to Future Pillars via [Wonderful.org](https://www.wonderful.org) Visit [Wonderful.org](https://www.wonderful.org)

- Search for Future Pillars

Or

- Use this link to go straight to our page

**[Wonderful.org](https://www.wonderful.org)**

## News from Kabwe

### Headlines

Hello to our friends in UK,  
Always a pleasure to interact with you through this platform. We are almost getting to the middle of Term 1 of our school calendar. Family Future Community School (FFCS) is well and kicking. We keep on receiving appreciation from members of the communities we draw our learners from about how much change has taken in place in teacher and learner behaviour culminating in considerable gains in academic performance and other school aspects.

Our term began on the 13th January 2020, of course with a lot of pressure from place-seeking parents. The pressure was further compounded by the lack of some teachers in particular subjects. Thank God we have managed to recruit the number of teachers needed to stabilize the staffing challenges, on the back of six leaving in December, mostly through retirement.

Let me talk about the enrolments in our school. Compared to 2 years ago, we have made big strides in normalizing the numbers in almost all the classes. Our enrolment per class is 40 learners and we are on course to achieve that, just as it has been done at the lower primary grades. Teachers are now able to attend to learners adequately, that is in meeting individual learners' needs. I am quite certain that we are at a point where we should begin to score most of our goals, right in all our operations.

FFCS continues to be a source of hope for many families for the education of the learners. We are equally grateful to the many parents who are so supportive in uplifting the school standards.

I am very much aware that every success comes with the cost. While we are doing our level best here in Zambia, we are not blind to the fact that the support we receive from you the well-wishers through the selfless FPZ Board members enables us to do what we are doing. The support we receive is unprecedented.

I wish to end by wishing you all God's blessings as we labour together to help improve the lives of the orphans and vulnerable children.

Thank you so much.

*Moses Kopa, Headteacher*



*Headteacher, Moses with new Deputy Headteacher, Matthews*

### Teacher Tale

*Newly appointed Deputy School Manager Matthews writes:*

My greetings to everyone reading this newsletter.

I am Mathews Simfukwe, formally of Kabwe Secondary School. I would like to express my gratitude to be part of Future Pillars Zambia (FPZ). I am professionally a teacher now serving as Deputy School Manager at Family Future Community School (FFCS).

I was transferred to this school at the end of December 2019, on a promotion basis as acting Deputy Head Teacher from Kabwe Secondary School, a school also found in Kabwe District Central Province of the Republic of Zambia.

In my very short period of being at FFCS, I should attest to the fact that my stay and working in this new environment has really promised me to encounter new experiences in my career complementing my former working experiences.

The hospitable environment which has been created by the school administration, staff, pupils and the community really motivates me to anticipate an encouraging working environment.

I can simply say FFCS is a blessing to the community it serves. This can be attributed to the families and the children whose devastated background, shattered hopes and dreams are being revitalised and rejuvenated through avenues and facilities provided by FFCS and its associates. It's my prayer that our almighty God continues touching the lives of those people behind all the programs that are helping the vulnerable families to get redeemed through feeding, educational and other relevant resources.

I should thank the almighty God for everything, more especially for giving me this opportunity and new hope to serve in this environment, and for keeping our community members resuscitated through various donations.

Thank you

*Mathews Simfukwe, Deputy Headteacher*

## Student Story

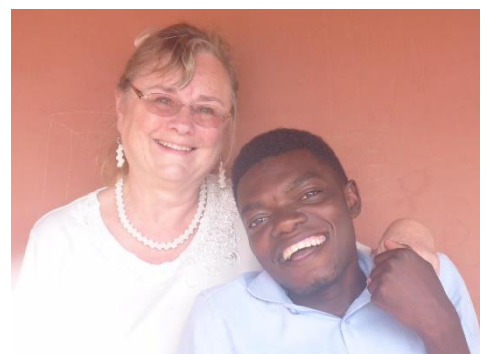
*Joseph Kabanda was a pupil at Family Futures Community School, was sponsored to Secondary Education and then University, and is now a promising teacher at the school. Joseph shares his story.*

I was born in April 1993 in Zambia. My father died when I was 3 years old. From that time, I never knew a father's love until I came to the Family Future school.

At the age of 5 I started staying with my grandmother, this was because my mother married again, and I was not welcomed in my stepfather's house.

Staying in the village with grandma it was difficult for me to go to school in time because of my disability. (*Joseph has kyphosis [hunchback]*). I admired the boys in the neighbourhood who were at school. I could not stand the humiliation from my peers, so I started running away to sit beside the school window to listen to the teacher's lesson. Soon the teacher saw me, and she put me into the school.

When my grandma died, I had no option but to stay with my mother again. My stepfather burned all my books and uniforms saying I am just wasting his resources and I will not profit him anything because of my disability and he threw me out. For a long time, I had nowhere to go and no money for school fees. Then I met Pastor Sydney from Church Family Mission. He took me to the Bishop and he took me to Family Future Community School. I started to do well at school and soon I passed Grade Seven and I am told by Mr Patrick Sichilima, the Administrator, I can go to Grade Eight and the charity from UK will pay for my fees. Also, because there is no family to home me, they have given me a place in Boys' house where I am safe.



## Our Website

Visit our website for more information on Zambia, Kabwe and our programmes  
[www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk](http://www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk)

On 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 I met two of the charity officials, Rosemary and Dominic, in the science lab where we were doing some science experiments and I was showing the others the methods. Like a dream that you couldn't even want to wake up from so is my life with the charity from then. From the time I knew them until now my thirst has been quenched, in other words, to say that I feel like my own life is back from the dead. They made it for me to take Grade Twelve and I passed. Upon finishing Grade Twelve which is the last grade of Secondary school, they took me to Family Pillar Vocational Skills Training Centre to do computer skills.



In 2016 I received the admission letter from Rockview University in Lusaka the capital city of Zambia. I was so excited to have received it, though with a conscious of how and where the money will come from, to the opposite of my worries there was a wonderful, lovely and kind person her name is Rosemary. She looked straight in my eyes and saw how worried and desperate I was for school because my knowledge was telling me that there was no sponsor by then to fund for my tertiary education. This was the time Rosemary and some of the trustees visited Zambia. Rosemary took up the responsibilities of taking me to college and fund all the expenses from day 1 to the last day for three years. It was God who answered prayer for her to just come through in my life and make a bridge between me and poverty.



I completed my Tertiary level in December 2018 and am now working as a teacher at Family Future Community School, a school sponsored by Future Pillars. I am teaching mathematics in Grade Eight and Nine.

*Thank you very much for your support and care.*  
Joseph



*Thank you to all those who, like Rosemary, have undertaken to sponsor an individual student through tertiary education, and have changed the life of a young person and their family. Is this something you - or a group of friends - could undertake? There are four promising students - Alfred, Margaret, Chanda and Zebron - with places for tertiary education, but we need individuals prepared to sponsor them. Please contact us if you would like to find out more.*

*Joseph 2015, explaining photosynthesis to a peer.*

## News from UK

### Feed 5 Update

With all the incumbent challenges of day to day living (mentioned in the last edition), getting any correspondence from the children in Kabwe had continued to be very problematic. However, we are pleased to report that letters for 6 groups have arrived in the last couple of weeks and we expect more imminently.

So, in addition to sponsoring a group of 5 children so that they can eat a wholesome plate of food each school day, the opportunity to exchange letters with them and get to know and understand what their lives are like is really taking off.

It costs £20 a month to sponsor a group of five students. If you would like to become a sponsor, or just find out more about the project, please go to our website [futurepillarszambia.org.uk](http://futurepillarszambia.org.uk) and follow the link to Programmes, then Feeding....or click [here](#).

Thank you.



### Container 4 Kabwe

The 4th Container continues to fill up with individual donations of equipment and clothes, together with a number of schools providing bulk items. Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- Adam Darley, Headteacher, The Purbeck School, Wareham, who donated chairs, tables and filing cabinets (courtesy of Darren Milne's hard work).
- James Law, Headteacher, Milldown CE Academy, Blandford, who donated chairs.
- Sally Wilson, Headteacher, The Blandford School, who donated computers, monitors and cabling (courtesy of Dave Share's hard work).
- Mark Mortimer, Headmaster, Bryanston School, who donated classroom furniture and science equipment (courtesy of Cyril Hawes' hard work).

Becky and I were also enormously grateful for all the assistance in lifting and carrying whilst on the school sites. Good job done!

The most pressing need now are laboratory stools and equipment, so please ask around – yes, we have room!

*Barry & Becky Gransden*

## Social Media



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



*Amir and Dan at The Blandford School*



*Darren at The Purbeck School*

## Pure Gems

The pure gem for this newsletter is a long-term supporter of Future Pillars Zambia. Tim Hambly is a retired water expert who spent most of his working life with The Environment Agency in Devon and Cornwall. Tim lives in Launceston and is a Cornish Gorsedh and language teacher. He's been practising his Bemba (the language most of our children speak) following his trip to Kabwe in 2019 and in preparation for his trip this summer.

As well as helping last year in the stores and with Sports Day, Tim has been heavily involved as a leader on all 3 Sponsored Walks in the UK. This is no easy task, but he hasn't lost anyone yet!

He's helped collect a batch of computers in Cornwall and provided bags of clothes for the children in Kabwe. He's trying to slow down his 90-year-old Mum who is constantly knitting for the children in Zambia!

Tim has also financially supported the charity from the start with a monthly standing order as well as raising further funds from walking.

An all-round good egg and a Pure Gem.

Thanks For everything Tim.



## Tax doesn't have to be a bad thing!

.... says Treasurer Peter McAughey, who is a Chartered Accountant and tax advisor.

There are several tax breaks and exemptions for UK charities. From its foundation in 2017 Future Pillars has been registered with Charities Commission (number 1173534) and HMRC. Let's look at some tax breaks firstly from the view of the individual Future Pillars supporter.

### Gift Aid

Most of us have heard of Gift Aid. It has been with us for nearly 30 years. If you are a UK taxpayer, the charities you give to can reclaim the basic rate of tax on your donation. This means that a £1 donation is worth £1.25 to the charity. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you can also claim back the difference between higher rate and basic rate tax on the value of your donation. For a 40% rate taxpayer, that means for every £1 you donate, you can claim back 25p in tax relief through your Self-Assessment tax return.

The charity can only claim Gift Aid on monetary donations from your own funds, and if you have paid UK Income and/or Capital Gains Tax during that tax year. **To date Future Pillars have claimed almost £50,000 in Gift Aid!** It's not a simple process and some charities don't bother to claim. Hard to believe but true.

The tax you pay in a tax year must be at least equal to the value of Gift Aid the charity will claim on your donation(s). If you stop paying enough tax, you must tell any charity you are donating to. If you do not let them know, and you pay less tax in the tax year than the amount of Gift Aid they are claiming, you will need to pay any difference back to HMRC. So please tell us if your circumstances have changed and you think we may be claiming on an old Gift Aid declaration that is no longer valid.

### Give As You Earn

Your employer may operate a Give As You Earn scheme. If you are employed, ask about GAYE. It is a way of giving to charity out of your gross income before tax is calculated so it really can cost you less to give more!



### Gifts in Wills (Legacies)

A Will states what you wish to happen to your assets after you die. Giving to Charity will benefit the Charity but also it can reduce or even eliminate Inheritance Tax.

A donation to a UK Registered Charity can be a fixed amount, an item or what is left after other gifts have been given out (a residual). It does not need to involve a brand-new complete will. This may be achieved by a codicil (a variation to a will) but please take legal advice on this.

So, what is the effect on tax? If you leave something to charity in your will, then it does not count towards the total taxable value of your estate. This is called leaving a 'charitable legacy'. You can also reduce the Inheritance Tax rate on the rest of your estate from 40% to 36%, if you leave at least 10% of your 'net estate' to a charity.

And from the Charities' viewpoint?

### Tax Exemption on Income

UK Charities registered with HMRC pay no tax unless they receive income that doesn't qualify for tax relief or have spent any income on non-charitable purposes. All our funds are spent on charitable purposes.

### Business Rates

Charities pay business rates on non-domestic buildings but get an 80% discount. Nice perk. But even better to note that FPZ has no business premises. Trustees use our own desks and dining tables! And pay for all these costs personally.

### VAT on Goods and Services

Charities can claim VAT relief (without being VAT Registered but with some conditions such as providing an eligibility declaration) to enable some goods and services to be 20% cheaper. We don't need to pay VAT on our donations where nothing is given in return or on activities where we don't make a specific charge such as our sponsored walks.

### Summary

So, it does all feel a bit 'Win-win' which is absolutely what it needs to be! Gifts can of course also make you feel good about yourself and being true to your personal values. I know that the recipients of our funds in Zambia are so grateful to everyone who donates whether that's a few pounds or several thousand pounds. So, thank you from all of the Trustees for what you are doing and do contact me on [trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk](mailto:trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk) if you have any questions

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## In Fond Memory

It is with considerable gratitude that we remember Grahame Downer, who died on 9<sup>th</sup> January. As a Methodist Local Preacher and member of Blandford Methodist Church for many years, he was a constant source of encouragement to all – a true Christian gentleman. On matters FPZ, he quickly engaged in what we were doing and gave generously for the children in Kabwe. Lovers of ice cream, Grahame and Christine collected the plastic cartons and were delighted to learn that the termites of Kabwe could not penetrate them. He was instrumental in gaining support from Child Okeford villagers for many other container items.

Second only to mountain-walking, Grahame also had a great love for cricket and was a regular reader of Wisden. Indeed, he impressed with his encyclopaedic knowledge of the game. It was very fitting that his funeral closed with 'Soul Limbo' the theme music for Test Match Special. Thank you, Grahame. *Barry Gransden*



## Looking Ahead

### The Third Future Pillars Walk; Woolacombe, 20 June 2020

#### Where to this year?

This year we will travel to North Devon, where our base camp for a figure of 8 walk will be Woolacombe Village Hall.

#### What can you expect?

We will lay on some food and drink during the day, with help from local supporters - thank you Mortehoe W.I. for your offer - and maybe an after party if there is any energy left...

#### How far?

The maximum distance is 28 miles, but everyone has their own Everest. So, there are 8 options in total, some all day, some morning, some afternoon, and total distances of 5, 10, 13, 15, 24 and 28 miles. It will be a conversational pace walk in two groups as before, one for hares and one for tortoises. You can join for all or part of the route; you walk less by walking for less of the day. If you prefer a late afternoon / early evening stroll, then the 5 mile Beach & Downs Amble is for you.

#### Interested?

Speak to a trustee or visit the [events page](#) on the website to find out more about the route, and to download a booking form. There is no entrance fee, but we do hope that walkers will gather sponsorship from friends and family. The first two walks have raised £36,000

between them; can we bring that total to £50,000 this year? You can create an online sponsorship page on [Wonderful.org](#), or download a sponsorship form from the website. If you are not able to walk but would like to sponsor, please go to the event page on [Wonderful.org](#) to do so.



## Contact Us

Future Pillars (Zambia)  
Reg Charity no 1173534

Grovetown Barn,  
Yeolmbridge,  
Launceston,  
Cornwall,  
PL15 8NH

[www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk](http://www.futurepillarszambia.org.uk)

[trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk](mailto:trustees@futurepillarszambia.org.uk)

## Trustees' visits

By the time you read this, Barry Gransden will already be in Kabwe for the first of his two visits this year. In June Barry will return with his wife Becky for a month, crossing over for the last two weeks with Rosemary Stanbury, Peter McAughey and Emma Berry, who will each be in Kabwe for a fortnight. The trustees will review progress of all the programmes, meeting students and staff, and Peter will undertake an audit of the accounts with Patrick. Oh, and Peter will also be helping to host the third Sports Day in Kabwe! Look out for news of the visits in our next newsletter.

## 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?

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**



