

## **Extracts from Trish Fenwick's 'School for Africa' Update - October 2009**

Life goes on in our projects with many 'ups and downs'. I am always fearful that these reports, to you good people, might sound like a lot of 'downs', but it is a hard existence we are supporting, in a struggling country, with many different cultural values.

In my main project, Kachale Village, our new school is still not complete but the large School/Community Hall has just been officially opened in September. It was funded by Mr Oza, the Chairman of a Zambian self reliance, encouragement charity. It was an exciting and grand occasion with plenty of celebratory singing, dancing and long speeches!

Two of our little school pupils led the Chief who, on this occasion, did arrive in time, just, to perform the cutting of the ribbon over the grand, locally made double doors. Thirty other V.I.P guests, however, arrived from Lusaka, on their bus, one and a half hours late!

Adjoining this hall, are our three classrooms'.the beginnings of Natimwa Learning Centre. But the costing for the roof has gone up so dramatically that 'School for Africa' has needed to dig into funds once more.

But our Hammer Mill team, of four, is still cheerfully churning out flour for their fellow Kachale villagers and for many other folk around, some of whom travel all day to bring their maize for grinding. And we have also sunk more bore holes in the village.

Pastor Troy, from USA, has funded and kitted out a mobile clinic which has just arrived at the village. I am told that it is like a mini hospital and at this point I copy an extract from Kathy's September email:

*“People lined the bush road as the 36 ton truck carrying the clinic passed through the small villages. Following behind was the 40 ton crane and this really did look out of place in the middle of the bush! Everybody from our Village danced and sang as the vehicles came into sight and crossed the football field to the prepared site. The crane was positioned in front as the truck was reversed into position. Long heavy chains were attached to the loops at the four top corners of the 40ft container then the crane lifted the box and gently turned it to correct position before lowering on to the eight concrete pillars. The entire procedure took less than 15 minutes. It was indeed an awesome sight.*

*Adults were dancing and singing - babies strapped to their backs bounced about like spring balls. Little children seemed bewildered by this big white box being lifted into the air then lowered by the 'machine'.*

*We now start the 'red-tape' requirements for registration to operate the mobile clinic. Once approval is granted by the Medical Council of Zambia we go through the formalities of advising the various Government Health Authorities concerned with such activities within their area that the clinic is now ready to operate. Hopefully this will be completed by the end of October 2009. We have qualified people waiting to come on board.*

*Meantime ablution facilities have already been prepared and the foundation for the house for the resident nurse. Funding for this house, the new borehole to service the clinic; the metal stand and 10,000 litre tank; and the solar pump with 6 solar panels are the gift from ESTELLE TRUST - UK. The pump and solar panels are to be installed within the next two weeks. Water will be on tap at the clinic.*

*There are no words to express our gratitude.*

*No words!”*

So there are many 'ups'!