



ZAMBIAN MISSION SUPPORT

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1109726
TRUSTEES - PHIL BAILEY, GEOFF BAILEY, JOSEPH PETTITT, ROGER OSBORNE

PHIL'S NEWSLETTER

November 2011

COVENANT COLLEGE FARM

At the end of August we received our new Farming God's Way shirts and caps. A friend in the UK organized these for us and at the same time designed a new logo for FGW. Looking smart from right is Bilison, Jackson, Samuel and myself. The FGW team!!



Violet Zulu a work placement student from one of the local agricultural colleges stands next to the new FGW logo. She is also seen below in our



broiler chicken unit, these birds at 6 weeks old and 3kgs are ready for sale.



It's a myth that farming in Zambia is just for the five months of the year when the rains are with us. The last seasons harvest was brought in during May, shelled and bagged in June, sold to the Food Relief Agency during July for which payment was received in August.

A little time to rest? Just a few weeks! Early September we were back in the fields preparing the holes and by the end of the month putting in the lime and the fertilizer or one of the organic alternatives such as manure, compost, sunflower cake or maize bran.

The students that stay over for the weekends were busy helping in this preparation work. We have about 5 hectares to prepare and this has



always been done by hand to provide work for the men and women in the villages around us. But things have changed, harvests in the area



have improved and this year we have struggled to get enough people to come and help us. This is a good sign and we must adapt. We have therefore adjusted one of the ploughs to make a 'ripper' which rips open a furrow in the soil into which we place the fertilizer/lime etc. This is much quicker than digging holes as it is pulled behind the oxen but the important thing is the principle remains the same, we are NOT turning over the soil (as with ploughing) which damages the soil structure and layers within the soil which leads to killing off the living organisms and bacteria which God placed there to keep our soils healthy. The next step is to try out an ox-drawn sowing machine which has three hoppers, one each for the seed, fertiliser and lime which means we will be able to do the whole operation in one go when the big rains arrive. More about that in the next newsletter!



COVENANT COLLEGE

September was the last month of lessons for this year, which culminated with the usual end of year graduation ceremony on Sept 29th. I was able to complete the 2nd year of my three year agricultural curriculum which included subjects such as 'natural pest and disease control', beneficial trees and Christian work



ethics. Seven more students completed their three years of Pastoral training and graduated with Diploma's or Certificates depending on the level they reached. Details of all seven graduates are posted on the ZMS website.



TAONGA

Meet Taonga, a young girl of 9 who has cerebral palsy. She has a twin sister, Thandiwe who is fine and doing well in school. She is the daughter of one of our students, Kenneth Siwale and his wife Edah who has been carrying Taonga on her back everywhere since she was born. I heard of an organisation in Lusaka called Disacare who make wheelchairs specifically for the size and needs of the patient. Taonga was quite nervous about her new chair at first but has been getting used to it and now her mother's back can be rested.



PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for Bilison our farm manager who is very sick at the moment
- Pray for a replacement College Principal as Rev Heinrich Zwemstra has recently resigned this post
- Pray for Taonga and her family

Thank you
for your continued support
Love Phil