



NEWSLETTER

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The Isubilo website now has a new **GIFT LIST** up and running in time for a great way to give christmas gifts to your family & friends see

www.isubilo.org/giftlist.htm



DONATE ON LINE

We can now take on-line donating via our website www.isubilo.org This has been made possible by a donation link to the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) website which can take on-line donations to all major credit and debit cards and set up on-line direct debits. CAF registered charity number is 268369

Isubilo Community Resource Centre was registered under the Zambia Registrar of Companies as a Company limited by guarantee (non profit making) on 19 May 2000 and as a UK Charity in London registered number 1090539

THANK YOU ALL Coming up to Christmas we are getting ready to give a treat to everyone under our care. We want to thank you all for the wonderful contributions you have made either by sending out items or donating money this last year and your prayers. These have not only enabled us to keep up a certain standard of care throughout the year, but to make people feel special at this time of the year too. We would like also to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful and meaningful Christmas as we celebrate a God who is so generous to us. Much time is being spent in the stores finding clothes that fit and presents which are appropriate. **ANDY PATCHING**

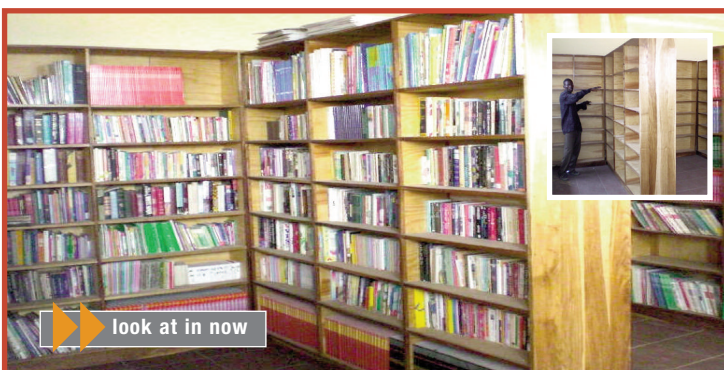


table tennis practice

SOUTH AFRICA? Our two table tennis champions may well get the opportunity to go to South Africa to represent Zambia. It's a bit of a long shot as the organisation from the Table Tennis Association end leaves much to be desired and the tournament is in December! We are not raising their hopes but would love these boys to experience such an exciting trip. Much practicing in the meantime

A LITTLE STORY Three of our staff were called in by neighbours to see a man being looked after by his depressed wife he was in a filthy state as also the children. At first they were reluctant to let them in, but when they entered the dark room, found a tall man sitting stooped with his head hanging on his chest unable to lift himself up or talk looking like a living skeleton. As he was spoken to he tilted his head as he had trouble with his ear.

Our team immediately tried to persuade the family to release him to be treated at the hospice across town. He eventually was admitted to the general hospital. He was followed up and visited by our team and a sister in town agreed to have him in her home for a while. That was in July. In November he strode into the adherence office with a broad smile. The staff did not recognise him as he walked in. He had come to say thank you for saving his life having put on over 17Kg as a result of the care received



look at in now

THE FINISHED LIBRARY

We thought you might like to have a peak at the new library shelves and compare it with the other picture which was in the September's newsletter. The library is being well used and has a good stock of interesting books

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BRICK MACHINE ARRIVAL

A very generous donation from members of a church in the South of England has enabled us to purchase a brick making machine which we will be using to help people build their own houses to avoid ever spiralling rents. Much experimenting and training is to be done before we can seriously start. The machine makes bricks out of soil mixed with cement. The bricks interlock and can be laid one on the other without the need for mortar.

Building is less labour intensive and much faster although costs are not reduced much with the recommended cement ratio. Different soils behave differently and experimenting will allow to get the best out of the soils on site. We hope to test bricks with different proportions of cement to cut costs down as much as possible. Unfortunately the machine took much longer to order from South Africa and clear through customs. The person here in Ndola who has had experience with such techniques and had promised to train, has returned to the UK for some while. The training will take a while longer under Andy's supervision ■

LAB AND NUTRITION CENTRE

The extension of the clinic for a laboratory and counselling rooms and the nutrition centre are now up to roof level. The rains, which have come rather early and in larger quantities than we are used to, have slowed down the work considerably unfortunately ■



MAIZE

This is the time of the year to be planting maize. Unfortunately for many the seed and fertilizer is too expensive and for those who can afford it, it is hardly worth the effort as the returns at harvest time may well be worth less than the inputs. We are encouraging clients this year to concentrate on ground nuts, beans and soya which need less inputs, enrich the soil and can be sold more profitably to buy staple foods. In the long term we are considering trying to change people's eating habits by changing the staple to cassava which is an accepted alternative in many parts of the country and less intensive to grow. Much wisdom is needed to help small scale growers in these harsh economic times ■



GRADUATION

Some of our older youths have been on vocational training courses in carpentry and joinery, and tailoring and design. We are pleased to show off the six young people who graduated this November. Christabel received the most promising student and Bernard the most improved student awards. The carpentry graduates received a set of tools each and the tailoring graduates a sewing machine. We will do all we can to encourage them to use their skills and tools well and wisely as a means of being self reliant and independent ■

SHOCK

For every person who responds to care and treatment and gets back to a near normal life, there are still far too many who do not make it. It was necessary to attend a funeral recently, the first that I had attended for some months. I was absolutely shocked to see fresh graves covering several additional acres of land since my last visit, a large proportion of the signs on the graves indicating young people who have been cut down

in their twenties and younger. There are so many people who need help but so many are difficult to help as they deny their condition until it is too late.

DID I SAY OVC?

Our OVC staff have been going to extra government approved training to better help our young people with the multiple internalised and externalised problems they face. There was a strong move at the seminar to change the name OVC (orphans and vulnerable children). It was felt that the name itself does not help in the very process of trying to advise and counsel the young ones. It has been decided that they should be called Children and Youth. There certainly has been a good deal of discrimination against the "OVCs" at school for example, but for external communication purposes we will still be referring, at least for a the present, to OVCs. Here, on site, we have sacked all our OVC staff and volunteers and brought them back as C & Y staff and volunteers ■

AWAY

Both Andy and Babs had to be away at the same time for a month in September weddings you know! - also the reason for a missed website update. The administration and finances were left in the hands of Mr Tanga with the backing of Isabel. Given, one of our older OVCs (pardon me, Youths) has been entering data for a while and was given the office to man with the help of Amina who has recently finished a business studies course. We are pleased to say that everything was in order on Babs' return - Andy had another wedding to attend - his eldest daughter's. Given was amazing, and through it has found her calling. She is extremely fast at picking things up and handles complex computer programmes with ease. She was also able to stand up to pressure from people when handling the petty cash ■

