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THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS!

The Isubilo website now has a **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

ISUBILO NEWSLETTER

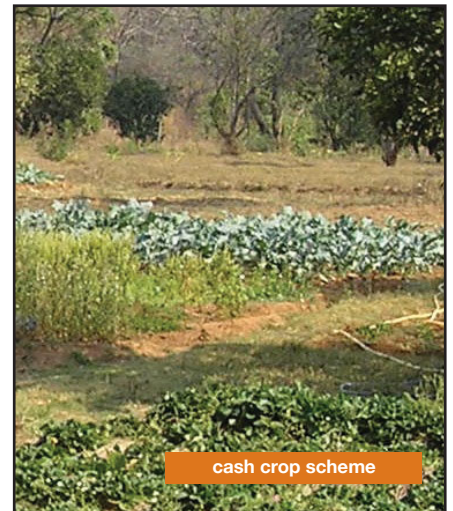
GROWING HER OWN BUSINESS

Christine is one of our clients who is 67 years old and a widow. She came on our programme on 5th June 2006 and was commenced on antiretroviral therapy the same month having previously completed a course of TB treatment in 2004.

When she first came to us she was very sick and constantly complained of painful legs and skin rashes. She has five children and used to struggle a lot to raise them. She has been helped throughout the years and slowly improved in health and morale.

More recently she has improved in health enough for Isubilo to help her with an empowerment programme by giving her cabbages from Barbara's garden worth K10,000 (£1.35). She sold them for as much as she could bringing back K10,000 in cash. She was then given vegetables worth K20,000 which she sold and in turn brought back K20,000 in cash. In faithfully sticking to this programme she has built up a capital of K100,000, which though not huge shows her that she can keep increasing her working capital and can be self sufficient.

We have been so encouraged by what she has done and that through all this she has improved in health too. She is now coming to the stage of being discharged and continuing to look after herself and her children by growing her business ■



cash crop scheme

CYC LAND

A Methodist mission not far out of town have very kindly come to the Isubilo Centre with their mini-front end loader to turn the rather long lived building site around the Children and Youth Centre into flat grassable land for sports. This is not before time! We are looking forward to planting grass this rainy season giving an area to build outdoor shelters for games and the young people much more room to play sports such as basket ball and volley ball. We hope that by next year we will be able to develop a strip of land behind the Centre for football ■



digging the ground up



food programme

AGRIC DAY

The time has come to help clients and volunteers who wish to grow a quarter of a hectare of maize as food security. Those qualifying for the programme were called in for a day's training, a question and answer sessions, as well as a demonstration at the farm. This year we have included ten church leaders who have been willing to join the scheme and then go on to join other departments to give experience in visitation, care and counselling. We trust this will help them to see the potential of their own church communities surrounded by a suffering world ■



great new crop of veg

GARDENS

Yet again this year many destitute and rejected people have been able to benefit from the garden plots allotted them at the Isubilo farm. We have seen almost miraculous transformations in people who were literally dying, followed up as soon as they were put on antiretroviral therapy and two to three months later becoming self sufficient either with gardens or business empowerment ■

MILL

We are obviously not supposed to start the mill quite yet. We are awaiting action from the insurers to replace three out of four new rollers on their way to us from South Africa which literally fell off the back to the truck! Meanwhile we are fully stocked up with maize for the day we start milling hopefully by the end of the year ■

CRAFTS

Some of our ladies have chosen to use their knitting, crocheting and sewing skills to help with their living expenses. We have been able to give them a good selection of raw materials such as cotton and wool kindly sent out by donors from England. They were very proud to show us some of their creative work before it goes on sale ■



ladies craft show

CONGRATS

Kelvin, one of our senior boys who did well in his final school exams, has just been accepted to do a Diploma course in law at the Copperstone University in nearby Kitwe, one of the Copper Belt towns and with the possibility of going on to a degree course later. Others who have applied for tertiary courses have not had replies yet ■

CANOPY

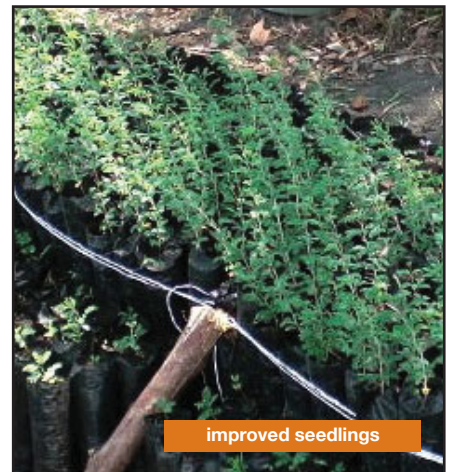
With the help of a donation, and a discount price from the distributor, we were able to purchase a high canopy for the new pick-up we recently acquired. We are grateful to ensure dry journeys for our disabled and sick clients just as the rains are about to start ■



new storm drain

DRAINAGE

The council have seen fit to channel storm drains straight through the centre of our farm land. Last year the damage was horrifying as we saw a considerable chunk of land washed into the river below leaving a gaping hole the size of an average living room. We are grateful for funding from a generous church in the States and a very efficient and reliable building team (a rare discovery here), a stone-lined cement storm drain has been built right through to the river minimising further erosion ■



improved seedlings

CONSERVATION FARMING

The whole agric team and a Director driver spent a day two hundred kilometres south at a research farm. All are converted to conservation farming which is highly appropriate in these days of global warming. It will take a while to get the old style farming out of the system, but this visit has encouraged our team to start up demonstration of various methods and crops to improve production and save the land and water. We are going to introduce drip irrigation and have raised seedlings of trees to be planted between the rows which will fix nitrogen to minimise the use of artificial fertilizers ■



first shallow well

FIRST WELL

When we first bought the farm land we were thrilled with the underlying water table which provides easy access to water for most gardens almost all dry season. We have sunk the first of five shallow wells which will feed the drip and other irrigation systems by using treadle and pumps ■



The Isubilo Newsletter is sent out via email every few months and if you would like a copy sent to you then email your details to webmaster@isubilo.org
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