Imbila

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Ndubaluba Farewell

I am finally hanging up my paddle!

After 27 years of blood sweat and tears at Ndubaluba and Chengelo, I am finally hanging up my paddle!

27 years is a long time. It's the same years as Mandela spent in prison (it's sometimes felt like that but thankfully not often!) and the same time as KK, Zambia's first President, ruled the nation (it's sometimes felt like that, but thankfully not often!).

I was a skinny, floppy haired, fresh-faced 24 year old when I first landed at Chengelo to teach Geography. I leave a not so skinny, weather-beaten, grey headed 51 year old! I have spent probably the most productive years of my life serving at Ndubaluba and Chengelo. You may wonder why. But me, (as we say in Zambia!) I have been here this long because of the vision: to be involved in discipleship training, relationship building and adventure activities with young Zambians was an absolute privilege and joy.

The impact of Adventure Education at the personal and national level has been staggering. I have been able to meet and talk about adventure education with presidents and royalty. I have been part of establishing the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Zambia and watch with amazement how it's grown. It's been so rewarding and humbling to receive so many personal testimonies from young people and staff from Chengelo and beyond regarding the spiritual and personal impact of Ndubaluba on their lives. That's why I've stayed so long!

There have been some other major



Raft of drums on Ndubaluba Lake

HERE & THERE

Fellowship Day 2022

The only definite news about next year's fellowship day is the date and time: Saturday 30th April at 10.30. It is likely to be a hybrid event, part ZOOM and part face to face taking place at the Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke RG21 8SR where previous fellowship days have been held.

Please note there is limited parking and remember to bring your own refreshments.

Please check the C.E.T. website nearer the time for more up to date information.

Moving On

As COVID restrictions are lifted it is appropriate to remember C.E.T. supporters who have passed away in recent times who have contributed greatly to Chengelo and the work of the Trust.

Roy Fellows spent time at the school working in administration and the boarding. He also regularly asked the Imbila editor for copies of the up to date newsletter. Roy was the father of Alison Richardson who with her husband is working back in Mkushi.

Jeremy Collingwood worked for a number of years in the Northern Rhodesia colonial service and then in Lusaka as Head of the Law School at the National Institute of Public Administration. Back in the U.K. he became a regular supporter of the Trust and wrote a history of the school entitled: 'As a Witness to the Light' a good read even now.

Betty Sercombe attended almost all the fellowship days until recent times. Her wheelchair was a familiar sight in the front row. She was married to Philip and passed away at the age of 101.

We thank God for the life and witness of all these people.

Glenn Guilliatt

Glenn Guilliatt has decided to hang up his calculator and word processor, but is happy to remain a trustee of the C.E.T. Glenn has been our treasurer for nine years (I thought only five) and we are extremely indebted to him for handling our finances so expertly. We wish him well for the future.

We are fortunate that Ronan Wade who was the bursar at Chengelo for a number of years has agreed to take over.

Ndubaluba Farewell *(Cont.)*



Mr T at the top of Mauritius highest peak with a Chengelo expedition

reasons: I found an amazing wife here and now have three beautiful bush girls to adventure with too. I have made lifelong friends and have come to deeply appreciate the people and culture of Zambia. I have worked with amazingly gifted people both at Ndubaluba and Chengelo who have supported the vision. I have canoed rivers, climbed mountains and got into so many scrapes and adventures in the bush I can't count them. What an amazing country!



White water rafting: Kapishya Hot Springs, Mpika



A group at lake Tanganyika

Ndubaluba Farewell *(Cont.)*

How fitting it was to end my Ndubaluba career with 'The Last Climb', a group expedition up the iconic Mt Mumpu, my 72nd ascent! Accompanied by friends and ex-Chengelo students at the top, we toasted all those who had climbed her before and to all those who would climb her again, and all the learning from the experience.

My overwhelming 'take-away' from it all is that God is faithful. He is faithful despite us. He is faithful to the vision. He is faithful personally, He is faithful when things aren't going right and when there is success. My leaving bible verse is definitely Isaiah 46 v.4: "I will be your God throughout your lifetime until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you and save you!'

As a family, we have experienced that care and support and are assured of His salvation. I would like to thank



Mt. Mumpu: Zambia's highest free standing mountain near the DRC



Rum Doodle 75 kilometres from Chengelo near the Muchinga Escarpment

Ndubaluba Farewell *(Cont.)*



The Thompson Tribe

Chengelo, including the CET, for supporting me and others to run with a vision that was impossible. But with God it was possible!

And so now we begin a new adventure with Him. Judy and I have a new vision to start a discipleship training centre not far from Ndubaluba in Mkushi. We hope to partner with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and offer courses with them as well as offering courses for physically disabled young people (another area of passion). To enable this to happen we are heading off in September to Malawi to attend a Discipleship Training School with YWAM. This will be for five months and when we return we hope to develop the centre known as Beulah Training Centre, and start running courses there. Judy will continue to work at Chengelo Primary School as we establish the Centre.

If you would like more information on Beulah and what we are doing next, please email us on beulahtrainingcentre@gmail.com or WhatsApp +260966111255.

Richard





Lighting fire from Scratch



Rope climbing

Ndubaluba Farewell *(Cont.)*



On Mt. Mumpu

Postscript

In terms of Ndubaluba, in the first half of the year we had many external groups visiting the Centre and we were starting to get back to the numbers we had before COVID hit us. However around July we entered into our third wave and so external groups stopped coming. We did work with Chengelo groups throughout which was great.

Ndubaluba will focus on Chengelo groups only up until the end of the year due to the transition the Centre is going through and also the COVID situation in the country.

The Centre will take bookings for 2022 in the next few months and we are praying that we will be back to full capacity again next year.

The vision of Ndubaluba is to use the adventure activities to bring young people both from Chengelo and our external groups to a closer relationship with Christ. With Chengelo groups our focus is on developing a Christ-like character.

Chipo Mwanawasa

Some news from Zambia...

Chipo Mwanawasa has been appointed Special Assistant to the President for Public Policy, a great achievement!

Your editor interviewed Chipo on the completion of her GCSEs at Chengelo in the December 2007 edition of Imbila.



Ndubaluba Welcome - The Champkins Family

"It is the song of the redeemed rising from the African plain"
'He Reigns', Newsboys



The Champkins Family

I can think of no better sentence, or song to describe what I love - my redemption in Christ, my love of the African outdoors and a deep love for people.

I can think of no better work and ministry role where my passions, strengths and abilities meet more perfectly than 'building' people and communities through Christian Adventure Based Learning and Ministry.

I've been involved with people and the outdoors almost all my working life, firstly as a tour guide and then for the last 17 years in Christian camping. I worked for Scripture Union South Africa as the Camp Director at Glenhaven, in KwaZulu Natal, for 7 years. For the last 10 years I've been the Programme Manager at Simonsberg Christian Centre near Stellenbosch.

It's been a dream of mine for years to be involved in both short term high impact outdoor programmes and the long term relationship that comes with a school community. I can think of nothing better than the link Ndubaluba and Chengelo have, and look forward to a future where my passions and skills change lives in the youth of Zambia and build a win-win relationship between the benefits of the outdoors and the importance of good academic qualifications, all wrapped together in a Christian community.

As a family, we're excited about what God has in store for us and the new adventure of life in Zambia. My wife, Linda, is looking forward to the 'country life'. My eldest son Sam, is excited to have fishing on his doorstep. My youngest, Oliver, is thrilled for the excitement of adventures in the bush.

We're grateful for the opportunity to serve His Kingdom at Ndubaluba and look forward to seeing how "All God's children sing He reigns" in the years to come.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we transition into our new roles and take on the challenge of continuing the amazing legacy left by Richard Thompson.

Alan

Ndubaluba Update

The COVID lockdowns have severely impacted many Centres in Zambia working with groups of young people in the outdoors over the last 20 months. Ndubaluba has not come off unscathed financially as we lost a number of our external group bookings and the closure of schools meant there were times when we could not operate at all.

However, God has been good and thanks to the continuing loyal support of Chengelo School we have continued to operate and impact the lives of Chengelo learners through our outdoor programmes. We're grateful for every opportunity we have had to make a difference!

It has been very encouraging to see how the Zambian schools are planning to bring their learners back to Ndubaluba in 2022 and we're cautiously preparing for as much of a normal year as possible.

Please do continue to pray for us as we make plans in faith knowing that the reality could be different. We're praying and hoping for a good year, lives changed for the better and some big projects and improvements to come with it at Ndubaluba.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

From the Principal's Desk

Warm greetings from Chengelo!

As you will know both Term 1 and Term 2 had their fair share of disruption due to COVID-19. As we entered into Term 3, we were not quite sure what to expect in terms of what we were going to be able to do. Thankfully, by God's goodness and with the warmer weather, nationwide cases were very low which meant that we could get back to almost normal programmes of internal activities and events.

Prior to Term 3 we had decided not to have a half term break which meant that it was a long 11-week term, full of lots of activity.

Due to COVID-19, Ndubaluba did not have any external groups which meant that we were able to make the most of their availability for Chengelo students. Three Form 3 groups climbed Mount Mumpu, Grade 6 enjoyed their Environmental camp and Form 4 completed their Leadership training to name a few activities. The Ndubaluba team also welcomed the whole of the Primary School for a day.

ISAZ events are due to return to our programmes in 2022 but that does not mean there has been no sport. The PE department organized a full calendar of internal events ranging from the Interhouse 1km dash to football and basketball tournaments. We were able to run the sports day and swimming galas for both sections of the school.

Relaxed Covid-19 measures also meant that we were able to welcome parents back onto site as spectators for many of our internal events. We were able to hold a baptism service again at which 7 young people gave their testimony and were baptized in the Chengelo pool. It was a very special occasion as ever.

As I look back over the term there is no way that this short paragraph can capture all that we have been up to! I can only briefly mention other activities such as the chess tournament, speakers' corner, Independence Day celebrations, STEM week, Primary nativity plays, pizza night, the Coachella to name a few. The list could go on!

As I close, it is important to say a huge thankyou to the staff who work so hard to make everything happen. They serve knowing that all that we do is not just to keep the students busy but is exposing them to experiences that grow them as young people, deepen friendships and, most importantly, lift their eyes up to see and understand more about God.

Paul Vines, Principal, Chengelo School



The 1km Dash



Grade 7 Leavers' Party



Speaker's Corner

From the Assistant Editor's Armchair



This year marks ten years since my family and I left Chengelo. In some ways I can't believe it's been so long, in others I can't believe it hasn't been longer (especially these last two years!) Though I was only at Chengelo for a short 4 years, it's still such an important part of my life and always sparks so many conversations whenever someone asks that question: "So where are you from?"

Things are constantly changing at Chengelo: Mr T and his family are moving on to the next adventure (which you can read more about on pages 1-5), the Champkins family is moving to Ndubaluba (see page 6), there are so many new staff members coming and going, and I still can't imagine school assemblies anywhere other than on the grandstand, let alone in the school hall which is no longer that new. Zambia, too, has been changing recently. The new president hasn't had long to live up to his election promises, but his success and the peaceful, free elections seem to have brought hope to Zambians and beyond about a new era of change.

It's now exam season in Chengelo, as one school year ends and another begins - the final term that marks the departure of staff and students, new hostels for others, or even simply getting used to being in the next form up. This year's exams will be harder than ever after the disruption caused by COVID-19, lockdowns and home teaching. But God has had his hand on us all and this has been so clear in his provision for Chengelo over the challenges of the last two years and beyond. Through building projects, staffing changes, new students, old students, and a hundred other changes... God has so clearly gone with everyone at Chengelo.

Recently, I found a diary that I wrote during my last year at Chengelo. Back then, I was thinking about completing my IGCSEs and worrying about returning to the UK. One of the things I pondered on was what my life would be like in ten years. (This might sound like something I made up for dramatic effect, but I really did. Needless to say, my predictions were way off!) I certainly never predicted lockdowns, nor did I think that I would be writing for Imbila! So for the Thompsons, Champkins, Form 5s, Form 6s and everyone else at the end of this year, remember:

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

Martha

TREASURER'S REPORT

There is no doubt that the last couple of years have been very difficult financially for the school and they have needed to be especially careful when committing to expenditure. CET was able to support the school this year towards its future development by sending £45,000 in May. This was very gratefully received. Part of this has been used at Ndubaluba and part towards improving the fresh water supply at the school. £7,500 was also sent towards the provision of bursaries, and funds raised for individuals were also passed on.

Do you shop on-line? You could support C.E.T. every time you shop! (for free!) Most retailers support the website www.EasyFundraising.org.uk. (Amazon have their own system through Amazon Smile. They allow charities to register with www.smile.amazon.co.uk (which I have). You need to go to that part of the Amazon website and confirm that donations are to go to Chengelo Educational Trust).

Week by week financial pressures are very real to so many and supporting CET on a weekly or monthly basis is not generally feasible, and yet you can make a substantial difference by leaving a legacy to the Trust in your will. Even 5% of an Estate can be a very significant boost to CET Funds. Please consider this.

Please remember that you can specify that a particular gift can be 'ringfenced; ('restricted' is the proper term) for a particular cause (e.g. bursaries, the IT department, a named individual etc) if you so wish. Just make it clear when you send the gift. However, gifts to the general fund are always most welcome as it enables C.E.T to respond to needs at the school as they arise.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any help or advice about donating to the Trust, e.g Gift Aid, Standing Orders, Legacies or Online Giving.

Ronan Wade, Treasurer.
Tel: 07816 028717
or: rawade@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN
Mr. Richard Hobden
Southfields, West Drive,
Angmering, W. Sussex BN16 4NL
Tel: 01903 770661 / 07796 141237
broadlees@hotmail.com

SECRETARY
Mr. Bob Baker
"Carmel", Aithsetter,
Cunningsburgh, Shetland ZE2 9HG
Tel: 01950 477304 / 07802 485729
bob.jane.baker@elephant25.plus.com

TREASURER
Mr. Ronan Wade
49, Barncliffe Crescent,
Sheffield S10 4DA
Tel: 07816 028717
rawade@gmail.com

PUBLICITY & NEWSLETTER
Mr. Stephen Baker
99 Southway Drive, Yeovil,
Somerset, BA21 3EB
Tel: 01935 424911
sbkmbaker5@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP & WEBSITE
Mr. Mike Hackston
210 St. Peter's Road, Basingstoke
Hampshire, RG22 6TJ
Tel: 01256 412237
mikeandvalhackston@gmail.com

Mr. Chipo Muwowo
30 Garfield Avenue,
Bournemouth BH1 4QT
Tel: 07956 833849
c.muwowo@yahoo.co.uk

Dr. Tamsin Booth
15a Grove Road,
Beaconsfield,
Buckinghamshire HP9 1UR
Tel: 07515 154865
tamsinbooth@yahoo.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Ms. Martha Germany
22, Belgrave Crescent,
Blyth NE24 3DU
Tel: 07759 202508
marthagermany95@gmail.com

Ms. Hannah Flanders
73, Woodhill Road
Portishead BS20 7HA
Tel: 07875 691442
Hannah.flanders73@gmail.com

Mr. Steve Banister
86, Danvers Drive,
Church Crookham,
Hampshire
GU52 0ZE
Tel: 01252 409920
steveronica2002@yahoo.co.uk

Mr. Glenn Guilliatt
Field View, Meadowcroft,
Brayton, North Yorkshire
YO8 9EJ
Tel: 01757 291563
07803 359082
glennguilliatt@hotmail.com

Chengelo Contacts
Chengelo School, Private Bag 16, MKUSHI ZAMBIA
Email (Secondary School Administration):
chengelo@chengeloschool.org
Email (Primary School Administration):
primary@chengeloschool.org
School Website: www.chengeloschool.org
Tel: +260 5 362258 or
+260 5 362335 Fax: +260 5 362245
Secondary & Sixth Form Tel:
+260 215 352258 or +260 979 999992
Primary Tel:
+260 215 352134 or +260 979 999991
08.00 to 12.45 and 14.00 to 17.00 weekdays only

Zambian High Commission
Zambia House, 2 Palace Gate, London
W8 5NG Tel: 0207 5896655