

much more for this community. Here is the thing: money really does help, but what also helps is being there to be an encouragement to Kerry, Pastor Mordicai, and the people of Minamba. Without physical contact from others that are willing to help, it becomes difficult to have hope, and hope is what keeps this place working the way it does. It has been a wonderfully encouraging time for them this year, with teams from Canada (Teresa Dortmans, my husband John, and myself) and a group consisting of people from South Africa, Germany, Holland, Kenya, and Malawi.

Relationships. Remember how I said that travelling there was just as important as sending money? We go to help, encourage, and be encouraged - all while building relationships as we spend time with everyone. It is beneficial to see familiar faces everyday (and eventually year after year), to talk and pray with, and share life together. Teresa discovered this, along with Pastor Mordicai's wife, Esther, as they grew a terrific bond with one another. This was a blessing on both sides, as Esther and Mordicai have an infant and two younger sisters living with them, and Teresa is an experienced mother who was missing her daughters back home. It is amazing to see how God works these situations out, as

this was just what each other needed at that time.

Special events. When a team arrives, there are often plans to do special things such as VBS, football tournaments, preaching and classroom teaching opportunities, and movie outreaches. We had a ton of fun this time around during VBS with the kids. They learned "new" games, such as Keep Away, Capture the Flag, and Crab Soccer (all new favourites taught by Uncle John, of course), and we taught them some important lessons on The Armour of God. I also brought my face paints and mirror so the kids could experience the excitement and enjoyment of having their faces painted, as they had never done this before.

More students from outside the region. Yes, really! While it does pose a bit of a challenge for staff, especially with needing to board these young people somewhere, it is a very good problem to have. This means that people are hearing about Sonshine Academy, and with this new-found spotlight on us, comes potential for more teachers to come in, as there are currently only 3 teachers for 120 children.



A stick and mud house in the process of being built for our new students from outside the region

Having said all of this, the school building is progressing nicely. It has taken a long time - and it may still - but with people learning of this little part of Zambia and the exciting things that are stemming from that, it will become something that will bring about celebration and continued hope for our friends in Minamba.

Your support for Kerry, Pastor Mordicai, the children, and our teams is giving our friends the hope that they need, and we thank you for contributing in all of

the ways that you do. As I said before, these programs are working, and that is because of you and your continued prayers and donations. It is in these ways that you are making and shaping a bright future for many young people.

Greater things have yet to come, friends!

Laura Bryan

Missionary for Zambian Sonshine



Grade 3 students waiting for lessons to begin