

# Arise Orphan Project

*Empowering orphans, vulnerable children and their guardians.*



*Agnes helping Franklin at the hammer mill*

## MEETING AT THE HAMMER MILL

In Zambia there is a hammer mill in every village and sometimes more than one! The kernels from the maize are brought here to be ground down to a fine powder (similar to flour). This is then added to boiling water to make nshima which forms the bulk of their staple diet.

Once the maize is in this form it cannot be preserved for long so people make many trips with small amounts. Most families work out how much money they have available then this determines how much maize can be taken for milling. Sometimes a child is sent on this mission as the money they carry is little and the work is simple...albeit requiring a lot of energy.

We met Franklin, one of our Arise boys at the hammer mill this term. He was making this trip for a neighbour. After placing your sack for the miller you wait and talk with others waiting until your sack is ready. You then strap it to your back or bike to take home.

## GUARDIANS LIVES ARE VERY BUSY

You may think that getting older means slowing down. That doesn't seem to be the case here in Kaniki. Once a guardian is elderly they may not go out to find work but they have to manage ALL the work at home! This not only includes cooking, washing, and cleaning but also searching for food, tending to fields, caring for many young members of the family and attending meetings. Although it is not easy, our guardians always seem to find the energy necessary for their tasks and when they are sick there is often a member of their family who is able to help for a short time.

One of our guardians who lives in Kamalasha is called Beauty. She lives with two daughters, two granddaughters, a grandson and a great grandson. The husbands have died or fled meaning that all the responsibility falls to Beauty. One of her daughters is very sick and has not been able to care for Ebenezer or shown any interest in him. As is common here, Beauty has decided to raise him as her own son. With milk being her biggest challenge Arise has promised to pay for milk for his first year; a small way we can help both Beauty and her new grandson.



*Beauty with her grandson Ebenezer*



*Eunice was so happy to see us visiting*

## VISITS ARE NEVER EXPECTED

Every week we make visits to our families but they never know when we might come to them. One reason for this is that plans change frequently in Zambia and communication is poor. Another reason is for us to be able to meet our families in their everyday situation. We find God always directs us to the people we need to see each week and we are always warmly welcomed.

We listen to their current struggles and try to help and encourage them as best we can. The biggest challenge for our families in this hot and dry season is water. Many wells are now dry and some people are charging others to use the well or hand pump at their house. Many guardians are now having to choose between spending money on water or food.



## FARMING AND DISCIPLESHIP



*The field now has a variety of vegetables*

We have planted cabbage, rape, Chinese lettuce, onions, beans, egg-plant and local relish 'fwaka-fwaka'. Hopefully we can begin to have some success with other vegetables that people eat less often but contain vitamins and minerals they desperately need. Spinach, beetroot and carrots are some we are investigating.



*Cabbages growing well*

This term has been very different here in Zambia. Not only have schools been closed to those not taking exams this year but gatherings have not been allowed to take place. People have also been advised to only make a journey if it is necessary. As a result of these restrictions we have not been hosting Arise activities at our site.

After staff had cleared the land following the maize harvest it was decided that we could continue the farming portion with a little extra effort from all of us. Not only did we want to make good use of the land but we knew many families were still struggling for food.

We really thank God for our water supply from the water tower on site as we have not had rain since the beginning of April. All the harvest will be given to our families to bless them and ensure they know there are people who care about them. Sometimes this means more than the food.

## TESTIMONY TIME

One of the challenges we face every year is some of our older girls become pregnant outside of marriage. Pregnant girls in higher grades is sadly very common in Zambia. We explain to our girls that if they can find someone to take care of the baby while they are at school, we will support them to finish school and achieve their Grade 12 certificate. Many girls who become pregnant in the rural villages decide their only option is to become a mother and drop out of school, sometimes even moving to a new village. Faith is one of our girls who struggled to come to terms with being pregnant as it wasn't part of her life plan. At the end of July she gave birth to a healthy little boy called Thomas. Faith has also decided to remain living with her relatives who are willing to look after the baby while she is at school. Faith believes the best thing for her and her baby is to finish school.



*Meet baby Thomas*

### Prayer Points

1. Praise the Lord that our families are managing and the community of Kaniki has not been affected by the coronavirus.
2. Continue to pray for our guardians to have wisdom to know how to use the little money and energy they have to sustain their family.
3. Praise the Lord for the Arise staff and supporters who have been able to visit, encourage and meet some basic needs for our families.
4. Pray for our pupils who have missed more than a term of school. Pray that they will be enthusiastic to return to school and easily remember what they've learned.

Schools in Zambia are scheduled to re-open on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for exam classes to begin Term 3. The Arise Orphan Project continues to run all year round.

Thank you for reading our update on the work of Arise. If you have any questions or would like to further support us in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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