

# Arise Orphan Project

*Empowering orphans, vulnerable children and their guardians.*



## LIFE IN RURAL ZAMBIA

Zambia is a beautiful country and just now, as we are approaching the end of the rainy season, the grass is green and water sources look much healthier. People could perceive this as a sign life is now easy in Zambia however that is far from the truth.

Life is a challenge everyday. Food is found on a daily basis, it is either picked from fields or bought if there is money available. This is one of the reasons we are encouraging our guardians to grow some of their own vegetables – even if they only have a little patch of land. Water is collected throughout the day for bathing, washing food and clothes as well as drinking. Keeping the house clean and making repairs is also daily work.



*Children drawing roads and trees in the sand while we visit*



*Monica shows us the vegetables she has planted at her house to help feed her family*

All members of the family have responsibilities and those old enough to find some work also need to be investing their time in job hunting.

In rural Zambia, work is very difficult to find and money always scarce. People rely heavily on their maize crops not only to bring in food but also giving them produce to sell. Sadly, as we approach harvest season this is when thieves become active in the fields. So far we have heard from two of our guardians that their entire crop has been stolen during the night.

As we visit our families it is amazing to see their desire to do their best for the family and to hear their reasons to praise God: *for life today, for people coming to visit me, for food today.* What an encouragement our families are to all those around them.

## MARVELLOUS MATS

Our mat making project 'Arise Mats' has now been running for one year and it has been a huge success. The guardians collect a sack and strips of material to make a mat of their own design. When it is finished they bring it to the office ready to sell and collect the materials for another mat. As a group project they have decided they would like to keep some of the money from the sale of the mat and the rest of the money they would like to go towards things the group needs from town such as new scissors for making the mats or a sack of salt to divide up and sell from their house.

It is wonderful to see how this project has empowered our guardians. Where in the past they would come to the office saying they need money for food at home, they now ask for the money from the sales of their mats so they can buy food for their families. We give God the praise for the vision and provision for 'Arise Mats'.



*Some of the mats handmade by our Arise guardians*



*Clementina, Judith, Beauty and Josephine are now mat experts!*



*Mats usually take 1-2 weeks to make depending on the detail*



## SCHOOL

It has been wonderful to have more contact with some of our pupils this term as they begin to realise they need to attend school all the time and we are keeping records of their attendance and performance. Some pupils have been working very hard in class and we want to ensure they stay in school and seize every opportunity they are given.



*Our older pupils really appreciate having a space to exercise together*

This term ended sooner than expected for all pupils in Zambia and as yet there is no indication that exams will be delayed. Please pray that our pupils will be able to find ways to study at home and understand what they are reading.

## G10-12 DROP-IN

Once a month our Grade 10-12 pupils come to 'Drop-In', where they can study with the aid of text books and have the Arise staff available to talk through any issues they want to discuss. The pupils who have joined Grade 10 this year have begun attending and although not everyone is always able to make it, we have about 8 young people each month. They often ask for help with some of their studies...usually chemistry or maths – we help where we can.



*We now have new Bibles with much easier English*



*Young people bring their own exercise books from school and use text books we have to try to better understand school subjects*

They are also very keen to have our time of discipleship. Often they have read parts of the Bible but not understood it. This year we have begun to study the gospel of John.

## YOUTH

We have certainly grown in number as we have welcomed new Grade 3 pupils to youth this term. Every Thursday there are around 60 children who come to hear God's word, sing praises, do different activities and feel part of the Arise family.



*Code breaking to find out the memory verse before the other teams*

It is wonderful to see the children so eager to pray and even asking if they can be chosen to pray the following week. Many are working so hard to remember the Bible verse each week that we now have a prize box.

This has also encouraged children who have never learned memory verses before to begin learning them. It is wonderful to know that they have God's word hidden in their hearts.

During term 1 we have been looking at Joshua the leader. A lot of the children had heard of Joshua in the bible but didn't know much about him, nor that he needed a lot of help from God even though he was God's chosen leader. It's wonderful to help these children see how all humans are the same in



*Making Achan's tent with the treasure underneath*

many ways and that truths from the Bible can help us in our lives today. Our prayer is for our children to choose for themselves that they want to follow Christ and to live according to God's word when others are watching and when they are alone.



*Learning new games which also help them remember the Bible story*

Due to the increase in number we often divide into teams for the activities and our older pupils love to be leaders and help the younger ones – we really are like one big Arise family.





## FARMING AND DISCIPLESHIP

At the end of last year we shared with you that our guardians had decided to plant more maize than before due to the poor harvest that was country wide last year. They have been continuing to work hard in the Arise field every Friday morning and we now have maize towering above us all through the field. Hallelujah!

A few patches were not used for maize in our farming project in order to be able to grow some vegetables. We currently have cabbages, onions, sweet potato and local greens growing very well and as each one is ready for harvest our guardians are able to take them to help feed their families. It is wonderful to see them looking after their own children and being role models by working hard. We are always telling our guardians we are here to support them and each Friday they express their thanks that we are here equipping them to fulfil their family role.



*Our guardians' hard work has paid off!  
We have an abundance of maize in our field.*

### TESTIMONY TIME

Catherine and her family were accepted into Arise last year. Her husband is blind and is therefore unable to work. She had been able to raise enough money through selling some of her crops to send 2 of her 5 children to school but was not able to continue due to rising costs. Arise has been able to help by paying her children's school fees one of whom was 10yrs and able to attend school for the first time. We were also given some money to help some guardians with their fields this year as last year's crop was so poor, leaving them unable to buy seed and fertilizer. Catherine gives thanks to God for this blessing. She has planted all around her house involving the family in the work. As you can see from the picture on the right her maize is growing very well this year. Praise the Lord! Catherine knows they will have enough to eat this year and possibly some to sell providing money for other needs.



*Catherine, a devoted and hardworking mother with baby Gift*



*Catherine's maize and her children preparing dinner*

### Prayer Points

1. Thank God for the crops growing well and big maize cobs this year. After harvest there should not be such a challenge to find food.
2. Pray for all the families living hand to mouth. There are no jobs for people at the moment, costs are rising and daily life is a struggle.
3. Praise the Lord for gifts and finance that have enabled us to support many families. Pray for wisdom for the Arise staff as we distribute what God has given us.
4. Pray for all our pupils as they have extra holiday this term. Pray for them to be able to find ways to study and not fall behind.

Schools in Zambia are scheduled to re-open on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to begin Term 2. 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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