

Update on Naomi 16.2.25

Hi Everyone.

Naomi asks for prayer for Mr Lunda's father who is due to have major surgery tomorrow. (Mr Lunda is the head teacher.) Naomi has given him time off to be with his family.

The government has issued a new curriculum, or rather is doing so, bit by bit. Naomi had to pay for Mr Lunda and three teachers to go on a three day training course on the new curriculum. The teachers said that they were already doing a lot of it anyway and one of them pointed out that Naomi would have made the training a lot more interesting! Naomi asks us to pray that the teachers will stay calm and confident in their planning of lessons.

As some of you already know, Mission Geeks have been back in touch and will arrange the fitting of solar panels free of charge. Naomi has to buy the panels though. The cost is estimated at £8k although it's not clear how many panels this will provide. The school also needs computers which Mission Geeks says should be new rather than reconditioned because then they can work remotely to keep the children safe from online harm, which isn't always possible with reconditioned ones. The trustees are therefore expecting the total cost to be about £10k which should include the purchase of 10 to 15 computers. Half of the cost of the solar panels has been met by a church in the UK. Naomi would value prayer for wisdom and the right words for the appeal for the rest of the money.

On the subject of fundraising, James, who ran for AriseKapumpe in the last London Marathon is not going to do so again, but one of the new Arise trustees, Fiona, is a musician and has already arranged a concert in support of AriseKapumpe in October. One door closes – another door opens. God is good. There is also another concert in Denmark where Julie, the daughter of one of the founders of the Bible College, (mentioned in a previous update) is going to sing. She would also like Naomi to visit Denmark to talk to churches there!

Naomi says "Praise the Lord that the rains have eased". After virtually no rain last year, the rains this year were so heavy it was feared they would ruin the crops. The rains not being so persistent also means more children were able to get to school last week. Fran says that the storms can be frightening – the lightning is all over the sky. She said there was an incident when two children from another school were struck by lightning and killed. The head teacher was taking their bodies to the police station as instructed when his car was struck by a lorry and he died. The roads are really dangerous when flooded.

The Mufulira road is still under construction; please pray that it will be finished this year. On one occasion there were 800 lorries parked on the dual carriageway. Passing them is extremely dangerous when you have to drive on the wrong side of the road. However, the farm on the other side of the road from the school is going to be made into a huge lorry park, so that should ease the problem.

The drive from the Mufulira road into the school is still just sand (with grass and weeds now growing in it). Please pray that Naomi can find another contractor as the original guy is not answering her calls. Naomi is hoping that someone in the Bible college will make a gate for her. A hole will have to be made in the wall for the gate but obviously not until the gate is ready.

John the grounds man is leaving at the end of this month but Naomi will share the work out between the guardians and will pay them, which they will appreciate.

The mozzies are really active – they love wet weather! Naomi, Colin, and Fran were all covered in bites.

Every blessing,

Fran M.

PS. One day during Colin and Fran's visit, Fran tripped and fell. She called out to Colin but he didn't hear her. Just then Naomi, for no reason she can think of(!) happened to look along the veranda and disbelievably thought "Is that mum on the ground????!!!!!" Naomi dressed the wound on Fran's hand saying she was getting her revenge for all the times Fran had dressed her wounds when she was a child!

Fran is also grateful for people's prayers, especially on the flight from Ndola to Addis Ababa. She couldn't work out what she was seeing out of the window at first but then realised it was lightning inside the clouds! It was like seeing filaments light up inside light bulbs. Instructions then came to fasten seatbelts!