

Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray Belvoir

June 2010 - Mail News and Events

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Itala Project

An update report by Albert Mwansa to the Rotary Club on the 17 May 2010

“The Rotary Club President Melton Mowbray Belvoir, and all members may I simply say ladies and gentlemen I feel greatly honoured and privileged this evening to address you and even more importantly to acknowledge the support you keep rendering to my project in improving the quality of life of people in my community through education.”

Your passion for a free and fair society, a society of equal opportunities. A society which does not look at race, creed, gender, religion, as a basis for different treatment. Indeed a just society is what Rotary is all about and I salute you for this.

My association with Rotary Club since I last visited your beautiful country in 2007, has been historical in that so many changes have taken place in my community with your support.

In the year 2007, I was privileged to address this audience, and I enumerated various problems that my community was facing such as:

- Poverty
- Illiteracy
- Under development
- Poor sanitation
- Diseases, such as malaria and HIV Aids
- Poor social services, education, health, environmental issues, etc.

Today I stand before you to inform you that your support to my organisation has helped a lot in addressing some of these problems, or challenges, my community has been facing.

In the year 2000 when the school was opened, we had only 24 pupils, but today we have 1400 pupils attending the school daily. Which I believe is a remarkable achievement.

In 2000 we were renting a tiny grass thatched four roomed abandoned house as a school. But today we have two permanent classroom blocks, with a total of six classrooms, three permanent staff houses, a school tuck-shop. A mill project to raise additional resources for the school and a school garden where we grow maize corn, sweet potatoes, beans, bananas etc.

In 2000 our pupils did not have desks or tables at which to sit, instead they sat on hard stones which greatly affected their learning, particularly their handwriting. We now have desks and teaching and learning has become enjoyable.

In 2000 we did not have electricity in school and school ended much earlier. Now we have electricity and pupils have more learning time and are able to study in the evenings. Teachers too are able to watch television, plan their schemes of work and conduct evening adult literacy classes. They are able to hold professional meetings, charge their mobile phones, grind maize corn for their staple food, and provide corn for the community members at a minimal charge to raise money for the school. Thanks to Ken and Ros for funding this project.

In 2000 we had very few out dated text books, with only the teaching staff having access. We now have more text books and the children are able to read them.

In 2000 our teachers were untrained but now the staff are being trained and the standard of teaching has improved.

In 2000 we mainly concentrated on teaching academic subjects now we have diversified our curriculum to include practical subjects such as agriculture science, sewing, tailoring. Again we thank you for funding the women's sewing project.

Academic achievement has been excellent with 100% pass rate for Grade 7 examinations. All Grade 7 students were able to go onto Grade 8. Also adults doing Grade 7 and 9 evening classes all passed to enter Grade 8 and 10 respectively.

Rotarians Maggie and Sandy Saunders visited Itala School and supported Albert's presentation with up to date photographs.

Due to the achievements our school records, more children wish to attend. We are in the process of developing a two classroom block to accommodate the increasing demand for education. The community has started on the foundations and making of bricks.

Future Plans

With the ever increasing child population we are having difficulty at the moment to meet the demand. It is planned to construct more classrooms in the future.

Because of the high rate of unemployment in our community we need to diversify the curriculum to teach skills and knowledge that is more relevant to the job market, for example carpentry, bricklaying, art and technology, computer literacy.

We need to build more toilets as the school sanitation is not that good, with only six toilets for 1400 children and four staff toilets. We need to construct more staff houses as we only have two, with ten members of staff. We would like to bring piped water to the staff houses.

Our intention is to develop the school to provide pre-school education to Grade 9 and in the long run also to Grade 10-12.

We hope to start providing a meal under the School Health and Nutrition programme. This will only be achieved with community support as feeding 1400 will not be easy. We have a pilot project going where 30 children, 15 boys and 15 girls (orphans) are being provided with lunch on Monday and Friday.



Lastly we would like more books in school as the current book pupil ratio is 1-50. This makes teaching of reading very difficult. We have set up a

school library (Maggie Wilson) and we hope to stock this facility with various reading materials for our staff and pupils. We also intend to promote sport in the school, so that children have an opportunity to play different types of games.

Ladies and gentlemen I would like to end here and thank you for listening.

Albert



Albert greeting Maggie on her arrival to Zambia



"School Choir" greeting Maggie and Sandy to their school



Classroom with pupils and staff



School Time Table



Electric powered corn mill



Window of opportunity for all

Events and speakers for May - June 2010

7th June	Mark Winfield: Calvert Trust
9th June (Wednesday)	Kids Out: Wickstead Park
14th June :	No Meeting; Moved to the Thursday 17th June
17th June (Thursday)	Presidents Night: Visit to Leicester Race Course
21st June	Anna Duval: Melton Borough Pyramid Project
28th June	Club Assembly:
5th July	Susan McNiff: Leicester Charity Link. Tackling Poverty
12th July	Revd Kevin Ashby: The Rector of St Mary's Melton Mowbray
19th July	Rtn Sandy Saunders:
26th July	TBC (We hope to arrange an evening walk and a pub meal)
2nd August	Johnathan Berry: Melton (CAB) Citizen Advice Bureau

Please note: If you would like to attend a meeting as a guest, please speak to either a Rotarian or the secretary, Rtn Gordon Wells on 01949 842804. All meetings are on a Monday Evening 7pm for 7-30pm meal. Other venues and visits will be indicated in the programme.

Presidents Challenge 2010

The annual challenge between teams from the Inner Wheel Club of Melton Mowbray Belvoir and Rotary Club of MMB, this year took place at the Quorn Slot Car racing six track circuit at Loughborough. The drivers from the Rotary club did get the highest score to win the trophy this year.



Marshal Richard with six competitors

Although some cars were put on the incorrect track by the marshals, who were on every corner, everyone had a really good time. Some drivers went too fast on the corners and many crashes occurred. Some were slow and careful, but got there in the end. Well done everyone.



"Where's my car!!!"