

2011 Initial Visit – Report and photos Munega, School in Memory of Iain Beaudoin

Seven Emmanuelites arrived in Lusaka on June 3, 2011: ministerial staff the Reverend Peter Lougheed and Lay Minister Christine Williams, Jeannie and Iain Page, Keith Jeacle, Lynn Gullins and Norman Williams. We were joined by Omega Bula, from the United Church of Canada.

As part of the trip, the group travelled to Mazabuka, Southern Province, 135 km southwest of Lusaka. This is the nearest town with suitable accommodation for us while we visited Munenga, the proposed site of the new school.



We drove to the PAF regional office where we met Mrs. Janet Nyoni, Mr. Goodson Muchindu, student interns Ms. Purity Kandama and Ms. Tamara Gondwe. PAF has identified the need for a school in a remote village in the Munenga Area, Southern Province, some 35 km west of Mazabuka, Zambia. The nearest school is 8 km distant and many of the children in the area have never attended school.



PAF is a non-governmental organization with an international reputation for working with marginalized rural communities to enable them to make grass roots, sustainable changes to improve their lives.

Together, we continued another 35 km westward, with the final 8 km a dirt track into the bush, to the village of Munyumbwe in the Munenga area. We were met by a most joyful crowd of brightly dressed villagers who drummed and danced for us in welcome. We were treated to lunch in the home of Mrs. Giveness Munyam and her family, before meeting with 135 men, women, children, headmen and one headwoman from the surrounding area. They explained their community's various needs, the ravages of HIV/Aids, and identified the school as a priority, saying that 100 children are ready to attend. The local Chief has already set aside 5 acres for the school, kitchen, outdoor toilets and teachers house near the centre of the village. We gave the community a number of new soccer balls to replace their homemade ones and left after an emotional farewell.



Home made soccer ball



That evening we met with Mrs. Nyoni and discussed what PAF required of us to partner on the school and what Emmanuel needed to estimate the costs so that we could begin gathering resources to build the school foundation and toilets in 2011 and build the school and kitchen in 2012.

Nega Nega, Similiar School to the Proposed School



The next day, we travelled from Mazabuka 38 km east to the village of Nega Nega. There we met with Mr. Mischa Kalolo, volunteer staff of the Capacity Building and Learning Activity Centre (CABLAC), funded by PAF, where local women can discuss daily community challenges, find solutions and take action. We toured the Nega Nega two-room school house (Grades 1-8) and were entertained by students singing and performing traditional dances during their noon break. Jessica Williams and Tony Campbell had spent two weeks in the community in 2010 assisting at the school and the CABLAC. We then travelled 5 km into the bush to a new school under construction to see the construction layout and materials. The same materials and layout will be used for the school in Munenga.