



School for Peace Update



Spring 2018

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1151173

Latest News from Congo

Because of the current crisis in the country, there are now thousands of internally displaced people in the south east, a safe area of the country where the school is situated. We saw many refugee camps on our first visit in 2002 and we hope that once the elections have taken place, hopefully in December, the situation will improve.

On a more positive note, the children at the school are very happy. We have had messages from a student who is now in the sixth form and hoping to continue her studies at university. We are thinking about setting up bursaries for the students we have been sponsoring who are able to pursue their dream of further education.

« I really love my school, Saint Benet's School for Peace. Soon I will have to leave and I will really miss it. I love my teachers, the Headteacher and the discipline at school, the IT room and the Science lab. May the Almighty bless you for what you have done for us." *Pichouna Bénédicte.*

The container



It left Antwerp on 4th December on a very long journey by sea around to the south of Africa and up to Tanzania where it was put on a lorry at Dar-es-Salaam and finally arrived in Lubumbashi on 1st March. Here is a message from Sr Euphrasie:

« Please thank everybody who participated in sending all the things we have received. The skeleton is



now at the 'Institut Supérieur de Techniques Médicales' in Likasi. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Affectionately, *Sr Euphrasie*
There are more messages overleaf.

Machines

Many of you donated sewing machines and ten were sent to a project run by the sisters for young people who have missed out on their education. They are taught numeracy, literacy, sewing and woodworking, often winning prizes. We also sent tools and five fantastic woodworking machines.



Sponsorship

More sponsors are urgently needed, especially as the school is growing in numbers (995 at the last count!)

Forthcoming events

Two concerts are being planned for 2018. Please see the website for details as well as dates for our meetings

Contact Mary Ellwood (Secretary) or Alan Williams (Treasurer) on school4peace@gmail.com

Message received from Sr. Euphrasie Beya, 3 March 2018

Sister Rosine will have updated you about the arrival of 'Father Christmas' in Tshamalale. The container arrived at the Salesians' Headquarters where we had to take everything out for Customs. There were lots of things for the Salesians as well as other Congregations. We put the things in a hangar. After taking everything off, the lorry went to drop off the empty container at Tshamalale – you've seen the photo. The lorry then had to go back to Dar-es-Salaam.

Then we hired another lorry to get all our things to Tshamalale. There were more than 100 parcels muddled up. We put everything into a classroom and we're going to open them one by one, ticking off the items on your list. We have already contacted Ginny at CAM International to come and collect her parcels. We've already placed the tables in a classroom. They are beautiful and solid – thank you so much. We realise that you had a lot of work filling the boxes and labelling them.

Thanks to all the people who helped.

Message received from Sr. Marcelline Cibonga, 3 March 2018

I am so happy to write to you to say hello and to thank you sincerely. Really, I do not know how to express my gratitude. Yesterday I received a telephone call from my co-sister in Lubumbashi telling me that the container had arrived and that you have sent us 10 sewing machines and 5 wood working machines. I haven't yet seen them but I can assure you that I cannot express my joy.

Yesterday I could hardly sleep because of it. Thank you, thank you, thank you! May God shower you with blessings. You are children of God. No one could do this without God's help. This gives me hope of one day getting a van for our centre: the St Joseph's Centre of Literacy, Sewing and Woodwork.

Message received from Sr. Virginie Kadima, 25 March 2018

Dear Mary and all our friends in Beccles (and beyond!)

I thank you sincerely for the important items you sent in the container. Sr Euphrasie has given me three boxes of English books for our school in Zambia as well as a beautiful rosary and booklet in English. Thank you very much indeed. The pupils will be delighted with the books.

At St Benet's in Tshamalale, there is great joy seeing so many happy pupils playing in the paved playground where they no longer get dirty. Thank you for your great generosity. I am praying for you. Sr Virginie.