

Dear Friends,

The new year brought many exciting changes, improvements, and celebrations to the schools, students, teachers and staff at African Vision of Hope in Zambia. It has all been made possible because of you! Here is a look at what has been accomplished in the last six months. *"So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while."* 1 Peter 1:6

*Judi Bertels*

Judi Bertels, President/CEO



## The New School Year Begins

On January 1st, the new school year began in Zambia. Hundreds of new first graders started their very first day of school bright-eyed and full of excitement. Three thousand other students put on their uniforms made by the Women's Empowerment Ministry and started back to one of the 5 African Vision of Hope schools, anticipating the year ahead.

## The Farm is Flourishing

This was a big year for the African Vision of Hope Conservation Farm in Chikumbi, Zambia. First, a low-cost reservoir was dug on the farm to provide irrigation to the crops year-round, helping sustain the growth even during the dry season. This has led to a record year in corn production for the farm, and green stalks sprouted from 4,000 hand-dug holes in the ground even when there was no rain to be had for weeks. These beautiful crops will help feed and sustain African Vision of Hope students and support the community.



## The Clean Water is Flowing

*"For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things."* - Psalm 107:9

In a few months, new water tanks, bore holes, and sanitation sinks will be installed at schools and the House of Hope. This will be instrumental in bringing clean water to more people in more communities as well as providing much-needed sanitation opportunities and disease prevention for students and boarders.





## The Arts are Excelling

**“Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.”  
- Proverbs 22:29**

The Arts Department is thriving at African Vision of Hope School in rural Chongwe, Zambia. These students live in mud huts and walk hours to school each day. In art classes, students use items found in their surroundings such as seeds, dirt, and wood to create masterpieces fit for gallery shows. When donated band equipment arrived, the students quickly learned songs through playing by ear and using their ability to recognize rhythms and melodies. The arts help these students develop creative problem-solving skills, boost critical thinking, and connect students with their own culture as well as the wider world.

## The House of Hope has Opened

**“I will say to the Lord,  
“My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”  
- Psalm 91:2**



On March 1st, the Girls House of Hope Home officially opened its doors. Twenty girls now have a safe, beautiful house to call “home”. For many, this is the first place they have ever lived where they feel safe. This is their very first time sleeping with their head on a pillow, and is just the beginning of a life filled with possibilities. These girls are paving the way for hundreds of others to step through these doors and find hope and restoration. The House of Hope has room for 100 girls to be rescued from desperate situations and from the streets. Every girl who lives here receives an education, clean water, nutritious meals, medical care, spiritual mentoring, and a safe place to call home at no cost to them. We have converted the previous boarding home into an all-boys dorm that is now home to 33 boys who have been rescued from the dangers of living on the streets. If not for this home, many of these boys would be forced to resort to crime in order to survive, and most likely turn to drugs and alcohol to numb their pain. Instead, they are shining examples of behavior and respect in their school and are looked up to by their fellow students.



## The Tech Center is Coming

In May, the first tech center for our schools will open at the Kabulonga campus giving students and teachers access to the internet, teaching resources and email. Africa will need a new generation of accountants, researchers, math and science teachers, and engineers that will be equipped to help create solutions. All of these careers will require the skills qualifying them for those positions. This will help grow Africa's economy, reduce poverty, and support good government.



## The Shoes are Growing

In January, we launched a campaign to provide a pair of "The Shoe that Grows" to one entire class of students, totaling 50 pairs. Generous donors quickly fulfilled this goal, and, in early March, 50 children received their very first pair of new shoes. "The Shoe that Grows" are shoes that expand 5 sizes and grow with the child who is wearing them. Without shoes, children are especially vulnerable to soil-transmitted diseases and parasites that can cause illness and even death. Most children walk over an hour to school, and without shoes, illness becomes almost unavoidable. Since children's feet grow so quickly, they often outgrow donated shoes within a year, leaving them once again exposed to illness and disease. That is why these shoes are a great solution. Next, our goal is to give another classroom full of children their first pair of new shoes.



## The Scholarships are Supporting

Thirty-four graduates are attending college thanks to the College Scholarship program that you help provide. They are preparing for careers in fields ranging from teaching to pharmacy and beyond. Eight men and women are receiving scholarships to seminary where they are learning how to share the gospel and spread the Good News. Fifty-two sponsored men and women have graduated seminary and 102 students have received college scholarships. Leonard (left) is studying Primary Education through an African Vision of Hope Scholarship.



## The Counselors are Guiding and the Buildings are Updating

**“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”  
- 2 Corinthians 9:12**

African Vision of Hope classrooms and school buildings got a fresh coat of paint and much needed maintenance before the school year began. The dining hall at African Vision of Hope School in Kabulonga is buzzing with activity 18 hours a day, transforming from a place to eat during the day to a study hall at night. Last summer during the windy season, the roof of this building blew off. Thanks to generous donors like you, the roof was able to be quickly repaired and everyday activities could begin again. In December, three African Vision of Hope teachers flew to the USA and participated in a global partnership that trained them on how to teach curriculum using a Biblical world-view. This is a 3-year partnership with Westminster Christian Academy that will allow all African Vision of Hope teachers to be trained in this area. A new guidance counseling program has been implemented at our Kabulonga school by two African Vision of Hope sponsored seminary students and current staff members. This program is helping students work through their life’s struggles and also plan for their future. Pictured above are Japhet, far right, and Foliad, second from the right. They are the Guidance Counselors who are implementing this new program.



## The New Classrooms are Emerging

New 9th grade classrooms were constructed at African Vision of Hope schools in both Kasama and Kafue, Zambia. These classrooms are helping make room for 100 new students to enroll at these schools and escape from their cycle of extreme poverty through education. Also, 100 brand new desks were purchased, allowing students who were previously sitting on the floor to have a place to sit and study.

## The Needs are Many

Along with these positive reports, there is also great need. Hunger and starvation is becoming more pressing as the drought in Zambia has caused a food shortage. During the weekends when they are not receiving their school meals, many students are going more than 24 hours without food. Please continue to pray for students and their families as they navigate this difficult time.



Students are starting to dream about their futures with hope and expectation. They are thinking outside the box, discipling others, learning to be good citizens, and helping their community. This is all because of you. Thank you!