

WISDOM COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ndola, Zambia



Wisdom Community School is run by Better World Ministries, headed by Brother Charles Mutambala. The school is located adjacent to a slum, Twapia (means “we are very broke”) outside the city of Ndola. The school originally met in a church and is currently housed in a two classroom block building which was constructed about two years ago. The building consists of two classrooms and a small one room “office” which actually serves as living quarters for the caretaker and his wife. There is no electricity or water service. The only toilet facility is a small enclosure built of sticks which surrounds a simple hole in the ground. The building itself is a simple structure consisting of earthen bricks, a concrete floor, exposed wood roof structure with metal roofing. The inside walls have been plastered with cement, but not the outside. Nothing has been painted to this point. Each classroom has a blackboard and a few wooden tables and benches.

Presently the school has an attendance of 160 vulnerable and orphaned children. Currently grades 1–4 are offered, during two morning classes and two afternoon classes. The staff includes three teachers in addition to the caretaker. The teachers and caretaker each receive an allowance of the equivalent of \$100 per month. The school allows the students to come at no charge, since none of the students can afford the cost of a public education. Their education includes reading the Bible and learning about Jesus Christ.

The slum area surrounding the school is inhabited by unemployed or sick residents. The HIV and AIDS pandemic has devastated these communities to such an extent that most of the students in attendance are either single or double orphaned. Many are being looked after by poor, unemployed grandparents. Some of these children are coming from homes looked after by the eldest orphaned child in the family. The school is classified as a community school and receives no government support or funding. It is a charitable initiative endeavoring to achieve educational opportunities for all regardless of ability to pay. Community schools are initiated by local residents and churches for the sole purpose of helping orphaned and vulnerable children to have an opportunity of going to school to get a decent education.

Urgent Needs:

- **Monthly monetary support for three teachers, one caretaker amounting to a total of \$400.**
- **Painting the interior walls (materials/supplies cost: approx. \$450-\$500).**
- **Cement plastering the exterior of the building to prevent deterioration of the earthen bricks (cost estimate: approx. \$1000 labor and materials)**
- **Painting the exterior walls after plastering (materials/supplies cost: approx. \$500)**
- **Teaching materials (books, paper, pencils, teaching aids, etc.).**
- Drilling a well to provide clean water for the school and surrounding area.
- Constructing a small block toilet building

Longer Term Needs:

- Erecting a wall fence to protect the school from vandals.
- Construction of a second two classroom building to allow the addition of grades 5 – 8.
- A feeding program for the students.

How can we help?

Brother Charles Mutambala recently initiated Better World Ministries in Ndola after his previous employer, African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries, elected to curtail operations in Zambia due to funding and logistical issues. Brother Charles is well respected and connected in Ndola and other parts of Zambia. He is currently raising support for the various ministries of Better World. He has done a superb job in making the arrangements for our mission trips to Ndola in June 2011 and January 2012. His expertise and networking ability has assured very successful attendance of all the Living Well ministry events. We have the utmost confidence in him and his heart to bring about change to Ndola and surrounding areas according to God's will and plan. He will partner with individuals, churches, and other organizations both in Zambia and around the world to accomplish this mission. One of his main goals is to continue to build into the lives of pastors and their families across denominational lines, which makes his ministry a complimentary partner to Living Well. We share his vision for educating the poorest of the poor to give those children a chance to break out of their poverty. We can be a vessel of His love and care for these children.

Romans 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need.

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.

The Challenge

Living Well Ministries is currently raising support to cover the \$400 monthly teacher and caretaker wages for 2012 to assure the children will continue to have this education opportunity.

Additionally, we would like to take a team of volunteers to paint the school building's interior walls (and the exterior walls also if we can get them plastered) and to help with other physical needs. Living Well intends to return to Ndola the first week of June to conduct another intensive week-long seminar for pastor couples. The school project would run concurrently. We will provide other opportunities to minister to the children of that area while the painting is being done (possibly vacation Bible school type activities and sports). This is truly an opportunity for us to make a difference for the Kingdom in the lives of these children.

