

Dee Jones in Zambia – Mar2022

Building Project

Our final plans were drawn up just before Christmas and our footing and foundation was already on the way. I put out an appeal last November and because of your generosity we have been able to purchase all we need to complete up to the roof stage. So, a big thank you to all of you who responded and gave so generously.

Apart from a couple of challenges, things have gone remarkably smoothly. In December we lost one of our solar panels in a storm which meant we were out of water for a couple of weeks. This occurred just when we'd laid the concrete slab and needed the water the most. This meant a lot of trips to the water treatment plant to collect water for Bupe our contractor during the curing process. Our foundation is firm and has been built to a very high standard.



The first brick being laid in the footing



Water bought from town supply



Walls in progress



And now roofing begins

Out in the Field - Foundations for Farming

We have Abel back with us and I have given him the role as lead trainer. He has been training Wilson our new member of the team in the area of training and has assisted him in training our casual staff. We've even been using our very incomplete building as a classroom. I can't wait to see it completed so we can move in.



Inside one of the rooms. A roof was all we needed to make it usable.



When the dust and noise of tools got too much, we moved outside.

The number of farmers this season dropped from 52 to 36. Some people had moved away and some had lost interest. Our focus for the remainder of the season is to continue to walk with the remaining farmers and to continue to follow them on their journey.

We managed to catch up on our own fields which had gotten off to a late start. This year I'm experimenting with pigeon pea in my as a way of fixing nitrogen into the soil for the following year's crop rotation of maize. I have learnt the importance of using edible leguminous crops as farmers don't take to crops that can't be eaten.



Pigeon Pea in our organically fertilised fields



This year's 6x6 m "well watered garden" maize using compost as well as inorganic fertiliser.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for our trainers as they adjust into their roles.
- Give thanks for the funds that have come in and enabled us to reach the place where we are at now. Continue to pray for the provision of resources and safety at the worksite.
- Pray for wisdom for Bupe as he continues to oversee the project
- Pray for Abel as he joins the Mkushi team for a couple of months to learn from them.