

# Mwandi OVC Project Newsletter



*Katie Wallis ~ International Volunteer*

Katie's Email: [katowallis@gmail.com](mailto:katowallis@gmail.com)

Katie's Blog: [katowallis.blogspot.com](http://katowallis.blogspot.com)

Mwandi United Church of Zambia Orphans & Vulnerable Children Project  
PO Box 70, Mwandi via Livingstone, Zambia, Africa

Fiona's Email: [uczovc@gmail.com](mailto:uczovc@gmail.com)

Web: [www.mwandiovc.com](http://www.mwandiovc.com)



## Newsletter No:3 – October 2015

*I'm too old to love rollercoasters as much as I do, but I can't help myself. They have the incredible ability to take you through almost the full spectrum of human emotion in less than two minutes; apprehension, fear, excitement, jubilation, joy, peace, terror. They take you to the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. They are fast and they are slow. They will cause you to scream one second and burst into uncontrollable laughter the next. They take your breath away and then quickly give it back to you. They turn you upside down and throw you around a little, but the tossing and turning doesn't last forever. Eventually the ride is just a memory... and in my experience, always a good memory.*

I've come to discover that living in Mwandi is like riding the most insane rollercoaster ever built. I experience more emotions in the course of a day than I knew existed. There are high highs and low lows. Sometimes things happen quickly and unexpectedly... like losing electricity. Other times things move incredibly slowly... like trying to get your electricity connected again. But at the end of the day everything stops. The ride is over and peace reigns. The sun sets over the river and I take a deep breath on my verandah and am excited to ride the rollercoaster again when I wake up in the morning.

**You haven't heard from me for too long... for this I apologise. It's been a busy several months in Mwandi and Australia. I headed back to Australia in early June for three months to embark on a speaking tour around the country. I drove over 10,000km in my Dad's car (thanks Dad!), from the Sunshine Coast to Yamba to Sydney to the Snowy Mountains to Melbourne to country South Australia (via the Great Ocean Road) to Adelaide to the Sunshine Coast to Rockhampton to Brisbane and eventually back to the Sunshine coast for a week of sleep before heading back to Mwandi. Thank you to everyone who hosted me along the way. I told stories and sang some tunes in churches, lounge rooms, businesses and schools. It was a wonderful time of connecting with people who have supported the OVC Project faithfully for many years (as well as with new supporters)... and it was my pleasure to bring some stories from Zambia home to Australia. This will be something I do every year, so if you are interested in hosting an event next year feel free to drop me a line so I can include you on my next speaking tour. We're hoping I can make it to America next year also, so please get in touch if you'd be interested in having me come to share about what's happening at the Project.**

**The Project is venturing into the world of social media** and we hope to be able to connect with more people more often via this medium. If you are on face book I'd love it if you tracked down our page and gave us a like. **You'll find us at "Mwandi UCZ OVC Project"**. We launched the page a few days ago and have already managed to connect with about 250 people. This will be a great platform for sharing photos and stories as things happen day-to-day in Mwandi. We'd also really love it if you could share the page with anyone you know who has visited the Project in the past, or anyone who might be interested in the type of work we do.

*I'm really saddened to report that one of the rollercoaster lowest of lows happened to our Project family this week. Makasa Ngowani (14), one of the original 20 children on our feeding program when it began 11 years ago, passed away on Monday in hospital. His health had been up and down for some months, but it was a shock to our staff and children when we heard the news. I attended his burial this week with staff and children from the OVC Project, where we celebrated his life and mourned with his family. Makasa had been with the Project since its inception, and we give thanks that he got 10 years of life which he may not have had if the Project was not around to support him nutritionally and medically. It was a stark reminder to me of how important it is that we continue to offer nutritional and medical support to vulnerable children in Mwandì. Thank you to all who faithfully support this part of the Project... unfortunately there is much still to do so we ask for your continued support and prayers as we move forward.*



**Other things on the ground here are moving along in their usual way.** Our vocational training facilities continue to operate well (*we had a graduation ceremony for sewing students while I was home in Australia*). These courses offer valuable skills to anyone from the community and continue to empower (especially women) people to become self-sufficient. Although our numbers of students are low, the services are still of great value to the community. This month, our sewing and carpentry teachers are embarking on a PR campaign to make the community aware of what we offer and to invite people into these courses.



**Our counselling team (led by Giblet) has been leading some exciting initiatives in outlying village areas.** Their most recent outing was to the Sooka Community School where they led a workshop with the community about sexual abuse and exploitation. Giblet will be looking for more opportunities to run workshops in other areas... **This is a growing part of the Project and we are still seeking funding to cover Giblet's salary.** Our counselling service provides a vital role **in establishing healthy futures for our children who have suffered abuse, and who battle with the stigma of disease every day.** Without trained professionals to help guide them through these issues, children will never come to understand that they have the right to a healthy and happy future. Please consider joining us in this important work.

**Our education support program needs a little help.** *We have had some sponsors who have had to drop out and so we are seeking funding for college and university students. Some students only have a year left to get their degree/diploma and we'd love to be able to support them in this. Education really does change the course of people's lives over here, and not just their life, but their entire family. We have seen it time and time again with students graduating and being able to support their families. If you're able to support the Project in this way, Sandra Pugsley would be delighted to hear from you: sandrapugsley@gmail.com.*

**We have a few building projects on the go.** These are always fun for Edward to manage. And when I say 'fun' I really mean 'wonderfully frustrating'!! The old bakery has been transformed into an administration block. It is 99% completed and so we hope to all move in there very soon. This will see the majority of our staff working out of the same building for the first time and will assist us greatly in our communication efforts with one another. The flats that we are building as an income generating activity are slowly coming along. It will be great to have them finished and tenanted to provide some income to cover staff wages.



WORK IN PROGRESS –  
Transforming old Bakery into  
new Administration Block

**Our farm is struggling a little and we are in the process of implementing a plan to increase our pig production in the hopes that the farm can become sustainable, and beyond that, that it can become a good income generating activity for the OVC Project. The increase in the price of food stock and the continued devaluing of the Zambian Kwacha makes this a lofty goal. We would really appreciate your prayers for the farm, and for the Zambian economy in general. With the presence of the drought and ever-increasing inflation (the Kwacha has inflated 100% to the US\$ this year), people are really beginning to struggle.**

*On a personal note, I've been back in Mwandia for a month and am happily settled back in after a whirlwind trip to Malawi to see Fiona when I landed back in Africa. I continue to do the best I can to support our local management team as they run the project. It's starting to get pretty hot here, and we now have the added bonus of 8-hour power-outages most days of the week. This could extend to 12-hour outages in the near future, so that'll be fun (I use the word 'fun' loosely again!). We've developed a nice tradition of Sunday lunch BBQs, so I generally have 10-15 people on my verandah for lunch every Sunday. It's wonderful to be surrounded by my Mwandia family in this way.*

**Thank you all for your continued support.** None of this happens without a whole host of people responding in love to the needs of the world. You are so important to us over here in Zambia, and the door is always open if you'd like to come over and be part of what we're doing in Mwandia.

Until next time... Cheers

kt xo



GRADUATION CEREMONY for SEWING STUDENTS - 2015



NEW FLATS UNDER CONSTRUCTION 2015

TRANSFORMING Old Bakery into NEW ADMINISTRATIONBLOCK

If you would like to donate to the OVC Project through PayPal you can do that from our website (mwandiovc.com). Please leave us a note in PayPal if you would like your donation to go towards any specific area of need, otherwise we will put money where it is most urgently needed.

**The project is seeking financial support for the following items:**

- Major service on the Ford – up to \$2000
- Tyre for the Ford - \$200
- Internet - Euro150/month (approx. \$230AUD / month – depending on exchange rate)

- Fuel - \$300/month
- Electricity for project - \$200/month
- Salary for Gibley - \$5000/year (or any part of)
- Feeding Assistant Tokens - \$600/month
- Insurance for the Project - \$3500/year
- Sows for breeding at the farm - \$2000
- College/University Support – please contact Sandra for info

**We'd love you to be praying for us too:**

- For the Zambian economy.
- For families suffering due to the drought. Please pray for World Renew as they implement a large-scale drought relief (food distribution) project in Mwandia and its surrounds. Please pray that those who need food are the recipients.
- For the family and friends of Makasa as they mourn his death.
- For our continuing building projects.
- For the farm, and especially for Thannie (our farm manager) as he implements new strategies at the piggery.
- For Pastor Mudenda and Edward as they lead the staff and volunteers at the OVC Project and manage its day-to-day running.
- For a continued sense of 'team' to be developed amongst staff at the project.
- For us (OVC Project staff and volunteers) to be a good reflection of the love and grace of Jesus to our children and the community.



The Mwandia Support Team is now an Incorporated group: Incorporation No. A42569 - effective from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015. MWANDIA OVC PROJECT SUPPORT TEAM INCORPORATED became registered as a Charity with Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 - ABN: 71 673 742 560.

**AUSTRALIAN ENQUIRIES**

C/- Sandra Pugsley  
PO Box 487  
Nairne SA 5252 Australia

**Mwandia Education Sponsorship Program**

Mobile: 0400 881 942  
Email: [sandrapugsley@gmail.com](mailto:sandrapugsley@gmail.com)

**INTERNATIONAL ENQUIRIES**

C/- Fiona Dixon-Thompson  
Email: [uczovc@gmail.com](mailto:uczovc@gmail.com)

**Mwandia Support Team**

C/- Pt Lincoln Uniting Church  
PO Box 191, Port Lincoln, SA. 5606  
Phone: (08) 8684 2065  
Web: [www.mwandiovc.com](http://www.mwandiovc.com)  
Email: [fionamwanditeam@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fionamwanditeam@yahoo.com.au)  
Email: [mwandisupportteam@gmail.com](mailto:mwandisupportteam@gmail.com)

**Please make ALL Cheques Payable to  
MWANDIA OVC PROJECT SUPPORT TEAM INC**

**Banking Details – for Direct Deposits  
BSB: 035 067 ACCOUNT NO: 21 6770**

**Westpac Bank (Port Lincoln Branch)  
46-48 Liverpool Street, Port Lincoln SA 5606**

**New Banking Details effective from  
1 September 2015**

**Account Name: Mwandia UCZ OVC Project  
Account No: 015 0454 086 000  
Branch No: 061 018  
Swift Code: SCBLZMLX**

**BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:  
STANDARD CHARTER BANK  
LIVINGSTONE BRANCH  
MOSI-O-TUNYA ROAD  
ZAMBIA. AFRICA**