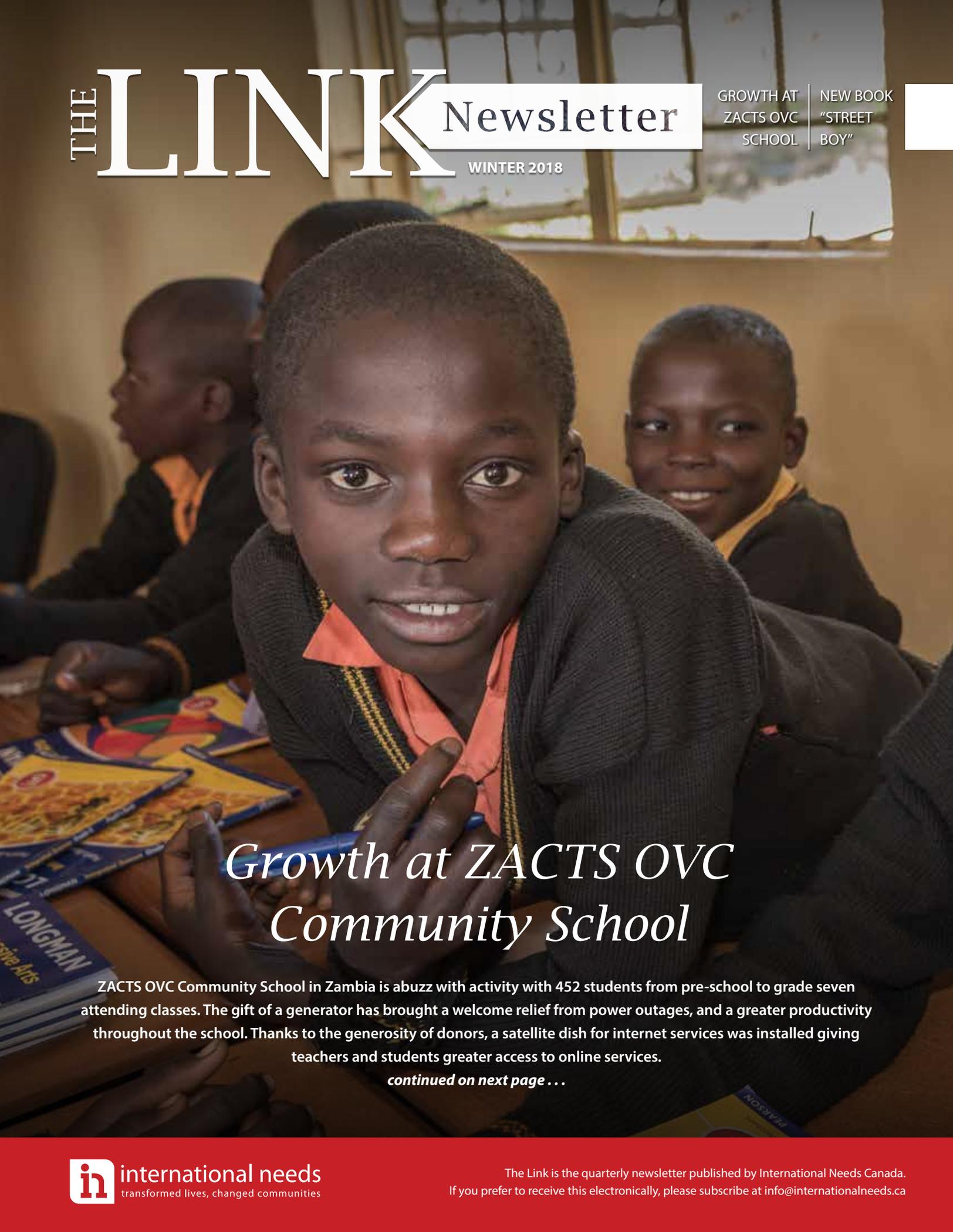


THE LINK Newsletter

WINTER 2018

GROWTH AT
ZACTS OVC
SCHOOL

NEW BOOK
"STREET
BOY"



Growth at ZACTS OVC Community School

ZACTS OVC Community School in Zambia is abuzz with activity with 452 students from pre-school to grade seven attending classes. The gift of a generator has brought a welcome relief from power outages, and a greater productivity throughout the school. Thanks to the generosity of donors, a satellite dish for internet services was installed giving teachers and students greater access to online services.

continued on next page . . .

continued from first page . . .

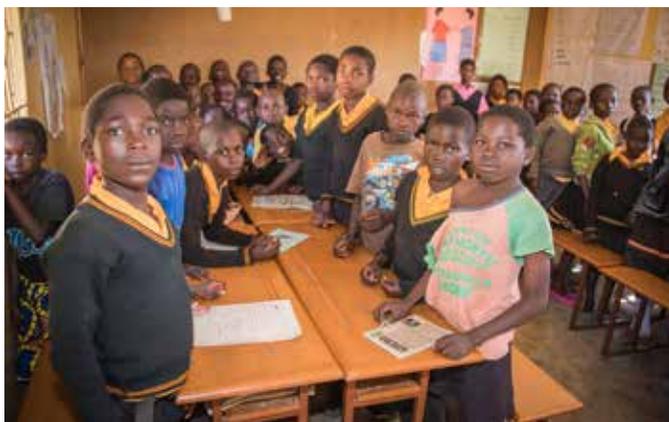
"We are so thankful to our partners for these upgrades. They raise the standard of our school and assist us in reaching our educational objectives." • Jubisha E. Maunga, Principal

One of the happiest moments at ZACTS was to see all 28 pupils in grade 7 graduate and become eligible for grade 8. It was a very proud moment for the school as they work hard to produce outstanding students.

"The idea of having a grade 8 class at ZACTS is an issue that we have been considering. Students who have qualified for grade 8 are many but secondary schools are few. Only six of our graduating students have been given acceptance letters. The remaining students will have to go to a school that does not hold our high educational standards. We would prefer to keep our students here at ZACTS." • Principal

The school's farming program continues to supply food for their kitchen and funds to help cover ZACTS' operational costs. Nearly one hundred 50kg bags of maize was harvested and half a hectare of cabbages and ground nuts. The poultry farm also helps to supplement the children's nutritional needs and provides a steady income for the school. ZACTS is located in a poor farming community and many of the children don't have enough food to eat at home. The meals provided at school meet a real need in the community. Just as the damaging effects of malnutrition can pass from one generation to the next, so can the benefits of good nutrition.

ZACTS Mission Statement states that they strive to develop children holistically for the service of God and society. **Thank you for supporting them in their pursuit of excellence, and for impacting the next generation of young Zambians. •**



New Book Will Help Fund Project for Street Children in Bangladesh

International Needs advocate, Donna Michalek, has written a new book entitled, "Street Boy", highlighting the needs of street children in Bangladesh. The book will help fund the building of a residence at the Naogoan Free School to

accommodate fifty street children, giving them a home and the opportunity to go to school. Donna was in Bangladesh in February 2017 and shared,

"When we visited the Drop-in Centre for Street Children in Dhaka, I found it very hard to see children coming in from their work. A seven year old boy looked so tired... I later learned that he had been working long hours in a steel factory cutting rebar by hand with a saw. Little girls also worked long hours as housemaids, doing laundry and cleaning houses from morning until evening. I thought of our children who go to school and have lots of opportunities to play, but these children have so little. They sleep in factories, under kitchen tables, or on the streets."

Donna's latest book, "Street Boy", sells for \$20. All proceeds will go toward building a residence for these children at the Naogoan Free School, and give them the right to learn and play.

For more information on how you can purchase the book or support the project, please call us at 1-888-702-9805 or send us an e-mail at info@internationalneeds.ca •

PRAYER CORNER

Items for Prayer

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"
• Corrie Ten Boom

Please pray for the work of International Needs in Limuru, Kenya. Pray for wisdom for the leaders as they reach out to youths in the community who struggle with poverty and hopelessness. Pray that many will be reached and empowered to live purpose driven lives.



“If you would ask me what it takes to achieve your goals, I would say make sure that your plans are linked to the purposes of God for your life, and secondly, love what you do.”

Colombian Children Learn English at the Rose of Sharon School

International Needs' Rose of Sharon School has been reaching out to La Playa's most vulnerable children and providing them with a quality, government-approved, Christian education since 2005. The school has over 500 students from pre-kindergarten to grade twelve. English classes have been added to the school's curriculum to give students more opportunities when they pursue higher education or employment. Research shows that there are many benefits to learning more than one language.

Items for Praise

“Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.” • Psalm 95:2

Praise God for the progress at ZACTS OVC Community School and for the 28 young graduates! May God continue to lead them as they seek to further their education.

It challenges the brain like a good workout and improves cognitive development.

“Learning English will greatly benefit our students. Many English speaking people visit our school and our students are better able to communicate with them. Since English has become the world's dominant business language, it's important that our students are prepared to take advantage of new opportunities.” • Martha Villamizar, Director

Julian John remembers meeting English speaking visitors at the Rose of Sharon School. Although they were unable to communicate with him in words, they shared God's love with him and it had a real impact on him.

“This experience stirred in me an interest in languages and other cultures, so I used my English dictionary much more. I graduated from the Rose of Sharon School with honours, and am presently doing a major in Business at the University del Norte, a prestigious university. I also translate for teams who come to visit the work of International Needs in Colombia. I am so thankful to God for these opportunities. If you would ask me what it takes to achieve your goals, I would say make sure that your plans are linked to the purposes of God for your life, and secondly, love what you do. I would like to thank those who have helped me along the way: my sponsors, donors, the Rose of Sharon School, and especially God.”

• **Julian John** •



A Very Present Help in Times of Trouble

My name is Jane and I live in Limuru, Kenya with my family. My mother, who suffered with mental illness for 14 years, left us to live on the streets. My father, a casual labourer, was unable to care for us on his own so he took my younger sister and I to live with our elderly

grandmother. My father continued to meet with his pastor and pray for our needs. Pastor Ngugi suggested that he visit International Needs' Lighthouse Program in Limuru to see if they could help.

Then a miracle happened. I was sponsored! I used to wear patched up school uniforms and would be sent home because I didn't have the books I needed to learn but my sponsor's support provided me with a new uniform, shoes, a school bag, and all the books I needed for the year! Now I can concentrate on my studies. My family also received a food package in December and we were excited to celebrate Christmas with a special meal. My father had been unemployed for three months so the food package was a great blessing to us.

Before I came to the Lighthouse program, I used to ask myself, "why do we suffer so much and other families seem to have everything they need?" I often asked God this question. The first time I came to Lighthouse for fellowship and counselling, I met many other children, including girls my age. Over time we became friends and I came to realize that they, too, had gone through problems and difficulties, but God has his way of caring for us and meeting our needs. Our pastors and motivational speakers greatly encouraged me and I realized that my sister and I have a bright future when we trust in God.

Now I work hard studying to fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor. I want to help people in my community and maybe I will be able to find my mother and help her too. Thank you for your prayers and your support. **God bless you!**

Ninety-four children are in the sponsorship program in Limuru and are receiving the support they need to be successful in the classroom and in the future of their choice. •



Solar Panels Supply Energy at Ephphata School for the Deaf

Teachers and students at Ephphata School for the Deaf in the DR Congo are rejoicing over the new Solar Panels recently installed at the school. These panels supply a steady flow of electricity, enabling classes to run more efficiently. A steady current will also improve productivity and assist the school in reaching all their objectives. A special thank you goes to the Peter Gilgan Foundation and to all who gave towards this project.

"Words can hardly express our gratitude for this incredible gift."

• Tshinyama Kalosa, Principal. •

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS CANADA

Upcoming Discovery Tours

Kenya Discovery Tour	March 14-22, 2018
Medical Team to Zambia	May 16-28, 2018

For more information please contact Corrie Mulder at
905.637.9411 or corrie@internationalneeds.ca

Discovery Tours offer a unique opportunity to witness first-hand the difference your contribution is making in the lives of the people you support. It also allows you to connect with other people serving on the ground. Your support is the fuel that drives their service.