

Issue 22
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For further information please visit:
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Newsletter



Since the last newsletter (issue 21) the world has and continues to change, with the Coronavirus still affecting every country to varying degrees Zambia has not escaped and things have started to change. The government has started to reopen schools but limited to only examination classes and those with extra restrictions.

At the time of writing this newsletter none of Maureen and Evans family have been affected and there have been no cases or positive tests from the children at Beacon of Power Academy.

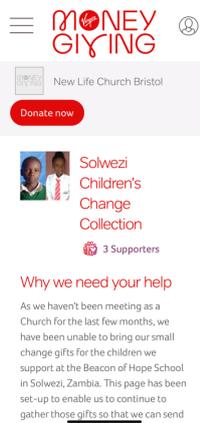
Country wide cases of the Coronavirus are on the increase, and the economic pressures are getting worse.

Currently pupils registered at school are:

Primary 63

Secondary 52

The school reopens to all grades on the 21st September 2020



Coin Collection

As we have not been meeting as a church for the last 5 month's we have been unable to collect our small coin gifts for the children we support at the Beacon of Power Academy in Solwezi, Zambia. We have set up a Virgin Money giving page to enable us to continue to collect these gifts so that we can send funds to them for those little extras that make life more fun for them. Please continue to give generously.

Here is a link to the giving page.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?campaignId=13819&charityId=1014994>

Work continues

The laboratory and administration block now have new ceilings.



The plumbing in the toilet block is now complete, including flushing toilets.



A foundation for a new classroom has been completed.



***At the end of August
Maureen asked if
she could bless the
children and
families, who were
suffering from lack
of food.***



Here are some photos of the families receiving bags of mealie meal and the children receiving their masks. They also received hand sanitizer and other gifts to help them through this period of Covid-19.

IMF says impact of COVID-19 on Zambia's economy will be heavy

The international Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team has held virtual meetings to discuss the Government of Zambia's request for emergency support under the Rapid Credit Facility.

The discussions covered the authorities' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, recent economic developments, the economic outlook and policies and the medium term.

The social and macroeconomic impact of the COVID-19 shock, on top of a severe drought last year, will be heavy. Growth is forecast at around 5% in 2020, substantially lower than envisaged at the beginning of the year, the number of people living in extreme poverty is expected to increase. Fiscal pressures in 2020 have increased due to significantly lower revenue collections and higher spending needs. Zambia has requested support under the G20 Debt Service Standstill Initiative, which would provide temporary fiscal space this year.

In a statement issued at the end of the IMF virtual consultative meeting with Zambia.

“Discussions covered both near and medium-term policies to address these challenges and the underlying macroeconomic vulnerabilities, including the main elements of the revised 2020 Budget with a focus on spending for the COVID-19 health, social and economic response. Discussions will continue as the authorities determine their policies and priorities in the formulation of the revised 2020 Budget, as well as the medium-term fiscal stance needed to restore debt sustainability, revive growth and lower poverty.”