

Friends of Nabushome School



January, 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters of Nabushome School,
or “Salibonani” as they say in the Ndebele language in Nabushome,

I hope you had a happy Christmas and a good start to the New Year.

Here is the latest news about developments in Nabushome.

1. New Classroom block

Work on the new block had to be interrupted for a few weeks owing to the weather.

Roughly speaking, the rainy season in the Nabushome region lasts from the end of October to the end of January. This season it rained so much that building work had to stop. The building materials (especially cement) were safely stored under cover.

Following this enforced break, construction work is currently recommencing and according to the latest information we have, it looks as if the work will be finished in May.

At any rate, everyone is looking forward to the time when all the classes at Nabushome School can be taught indoors, unaffected by the weather.

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The site of the new classroom block shortly after work began.

2. Review of 2014

As already reported in earlier newsletters, we celebrated a little anniversary in 2014. It was on 1 November 1994 that we visited Nabushome School for the first time, purely by chance

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and quite unplanned during a holiday trip to Zimbabwe. Our connection and friendship with the school and the people there, which has flourished over the years, is now 20 years old.

We are pleased to report that, thanks to your support, last year was easily the most successful yet for our society. There were three main factors that contributed to this:

a) Our appeal for **special donations towards the new classroom block** (symbolic purchase of bricks) combined with a range of individual initiatives, such as our football betting competition during the last World Cup.

In connection with this appeal, we received a number of donations from the US and the UK, demonstrating once again how football and the common will to help can unite people across the globe and kindle their enthusiasm for a good cause!

b) The **increased number of sponsors for the Nechilibi programme** (secondary school) and the related additional donations.

c) A **whole range of special donations** from people and firms (in connection with retirement or birthday parties) wanting to give the children of Nabushome the chance of an education and help prepare them for life after school.

On behalf of our many protégés in Zimbabwe, I would like to thank all our friends most sincerely once again for this financial support, whatever form it took.

As just one example, I would like to mention our long-standing friends at Adlkofen primary school in Bavaria. I hope the other donors will not mind if I do not name them here (most of them do not wish to be named anyway).

I mention this example because it involves German pupils helping African pupils. For many years now, the Bavarian children - assisted by their teachers - have been making wonderful Christmas cards which are then sold at the school, with the proceeds going to Nabushome.

This laudable initiative took place again during advent 2014, as reported in the local paper below.



Weihnachtskartenaktion an der Grundschule

Adlkofen. Wie jedes Jahr haben die Schüler der Grundschule Adlkofen im Kunstunterricht Weihnachtskarten für die Nabushome-School in Simbabwe gebastelt. Diesmal wurde eine Rekordzahl von über 500 Karten an der Schule verkauft, und so konnten die Klassenstrecher die stolze Summe von 280 Euro an Paul Ziehl und Tony Kemp vom „Verein Förderer der Nabushome-School“ überreichen. Die Besu-

cher dankten im Namen des Vereins und ihrer Schützlinge in Simbabwe der Schulleiterin Gabi Schraner und allen Schülern für ihre wunderbare Initiative, mit der diese Spende ermöglicht wurde.

Eine besondere Überraschung hatten die Repräsentanten des Vereins für die Kinder und ihre Lehrer vorbereitet. Sie führten einen sehr informativen Film vor, der den fleißigen Bastlern aus Adlkofen einen

interessanten Einblick in die Nabushome School und das dortige Umfeld vermittelte. Dabei erfuhren die Schüler, dass das Geld vor allem für den Schulbetrieb und das tägliche Schulessen verwendet wird, was für die meisten Kinder überhaupt das einzige Essen darstellt.

Nähere Auskünfte über den Verein und dessen Arbeit gibt es im Internet unter www.foerderer-der-nabushome-school.de.

3. Nechilibi Secondary School

A few days ago, the new school year in Zimbabwe began and with it the third year of our sponsorship programme. This programme enables the best pupils from the top class in Nabushome to attend the secondary school in Nechilibi for an initial period of four years. The programme started with three girls in 2013, followed by five girls in school year 2014, while in school year 2015 the new starters are four children, two of whom are boys.

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“At last”, you might say, since in the context of the sponsorship programme it was starting to look as though Nabushome was a girls-only school! We are so pleased for the girls and boys involved, their parents and the whole of Nabushome School that the sponsorships are working out so well. There are now 12 children from Nabushome who are able to attend the secondary school.

The children recently received their new school uniforms, school bags, writing materials, etc. at a special ceremony in Nabushome. Besides this, the four new members of the programme each received a bicycle for travelling from their home village to their new school.

Where will the programme go from here? We already have sponsors for three children for the school year beginning in January 2016. Please let me know if you are interested in participating. We will be glad to answer any questions you may have. Perhaps several supporters would like to band together to finance one child’s education. There are various conceivable options.



The four new beneficiaries of the sponsorship programme (two girls and two boys). From left to right: Raphael Musimba, Bokani Phiri, Ashley Nyoni and Yolanda Sibanda.

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Our four new beneficiaries are proud of their new bikes (from left to right: Yolanda, Ashley, Raphael and Bokani). Now school can begin!

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Uniforms, writing materials and provisions (dehydrated food and drink) awaiting distribution. Everything is organized by the teachers and School Committee in Nabushome.

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School uniform, including shoes, for Yolanda, one of the “Nechilibi children”.

4. Future projects

As stated above, our anniversary year 2014 was a good one for us. We have therefore decided to go ahead with another project that we have dearly wanted to realize for some years.

This is to build a new toilet block for the pupils. The present facilities comprise pit latrines, constructed with the help of our society. These are now getting pretty old and are of a standard that cannot begin to compare with sanitary facilities in, say, German schools.

The new ablution block will consist of WCs with a number of washbasins: absolutely the norm in the countries where we live, but a real innovation for an African school like Nabushome.

Why are we doing this?

Apart from the education and nutrition of the children, we think hygiene should be given a high priority. We are convinced that by improving hygienic conditions, we can help prevent a good deal of illness. And you don't want to get ill in Nabushome or the surrounding area, as the provision of medical care is really poor. That is why over a year ago our society financed a

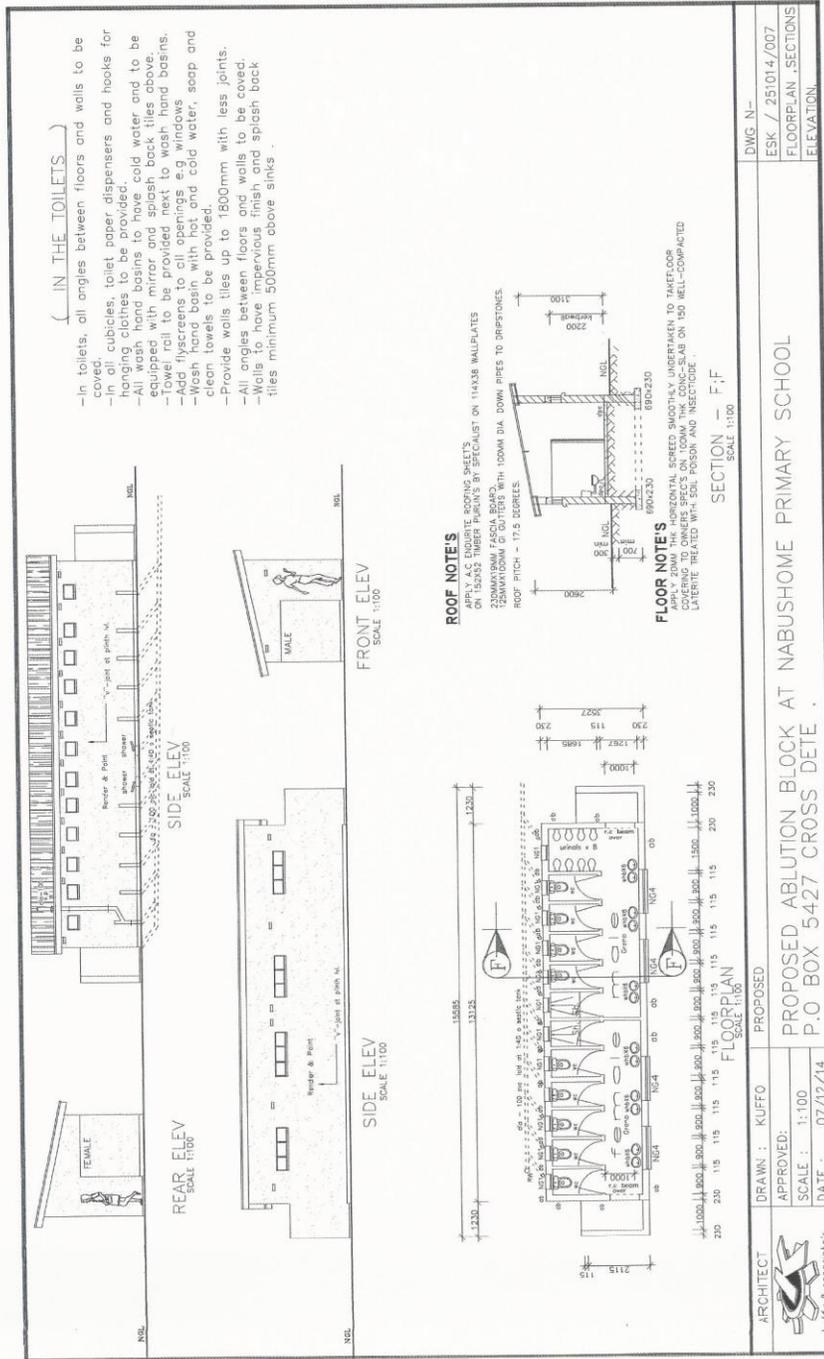
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shower block for the school, enabling each pupil to shower once a week. The construction of the new ablution block will be a further significant step towards enhancing hygiene at the school.

Together with my colleagues on the society's executive team, I trust we can count on your understanding and support for this measure.

Given the successful year behind us, we can afford to pay for this new project without having to raise money in a separate appeal. However, if anyone would like to make a special donation, they are very welcome to do so.

Below is an extract from the plans for the new ablution block. If everything goes well, the pupils will be able to start using it in half a year.



I will naturally keep you informed about how the work is progressing.

Thank you for making it possible with your support.

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5. Other items

a) We have closed the books for the financial year 2014 (= calendar year 2014). Last Saturday, our cash auditors performed their planned audit and signed off our accounts. We are now ready to start dispatching the donation receipts for the calendar year 2014. Those of you who have an e-mail address and a printer will receive the document by e-mail, as hitherto. All other donors will receive theirs by normal mail.

b) Our society flyer

We now have two versions - a detailed long version and a short one. Both versions are available in two languages, German and English. You can find all four documents on our website at www.foerderer-der-nabushome-school.de under the heading "Flyer".

We believe that the flyer, especially the short version, is a good way of presenting an overview of our activities to people wanting to know about our society.

Cordial thanks for all your financial support - in some cases over many years - for our many projects in Nabushome and Nechilibi.

As you can see, Nabushome is growing and thriving, and all thanks to your help!

If you would like to promote our cause, please refer people to our website at www.foerderer-der-nabushome-school.de. This contains more or less everything those interested need to know about us (including our flyer). Our many short videos, which can be viewed at www.youtube.com under the heading "Nabushome", give a good idea of the situation live on the spot.

Thanks again for your support and trust.

As always, I would be delighted to hear from you.

With African best wishes,

Sincerely,

Paul Ziehl