

Friends of Nabushome School



April, 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters of Nabushome School,
Let me bring you up to date with developments in Nabushome.

1. New classroom block

After an exceptionally long and intensive rainy season, the sun and “normal weather” have returned to Nabushome. Work on the new block resumed a couple of weeks ago. As reported in former newsletters, the new block will house two classrooms.

We share our friends’ joy in the good progress that has since been made with the construction work, as illustrated in the following photos:



Our team of builders at work.

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The door and window frames are installed.



Preparations for constructing the roof truss.

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The roof truss was put together at the school. Here is the first part on its way to the new block.



All the roof truss elements have been put in place.

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The roofing of the new block is finished. View from the front.



Rear view of the building.

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What happens now?

In the next few weeks, the remaining work (plastering inside and outside; putting in the window panes, concrete flooring, etc.) will be completed. We expect the building to be ready for use in May.

The eighth and ninth classes will then move into the two classrooms.

2. New ablution block for the pupils

Construction work will commence at the start of the second term (end of April, beginning of May).

We are keeping in close contact with the school and will report on the building work in detail.

3. Teachers at Nabushome School

There are currently ten teachers at our school (seven women and three men).

Their names and photos can now be viewed on our website at <http://foerderer-der-nabushome-school.de/unsere-lehrer-our-teachers/>

We are especially proud that one of the women teachers (Stella Muleza) hails from Nabushome, where she went to school - our school!

4. Who can donate a smartphone?

Long-standing readers of our newsletters know that some years ago the telephone system (landlines) in the region of Nabushome broke down. No-one knows exactly what the cause was or how it might be repaired ...

The only way of keeping in contact with the rest of the world is via the mobile phone network. We have communicated with the school for many years by email. Our teachers take advantage of trips home to Bulawayo to read our emails and to send emails to us.

Mobile phone reception at the school is limited but sufficient to send short messages via WhatsApp, including - when the connection is good - photos like those showing the progress with the new classroom block.

The few smartphones possessed by the teachers are quite old and liable to give up the ghost. To improve contact with the school, it would be good if we could organise several smartphones to take with us on our next trip.

Which of you could help us? Who has recently signed a new mobile phone contract and replaced their previous smartphone with a new model? Before you dispose of the old one or don't know what to do with it, you could let us have it. We and our friends in Nabushome would be delighted. And when you see a photo from the school in one of our future newsletters, who knows? It may have been taken with your old smartphone.

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5. Nabushome video

As you know, we have published a whole series of short videos at www.youtube.com (search term: Nabushome).

Over recent weeks, we have put together a longer video composed of many scenes filmed during our visits to Nabushome. We have saved the video on USB sticks, which we have sent to some of our supporters as a kind of trial.

Anyone who would like such a stick should contact me, and I will be pleased to send one to them.

At the start of the film, you join us on the last few kilometers as we approach the school. Shortly before we get there, you see some of the countryside around Nabushome and what the typical small settlements look like.

In Nabushome itself, after a warm welcome, you see a number of performances by the children (songs, poems and dances).

Then there are visits to some of the classrooms, including a lesson in which Veronica teaches her children their four times table.

There are also some shots of lunch at Nabushome.

You get a brief view of the old school garden (surrounded by a primitive wooden fence) which was no longer planted in the end because the crops were eaten by wild animals. You also see part of the new school garden, of which we are particularly proud.

What else is there? Distribution of T-shirts and Crocs shoes, for example, and various other events.

I wish you and all your fellow viewers an enjoyable visit to Nabushome.

Allow yourself to be inspired by the vitality and high spirits of our children. It's a great feeling ...

The video is intended to give a good insight into life at Nabushome School. Perhaps you can watch it together with friends, thus possibly generating interest in our cause. By the way, the cost of the sticks will be borne privately and will not be financed from your donations. We remain true to our principle that every euro donated goes 100% to Nabushome.

We still have plenty to do and are always pleased to welcome new supporters.

I will be glad to hear from you.

6. Greece and the euro crisis are also affecting Nabushome

Don't worry; we don't need a rescue plan!

But it is a fact that for years now, Zimbabwe's currency has been the US dollar.

In recent weeks and months, the euro has fallen significantly in value against the dollar. That means we have to transfer considerably more in euros to Zimbabwe to ensure that a specific amount is credited to our account at the school in dollars. In spring 2014, we got around US\$ 1.45 for one euro. Currently, the amount is less than US\$ 1.10. Clearly, this is a development over which neither we nor the school have any control.

Many of you have given us a direct debit authorisation. This is a clear expression of your trust in our work, which we greatly appreciate. These direct debit orders form the backbone of our budget. They enable us to plan our activities.

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A good number of these direct debit authorisations have remained unchanged for many years. My question to you is whether some of you might be able to increase your contributions a little.

If any of you wish to do so, please drop me a line. We will take care of all the necessary changes at the bank.

That's all the news for today.

Cordial thanks for all your financial support - in some cases over many years - for our various 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