

Spring 2007



Serving those who serve



Luke Trotman undertaking roof repairs at Kalene

Carpenters at the cutting edge

By Rob Woodhouse

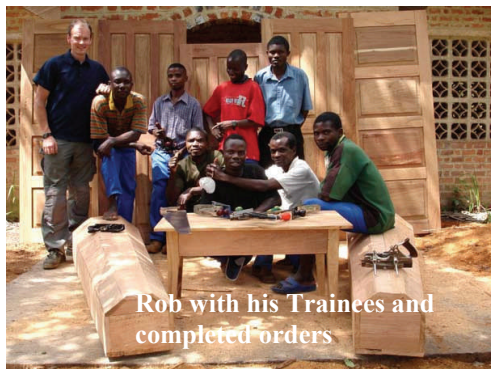
Nyangombe Christian Traing Centre has been running since around 1987. After its main role of bible teaching it offers training in sewing, midwifery, building, and carpentry.

I came out in February to assist two local teachers Charles and Obed with the one year carpentry course on which there are six trainees. It is hoped by the end of their time they will have learnt enough to support themselves and their family as well as helping in the community. Some are elders in different assemblies who are in more than one way building up the local church.

The first week we set off making panel doors for Sakeji School. This helped them understand timber selection, preparation, accurate marking and cutting of joints. Most trainees managed to cut the right bits off their mortice and tenon joints....mostly!

Alongside this we familiarised ourselves with the relevant hand tools and their function as well as the detail of properly sharpening them (Some of which I confess to re-learning before coming out!)

For our first skills test we made a saw sharpening jig which they also got to keep for themselves. Next week will be to make a Bow Saw from a drawing. They will also get to keep it.



Most of the trainees have progressed well but need constant persuasion to 'make friends with the oilstone' as the woods are very hard and difficult to finish to a high standard.

Presently we are making a panelled double bed and a coffee table (with inlaid banding... Tomorrow we are hoping to learn roofing by actually completely roofing a new assembly building in Mwinilunga.

Though the heavy rains may delay us.

Along side this we have managed to sort through a huge amount of second hand tools

from which we have put together close to 18 good sets for carpenters and brick layers. It was with great excitement when Centre Director Henry and Gordon Mckillop handed out the toolsets to the previous intake of trainee carpenters.

Many thanks to those who have sent tools towards this. Finding good training in Zambia is hard enough, finding good tools is harder still. Certain situations here as elsewhere would require the Wisdom of Solomon. Whilst the centre is a beautiful and peaceful place it is always busy with different demands on resources, skills and time. As way of reminder was brought to attention of this verse in Psalm 90 recently ...

'Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom





A joy to serve! Bernard Delves at Kalene Hospital

Once again it's been a joy and privilege to work on a Brass Tacks project.

During my 9 week stay it was good to renew acquaintance with Jim and Ann Smith, David and Maureen Wood and Dennis Bowman who I have worked with on previous projects both in Zambia and the Bahamas. At Kalene Hospital most of our meals were cooked by Anne and Maureen. We were very grateful for all the food sent out from the U.K. and Canadian churches along with the locally grown Bananas and pineapples!!

After a tour of the site, I was able to start making the roof trusses for the toilet block that was already up to roof level. It was good to have two Zambian workers working with me, hopefully I was able to teach them a little about roof construction so that in future they may be able to take on roofing projects on their own.

It was also a privilege to be able to join in the centenary celebrations on Kalene Hill while I was there, as they gave thanks to God for his provision over the years for the work in the Hospital and the surrounding villages.

It was good to have a time away one weekend at Nyangombe Christian Training Centre where we enjoyed the hospitality of Gordon and Sybil McKillop and saw some of the Zambian countryside. Also a visit to Hillwood Children's Home one Saturday to see the lovely children there.

As my time in Zambia came to an end it was very satisfying to have been able to complete the roof on both toilet blocks and fit all the door frames seeing the job well on the way to completion with all the plastering done, some of the tiling and the plumbing started.

I trust those still working in the hospital are in good health and funds still available for the renovations to be complete



Alan & Valerie Kyle

write to say a big and sincere thank you to Brass Tacks , on behalf of Petite Synthe Dunkerque assembly, for work undertaken on our premises. We are most grateful for this invaluable help.

As you know the main task was the renovation of our main hall. The large out of date platform we had... it's no more, it has been replaced by a more modern (portable) stage more suitably situated.

In addition to removing the platform, making the new stage, dry lining, painting and other jobs in the main hall, Jim also concreted the courtyard behind the 2 little houses.

The church organised a little reception for Jim and Ann and prayed for their ministry and for the ministry of Brass Tacks.

We did so much appreciate the work but over and above that we so enjoyed the fellowship. Over the years with the Brass Tacks teams.

Building together at Dunk



Anne Smith removing the platform

For over 6 years we have been visiting the small assemble in Dunkerque to help with alterations to the building. We have

undertaken renovation to the out buildings to provide, library, store, office, in the main church building alterations to the porch and toilets areas has also been completed

Jim, and Anne Smith ,John Pople and Peter Snow recent visited the church to help the folks there with the final round of jobs.

The work which was to be done mainly involved alterations to the main hall which included the removal of a concrete platform, the making good of the walls and floor, insulating the internal walls and dry lining, making a moveable wooden platform and decorating the hall.

Other work included leveling and concrete the back yard area so that it could be used for games and bar-b-que in the summer.



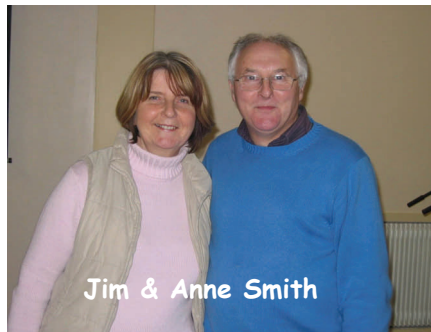
Concreting the Yard

Dunkerque France

We were just a small team, we had the help of friends from the assembly. The time spent with

these friends who joined us every day was very special, they couldn't speak English and we couldn't speak French but with the help of a dictionary and lots of hand signals we were able to communicate most of the time!

Anne's job on this project was not to cook for the team but to work alongside them, filling wheelbarrows, sweeping up, washing floors, no time to be bored.



A French lady Lucienne and her daughter Sara came every day to work with us, in the afternoon they disappeared into the kitchen to make afternoon tea, every day something different came out! Sara's husband Rudi also came regularly to help with concrete and decoration this was encouraging as he does not attend the church and yet was so willing to give his time.

The ladies of the church looked after us very well, each day they brought us lunch and at night we went to a different home for supper, not forgetting to take the dictionary with us to help us through the evening! We were really blessed with the hospitality that was given to us by all different age groups, from a young man in his early 20s to a lady in her early 80s.

There was a great interest shown in the work of Brass Tacks in other parts of the world and we were able to share something of this, Jim at mid week meeting and Anne at the ladies meeting. John was a real blessing when he spoke at the morning service the first Sunday and he was able to minister to the group of elderly people who meet on a Tuesday afternoon.



The Saturday night before we left for home we were asked to be at the hall for 6pm, when we arrived we found a lot of people there. One of the elders had put together a power point of all the work that had been done by Brass Tacks at Petit Synth over the last 6 years, after the power point was finished the elders prayed for us and for the work of Brass Tacks.

This was really encouraging and a lasting memory that we brought away with us.



Moving Brass Tackers

Brass Tacks, what can we say? Men (and women) always on the go, working hard and getting things done.



CMML plane awaiting new engine

Sometimes we wish we had the energy they have. And they are not all youngsters like us either! It is amazing how much work they can get done with the help of the Zambian workers.

At Kalene, Brass Tacks have been a tremendous help to the CMML flight Service, and now to the Mission Hospital. From

1995-1998, teams came out from the UK to help build the much needed hangar facility, which accommodates the Cessna 207.

Many Brass Tackers have stayed at CMML "Flight House" in Lusaka when passing through, as they travel back and forth to the various mission stations. It is a house set up to meet the needs of assembly missionaries/short-termers coming out to help and encourage. Upon arrival, the Brass Tacks teams are met, arrangements made to get their work permits, and then a 3 hour flight up to the North West Province.

Perhaps they should be called "Brass Travellers", as they are always on the go. Especially this year, with the major renovation work at Kalene Mission Hospital, and team members have been travelling by road and by air. Since February, Brass Tackers have travelled within Zambia approximately 62 hours by air, or under 14,000 Kilometres, with CMML Flight Service. If they had travelled by road, it would have taken them about 336 hours (42 days at 8 hrs per day) or 19,000 Kms.



Bruce Poidevine greeting Phil Grove in the CLP plane who also undertook over 20 flights



Most have travelled one way by air and one way by road. However, because the plane needs and engine replacement (by DCA regulations), many of the Tackers now have to travel by road, or catch another plane such as Phil Grove's. C.L.P plane.

All the missionaries at Kalene have been blessed by the team's expertise in their practical work, fun and fellowship: nothing like a visit over dinner. The Gospel has been shared on Wednesday nights at the Old Hospital, reaching visitors from Angola, D.R. Congo and Zambia. Gifts have been given to help with the purchase of new Lunda revised Bibles and hymn books for those who are unable to afford it.

We appreciate all the buildings Brass Tacks have build here at Kalene. But as *Hebrews 3:3 says: "...he who built the house has more honour than the house."* John Loudon and Bruce Poidevin

You can learn more about the CMML Flight Service at their new website: www.cmmlflightservice.com



Emergency roadside repairs

*Please continue to pray
for saftey in travel and work on the
building site*



Kalene Hospital Lorry after a recent accident

On the move

Dennis and Mary Bowman

Dennis' first trip as a volunteer was to Sakeji School, Zambia in 1995 where Brass Tacks renovated the children's dormitory. A year later Dennis returned to help the work as a full-time worker. In the following 10 years Dennis has been a great help in project management and has always been an encouragement to missionaries and fellowships that he has visited.



Over 10 countries have been visited from minus 40°deg on a hospital in Mongolia to 40°deg on a water tower in the Congo. From a Tudor style extension in Serbia to churches fellowships in Western Europe. All have been beneficiaries of Dennis' work and jokes.

Dennis will now be moving on and is working with a young peoples support group called "The Door" it aims to offer young people friendship, support and encouragement, as well as offering a way forward for those who are looking for a deeper dimension to life. His skills will be used in encouraging youth on the edge of society.

We have truly appreciated having Dennis as a co-worker for his consistent hard work, wisdom and spiritual discernment. He will be missed; we wish Dennis and Mary God's blessing in their new sphere of service.



Our thanks go to Mary and his daughters Julia and Vicky, for their loan of Dennis over the years

Dennis will still be involved with Brass Tacks as a Representative in the South West, and will be helping on our Technical Panel.

If you would like to hear about our work Dennis will be available for meetings

Email btackden@aol.com phone 0119 572403



Panel as last copy