

20 years  
'Serving those who serve'

# brass tacks

NUMBER 42 July 2006



**David Wood and team  
at Kunhar Christian  
Hospital, Pakistan**

# *'Building for the future'*

## *Visits to Nyangombe Christian Training Centre, Zambia*



**Men busy at work**

### **Mark Breeze**

Since arriving in Zambia I have visited the Nyangombe Christian Training Centre on two occasions. In February my first visit was to meet the new intake of carpentry students. I spent a month with the students teaching basic principles of carpentry and tool craft.

The men were left with assignments to undertake and practical tests on common furniture joints. After six weeks working at Chitokoloki I returned and was pleasantly surprised as the men had been doing really well and were still keen to learn. They had been practicing the carpentry skills and remembering what we had done together so I was able to teach them more new skills and to show them ways in which to enjoy what they were learning.

**In helping the students to enjoy carpentry work I was hoping to get them to see the importance of being accurate in what they do and also to put in 100% so they feel proud of their work.**

I got the students to make a coffee table to represent the standard of work that they can produce, for an encouragement to themselves and to show what can be achieved to the new trainees next year. We started by designing a table together and designing a pattern to inlay on the table top in different types of timber. The finished product looked beautiful and everybody that saw the table was very impressed. This gave the men an incredible confidence boost, they really enjoyed working on this project.

**On returning to Nyangombe I was pleased to find out that a children's camp was planned for the very next weekend.** So I enjoyed being a part of the camp and playing different games with the children as well as just helping out in any way that I could. The language barrier didn't get in the way as it's surprising that there is an International language of being silly and the children and I got on well. The camp was well run with a teaching and worship time first thing, then followed football, volley ball and other group games until dinner time. The afternoon activities were usually followed by a time of singing before tea and a message time after tea.

Everyone has made me feel so welcome and at home, and I can say that I have been privileged to have been part of the Lord's work there having made many friends too. I will hold Nyangombe in a special place in my heart and I hope that one day I will return there. Meanwhile I leave the tar road of Mwinilunga and head up country to join the Brass Tacks Team working on the Kalene Mission Hospital renovations.



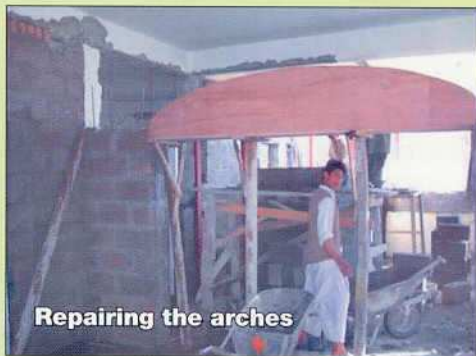
**Mark with his proud students**

# *Pakistan Revisited*

*'Helping to build and repair'* - David and Maureen Wood

The trip to Kunhar Christian Hospital was to undertake the repair and reconstruction of the Hospital and staff housing buildings damaged in the October 8th earthquake.

Initially the contractor was a bit slow but we eventually managed to get a good system going and work then progressed well. The main repairs to the hospital are now complete with the exception of two rooms used to store the various medicines. It was considered



Repairing the arches



Workshop ready for use

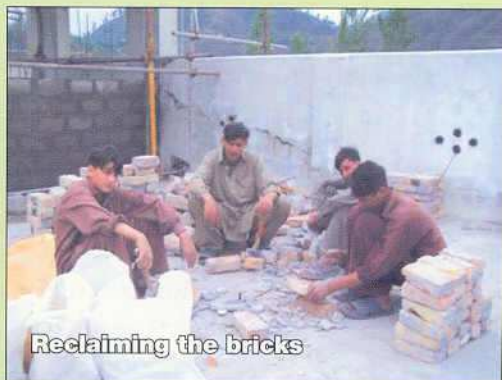
too much of a challenge in the last few days to tackle the decanting of the thousands of boxes and bottles, so this has been postponed till more medical help is available to supervise the orderly movement of the drugs to minimise disruption to the hospital services.

There was funding from an American group to pay for central heating systems to be installed in wards, theatres

and housing. I supervised the tendering process and let the contract and supervised its installation over a period of 4 weeks. The installation proved to be successful but was only used for a few weeks before the weather improved to the extent that it was not needed. The "while your are here job" was to build the boiler house that was then needed. This was undertaken by local labourers and masons on a daily wages contract, where I acted as the contractor, purchased materials and hired workers as needed.

A number of other small projects were handled on the same basis. Other projects included an extension to one of the damaged staff houses and a new access stair to the boys' hostel. The Hospital maintenance workshop was fitted out and equipped with tools I purchased from money gifted to Brass Tacks.

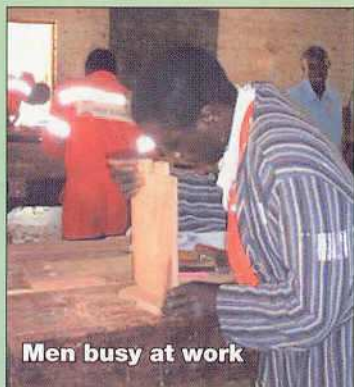
The temporary buildings I worked on in November and December were in good use when I returned and a small extra kitchen was also built along with a veranda to allow these buildings to be used on a longer term basis. The damage to the Quadruplex housing was severe and the repair entailed the demolition of the whole ground floor and total rebuilding. This was done wall by wall with the aid of Acro Props I had been able to borrow from some



Reclaiming the bricks

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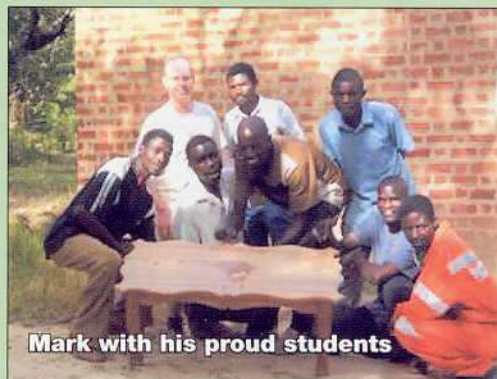
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**Mark with his proud students**

# *Hard work in the Bahamas*

## *'A trip to help The Haven Centre'*

### *Jim and Anne Smith*



Jim and I left to go to Nassau at the beginning of February to work at the 'New Haven' which is a rehab centre for men struggling with drugs and alcohol addiction. **Mark Lacey** is the missionary leading the work. Jim had been there last year working with **Dennis Bowman and Bernard Delves**. Jim's job then was the building of fitted wardrobes and kitchen units. Dennis and Bernard did a lot of dry lining throughout the building, and fitting the roof to the workshop.

This time Jim's main helper was me! There were 6 students who came to help after 12-30 when they had finished their counselling courses, so between 7-30 and 12-30, I was chief 'Go-for'! The main job that was to be done was tiling and 2 external concrete fire escapes, a lot to be done in 7 weeks.

The first 2 weeks were spent concentrating on the tiling and whilst Jim tiled I unpacked lots of tiles, helped to mix adhesive, did lots of sweeping up and made plenty of hot and cold drinks. **The students were all keen to help, some of them painted the rooms before Jim went in to tile. The other students began to dig foundations for the concrete staircases which they were able to do as long as Jim left his tiling regularly to go and supervise, everyone worked well together it was good team work.**

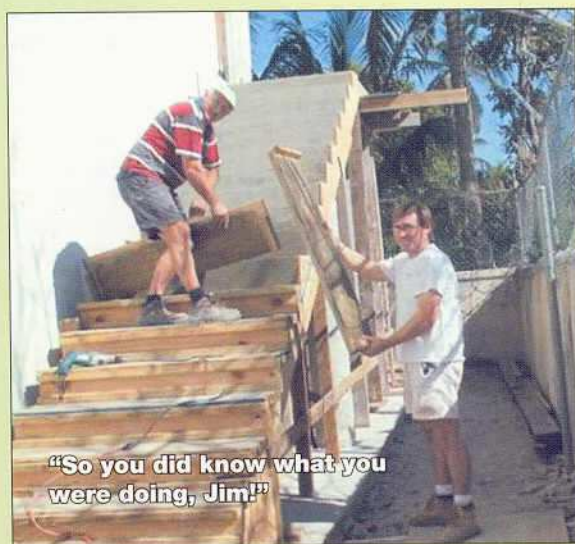
After the second week Jim decided to spend the mornings tiling and then when the men arrived in the afternoon he worked with them on the staircases outside, 12 ins diameter cardboard tubes for the columns and the ply wood shuttering needed to be put together. The men had never seen a staircase assembled before, one of them kept shaking his head and saying 'I don't think you know what you are doing'. Thursday was the day of concreting because the men were there for an extra one and a half hours; the day after, the concreting the shuttering was taken away. **It was great to see the look on the men's faces when they saw the staircase completed and when they saw what they had achieved and to hear our friend who had been unsure say, 'So you did know what you were doing'.**

While Jim worked outside with the men I cleaned the windows, lots of them. Because of the way they were designed I was able to do both inside and out and upstairs and downstairs, it took almost 4 weeks as there was lots of dry cement stuck on them and it was a job nobody else wanted to tackle but I was pleased because like the men, I felt I had achieved something!!

I was a little unsure at first as to how I would feel working with these men and they probably felt the same about me but after the first 2 weeks I was totally relaxed and they seemed to be with me as well, we laughed a lot together and they even started calling us 'mam and daddy', wasn't too sure about that! They were all perfect gentlemen.

**We enjoyed worshipping at Shirley Heights each Sunday. We were made very welcome by everyone there and it was good to be in God's house with the men we worked with each day during the week.** Sometimes it was hard to fight the tears back especially one week when one of the men had a birthday and he was asked to choose a chorus and he chose 'In His time, in His time, God makes everything beautiful in His time'. It was just a reminder of the struggle that these men have.

The family we stayed with made us so welcome and really made us feel part of their family, nothing was a problem to them. I was invited to speak at the ladies' meeting towards the end of the visit and Alicia, the lady of the house, was asked to lead the meeting. She had never done that before but she did really well and she surprised herself when she agreed to do it.



**As we left it was really encouraging to see the building nearing completion, it was good to see how the students that the team had met last time, had stayed with the course and three of them are now in full time employment.**

They seem happy, contented, growing spiritually and really appreciative of the family care given to them by The Haven.

**As we left one of the men said, "thank you for coming back please say thank you to Brass Tacks we would never have got this far without them!"**

**If you would like to have a report on any of these projects or our work generally please contact our office.**

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