

# brass tacks

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE



Paul Dodds, Leuven

**Autumn 2013 No. 54**

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## Editorial Alan Park

This summer I was privileged to visit Zambia, Botswana and Kenya; partly to look at some potential new projects and partly to attend the large conference held this year in Nairobi under the auspices of IBCM. There were representatives from assemblies in 27 countries, principally from the African continent. It was great to hear what God is doing in these various areas despite the challenges of war and poverty, and we have had requests for help in several of these countries as a result of our discussions.

As you will see from the reports, **Mark Johnston**, one of our board members also enjoyed his visit to Angola where he was able to help with the mission house renovations.

Brass Tacks now has a Facebook page—visit [Brasstacksuk](#) where you can get regular news updates.

Lastly, there are still a few places remaining for the Missions Weekend we are hosting at Grange in the Lake District. Please contact the office and check availability.

## Present and future projects

- **At present** three men are in **Uganda** working on the electricals, ventilation system, floor and gates for the MAF aircraft hangar which has five planes flying between Sudan and Congo as well as local flying.
- **On 20th October** Denis and Lee will be travelling to **Nogent just outside Paris** where they will be working on improving toilet facilities at the Bible College.
- **Currently** we are working on the school for children with special needs in **Kitwe, Zambia**. Paul Dodds will be travelling out in December to help lay the foundation slab. The building will take place next year, God willing.

**Some other requested projects being considered. (Details from office or website)**

- House and church, Blantyre, Malawi
- Sunday school structure, Botswana
- Samfya Bible School houses, Zambia
- Chengelo dining hall, Zambia

## Update from Paul and Angie Dodds



I can hardly believe I have been with Brass Tacks for four years. This year began with a trip back to Chitokoloki mission hospital in NW Zambia where I went on my first project four years ago, so it was good to go back and meet up with familiar faces. 'Chit' as it is commonly known is a busy hospital with 200 beds and up to 400 outpatients each day. It is in a remote area but has a catchment of 150,000 peo-

ple. It was wet season, and the Zambezi river next to the hospital was in full flood, but all of my work was inside this time so it did not really affect progress. I was helping to renovate two houses for new staff and visitors, and most of my work was tiling the floors of around 20 rooms.

I then travelled to Belgium to work in a Theological college in Leuven. This job was to renovate a kitchen, removing the old equipment and also putting in new walls and ceilings. It was a big old building from the 1920's and in need of modernisation. I was grateful for company this time as **Ben Andrews**, a friend from my church in Cardiff, accompanied me, so we were a small Welsh team - a nice change for me as I usually work with a large local team.



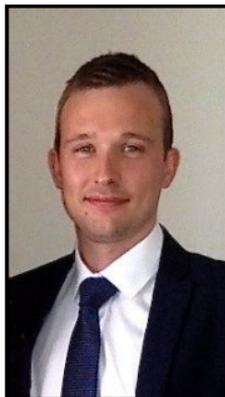
After some time at home I returned to the college in Belgium, this time fitting false ceilings in a number of large rooms. This was hot work in the heat of the summer. This time **Greg** and **Roger** came and were a great help. The next project is in October helping MAF in Uganda with their workshops. In between projects I have been home working in Cardiff; it was good to be here to see two of our daughters graduate from university and send the last one off on her university course.



## Leuven, First Brass Tacks project, Grant Wardlaw

This was my first visit with Brass Tacks and first voluntary experience. I found out about Brass Tacks through a leaflet that came into our church and felt challenged to volunteer and assist in one of the projects. For my first experience Belgium was an ideal location.

I spent three weeks at the Evangelical Theological Faculty (ETF) in Leuven situated 19km from Brussels. I was accompanied on the trip by two more experienced workers, Paul and Roger and over the three weeks that we were there we completed the tasks on time.



There was a variety of jobs to be done ranging from fitting suspended ceilings to plastering and joinery. I was able to gain experience and new skills. The food provided was superb, and I even brought home a copy of the cook's (Debbie Peck) recipe book.

I am currently at university in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of a civil engineering degree. Before I started studying I had spent 7 years as a plumbing and gas engineer and I am involved in regular maintenance at my Church. I attend Kelty Evangelical church in Fife, Scotland. You can find us at: [keltyevangelicalchurch.org](http://keltyevangelicalchurch.org)

I enjoyed the whole experience, and I would especially like to thank the project leader Paul Dodds who provided encouragement and guidance. With God's guidance I look forward to tackling another project sometime in the near future.



[Kitchen before and after](#)



*Editor's note:* Many thanks also to **Ben Andrews** and **Roger Davis** who also helped with this project.

## Trip to Angola, 9th July – 8th August 2013, Mark Johnston

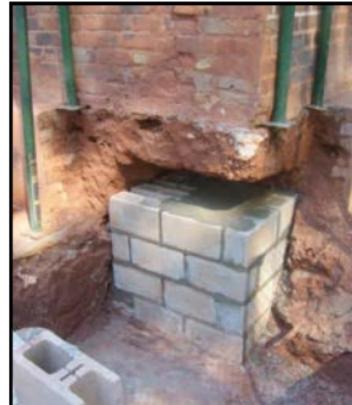


**Mark and Danny Mathie**

I have been interested in Angola for many years as there are strong missionary ties with Scotland - having read about men like Fred Stanley Arnot, James McPhie and Crawford Allison. I am just young enough to remember the latter giving a thrilling report of his work for the Lord there! James McPhie's son, Robert was my dentist for many years and on several occasions I have worked for his granddaughter.

And so it was a privilege to join Brian & Debbie Howden (missionaries), their son Luke and his friend Danny for 4 weeks in Angola.

Arriving in Luanda, first impressions were of an overpopulated city with traffic like I have never experienced before: words like manic and mayhem spring to mind! The road journey from Luanda to Camundambala is approximately 1000 km which thankfully was broken by an overnight stay in Malanje. We arrived in Camundambala at dusk and began work the next morning. The main task for my visit was underpinning a corner of the house which had severely subsided, possibly due to termite activity in the mud brick underbuilding.



**Repairing the footings**

Other works during my visit included demolishing part of the original house, building an extension, fitting some new windows and repairing damaged furniture. It was a joy to work along side a small group of young Angolans. Even though we didn't understand each other's language, we managed to communicate reasonably well and enjoy some good laughs together!

I was delighted to visit a small village assembly where we were warmly received. It is humbling to witness the generosity of Christians who are extremely poor and yet willing to give of their best to visitors. We also visited the primary school in Camundambala where Ruth Hadley now has about 400 pupils... all very polite, well dressed and receiving a good education.

As many of the Christians in Angola are unable to read or write, it is vital that the younger generation receive a good education.

During my stay I was extremely well looked after and enjoyed the fellowship and care of Brian and Debbie. The Lord was very kind in keeping us in good health and enabling us to achieve all, and more than we set out to do. Angola is a needy country with so many believers and so few workers. Once again it was a privilege to 'Serve those who Serve' with Brass Tacks.



**Demolition**



**Finished job**

## Practical Work in Two Continents

**The French connection.**

**Roger Berry OBE**



*Roger has been a Brass Tacks volunteer for many years and is still active serving in practical ways.*

Although Kate and I live in Guernsey we spend much of the summer living in St Malo, north west France. The French speaking Evangelical churches here have historic connections with Guernsey. The English speaking church in this area is in Dinard. Here over a hundred years ago the Victorian English and Americans came for the warm summers and clear sea water. The church they built is still there with a congregation that varies between 50 and 200, depending on the time of year –thousands of Brits have settled in Brittany some permanently and many just for holidays.

An old building needs lots of maintenance and decoration. I try to keep any repairs up to date and this week erected a six meter scaffold to inspect the internal roof timbers as a light fitting had come crashing down in the pulpit area. It was thought that the roof timbers might be rotten, causing the fitting to drop. The timbers were fine, it was the ancient ceramic electric and cloth covered wires that had failed. This job followed repairs to the front door and a total rebuild of the toilets.

## Visit to Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, Zambia

Roger Berry, OBE

I originally intended to go to Chitokoloki early in the year to tile floors with Paul Dodds. My granddaughter who is intending to train as a midwife and wished to get some work experience there could not go then, and so we eventually went out together in July.



I was carrying out general maintenance around the one kilometre wide site located alongside the Zambezi river. As with all the mission stations that I have worked on in Zambia I cannot praise too highly the dedication of all the staff and management who work there year in and year out. Our prayers and practical support to these workers in isolated stations is essential.

It was interesting to see the lorry loads of goods donated by U.K. and Canadian Christians arrive from Phil Grove's distribution centre. two cases arrived from Guernsey that we had shipped months before. One was full of baby layettes knitted by my wife's church ladies and collected and posted by my mother—aged 103!. Each week there is a clothes distribution session, when dozens of villagers queue up. Layettes are provided direct to the hundreds of mums who turn up at the maternity section.

The second case from Guernsey contained redundant electrical meters donated by the Guernsey Electricity Co, some of which I was able to fit in place awaiting connection to the Solar Power system that powers the Hospital and residential supply. There is no mains electricity in this isolated area.



## New Volunteer Profile: Tim Whitmore, Edinburgh



Tim in the "Tough Mudder"

### Tell us a little about where you come from, where you grew up?

I was born in Colchester, England and spent my early childhood in Braintree and then Clacton-on-Sea. As a family we moved to Scotland when I was 9 years old and lived initially in Tayport and then St Andrews where I stayed through school and university until moving away for work.

### What type of work do you do now?

I currently work as an Electrical Engineer at Torness Power Station (part of EDF Energy) with responsibilities in the specifying of repair / enhancement work on everything from 2V lead-acid

cells to the 400,000V transformers. This requires a lot of the dreaded risk assessment work but with a focus on implementing a safe solution rather than just finding the problems.

### Have you done other jobs/ had other experience in your life?

Before starting on the Graduate Training programme at Torness I was unemployed for a year when I spent a lot of time helping friends with DIY and renovation projects – good training for a Brass Tacks project! – this is still a big chunk of my occupation during 'spare' time.

### What are your hobbies/interests?

A bit of anything really, generally most things outdoors or semi-technical. Mainly DIY but also do a bit of computer / IT-related projects. For fitness I enjoy a bit of hill walking, mountain and road biking and this year started running for a "Tough Mudder" event with a group from church.

### Where do you currently fellowship, and what activities are you involved in at your church?

Since early this year I fellowship with Musselburgh Baptist Church. While I'm still finding my feet to an extent, I was involved in the holiday bible club in the summer and am now regularly involved in our teenage evangelistic-focussed Friday night group (Renewed) and school holiday outreach club "Musselburgh Youth Club". Possibly more to come...? The DIY and IT skills mentioned previously are also used regularly in the church context.

**How did you hear about Brass Tacks, and what made you decide to volunteer?**

I first heard about Brass Tacks years ago while we were living in Fife when a friend from Dundee volunteered on a trip. Since then I've kept myself aware of the organisation and thought about volunteering finally deciding to volunteer after a discussion with Alan Park at the Interlink Men's Breakfast last year.

**Can you tell us a little about the project you are going on, and the ministry it serves?**

I am going to help with the refurbishment of the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) aircraft hanger in Uganda.

MAF operate flights into some of the more inaccessible regions of the world to provide logistics and transport services for missions and aid workers.

**Have you been to that part of the world before?**

Although I've had an interest in Africa from childhood (since reading David Livingstone's biography) I've never been closer physically than a family holiday in Cyprus. I'm sure it'll be just a little bit different!

**What are your hopes/expectations of this trip?**

I have 3 main areas of hopes /expectations for this trip. In my normal intensely practical way of thinking I hope to help provide MAF Uganda with the assistance they need to improve their facilities in support of the ministry that has been trusted to them.

Personally I am looking to refresh again my awareness of how blessed I am with the lifestyle and comforts I am used to (a challenge that has come a few times in trips to Eastern Europe but can so easily fade...)

Spiritually I hope to use the time away from the hectic chase around of UK life to feed on what God has for me while building links into another part of the world and seeing again the wonder of how our God is working.

## Gift Aid

We are grateful to all the churches and individuals who give to support the ministry of Brass Tacks. If you are a personal donor who pays UK income tax, then please consider using Gift Aid. The refund of tax from the government adds 25% to the value of your gift. All that is required on your part is a simple declaration which can be obtained from the office.

For further information:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/gift-aid.htm#1>

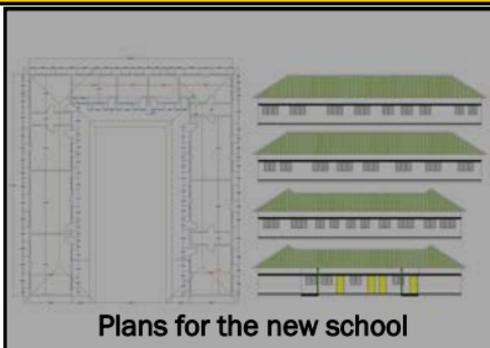
## Wukwashi School project update.

Alan Park

In our previous magazine we featured Wukwashi School in Zambia which is run by Henry and Joyce Mutembo. Our getting involved in this project is a step away from the usual way of working due to the fact that this project is being requested by local Christians and not by expatriate mission workers. Further at the time of application they had zero in funds. Since that time, we have seen some amazing answers to prayer, and the project has received funding from the generous help of individuals and trusts.

During my recent visit to Zambia arrangements were made for local labour to dig the foundations and at the time of writing this has now been almost completed. An electric fence has been erected round the perimeter of the plot to provide security and a very needful demarcation of land. Already there has been a boundary dispute with a neighbouring farmer which was settled by the surveyor.

Joyce and Henry have a very large vision for the work, and are quite well known due to having been interviewed on Zambian national radio.



Plans for the new school



Electric boundary fence



Digging the foundations



Joyce and Henry with teachers and pupils



# Programme for Missions weekend 22-24 November

7.00 pm	Dinner	
8.30 pm	Evening session	Ian Burness, Paul Dodds, Rob Woodhouse
10.00	Supper	
<b>Saturday</b>		
8.00 am	Devotions	
8.30 am	Breakfast	
10.00 am	Morning session	Ian Burness
	Coffee	
11.15 am	Morning session contd.	Philippe Perrilliat Mark Johnston
12.30 pm	Lunch	
Afternoon free time		
6.30 pm	Dinner	
8.00 pm	Evening session	Ian Burness
9.30 pm	Supper	
<b>Sunday</b>		
8.00 am	Devotions	
8.30 am	Breakfast	
10.00	Communion and ministry	Ian Burness
12.30 pm	Lunch	
2.00 pm	Farewells	

## Prayer Points

### Give thanks:

- Angie Dodds has completed her course of treatment, and has now gone on a visit back to Hebron School, India.
- Badet Thorp was granted her UK visa in August, and has joined David in her new home in Coventry.
- Projects were successfully completed in Angola and Belgium.

### Pray:

- Teams in Uganda and France in October, Paul Dodds in Zambia in December
- On-going work at Wukwashi, Zambia.
- Wisdom in selecting projects for next year.
- Missions weekend at Grange-over Sands in November.



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