

brass tacks

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE



Autumn 2014

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Editorial

This summer we have been very grateful to those who have helped on teams, some in Europe and some further afield. As we look to the next few months, you will see in the table below that we have several projects which at the time of writing are either in progress or are programmed to take place soon.

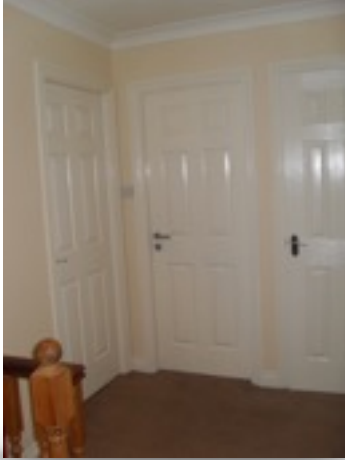
Paul Dodds will be travelling out shortly to Kollegal in India for 6 weeks, and at the same time **Angie Dodds** plans to be at Amano where she will complete the academic year with the English literature students.

We are also thankful to **Paul and Angela Hannay** for making themselves available to help with projects at home and abroad. They will be busy with three projects over the next few months.

Location	Work	Dates
France	Multiple repairs to missionary house <i>Paul and Angela Hannay</i>	20 October 2014
India	New roof on mission house. School building <i>Paul Dodds</i>	22 October 2014
Scotland	Printing warehouse room division	TBC
Rep. Ireland	New church ceilings and partition. <i>Paul and Angela Hannay</i>	Nov 2014
France	Fitting toilet for wheelchair access. <i>Paul and Angela Hannay</i>	Dec 2014
Malawi	Church/Bible school <i>Paul Dodds</i>	March 2015
N.Ireland	Rehab centre renovations	TBC

Helping Hand Trust, Auchinleck, Ayrshire

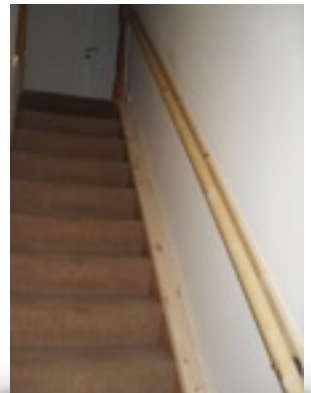
Ian Robertson, Evangelist.



The Helping Hand Trust is a charity set up a number of years ago to support folks seeking recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. We are based in Auchinleck in East Ayrshire, Scotland. For many years we have operated a 7 bed residential rehabilitation unit for men and for some time have been burdened about opening a similar place for women. In July of this year we purchased a four bedroom property in Auchinleck which required upgrading to meet fire and building control standards for a House in Multiple Occupancy.

The work comprised of replacing all doors with half-hour fire resistant doors with the all complimentary ironmongery. We also needed to make alterations to the stairway to ensure a safe route from the first floor to the outside. This involved changing the direction of the stairs from opening into another room to opening into a corridor area. So we had to cut out a new opening and then build a wall to enclose the stairs and also create an under-stair cupboard. We decided also to replace the external doors with new UPVC double glazed doors.

The trustees were delighted and so thankful when Brass Tacks offered to help provide the labour for this project. It was good that all the pressure of organising the work was taken over by them. We were encouraged by the fellowship we enjoyed with **Paul and Angela Hannay** and **Mark Johnston and his team Andy and John**. They had to work in "difficult" circumstances as we already had two girls in residence before the work started so they had to work round about them!! Angela was a big encouragement to the girls as she was able to share so much of her



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experience with them as well as using a paint brush to good effect. The work done was to a really high standard and we are pleased that all the necessary official standards have been met and we can now take in a full capacity of four girls. At the time of writing we have two girls in residence with another two due to come in shortly. We are praying this facility will be mightily used of God in changing the lives of young women as they hear His word preached and see it lived out in our lives.

To Brass Tacks we say :- "We are labourers together with God."

Water for Hebron School, India

Ian Barclay, School Principal



Hebron School in south India was founded in 1899 and currently serves Christian workers in 20 surrounding countries. Water security is a long-term concern as we rely heavily on the monsoon to tide us through the dry summer months. Poor monsoons since 2012 have caused acute water shortages so we have embarked on increasing water harvesting and alternative water sources, such as a 60,000 litre open well

completed in July. Thankfully our prayers for rain have been answered and the recent monsoon has been good (600mm since June) so we have been able to fill and use our swimming pool! We hope the new well and water harvesting will help us in the dry summer next year.

Editors note: In the Spring edition we reported on a visit made to Hebron school where we were assessing the possibilities to improve the water supply. It is therefore gratifying to see a well full of water!

Amano School Staff Houses, Zambia

Brian McCaffrey, Site Manager, Amano Christian School, Zambia



Many thanks to our friends at Brass Tacks and especially **Phil Kennedy and Paul Dodds** for their help here at Amano School this summer.

Phil used the community Backhoe (donated to projects in Zambia through friends in Ireland) to dig out the footings for the head-master's new house. You could tell Phil has a lot of experience with machines and he made short work of it, saving us loads of time.



Also during some down time on the Wukwashi project we enjoyed the company of Paul Dodds were he helped our builders lay out the foundations for a duplex house. (I think part of the draw to Amano was that his lovely wife Angie was here helping at the school teaching, which was greatly appreciated.) Everyone one who knows Angie and Paul know that they are both grafters and are not afraid of hard work and are a pleasure to have on any job.

Anyone reading this who fancies building sites should know that there is an open invitation to all trades and skill levels (retired or otherwise) to come and join us to serve the Lord in a practical way. Amano school can also accommodate couples for there is always lots of help needed in the school, building site and home side of things for husbands and wives.

Many thanks once again from Zambia.

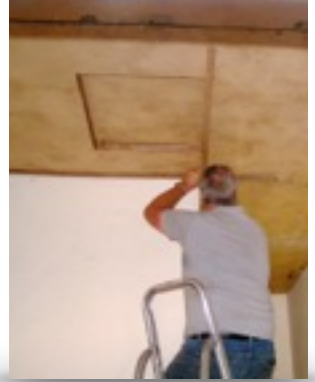


Dipalata Missionary Housing Repairs

Jeff Speichenger, missionary in Zambia



Jeff writes: **Phil Kennedy** did a great job repairing ceilings, and amazingly Betty's house is cooler and she isn't fighting bats and rats which had free access before the renovations. Unfortunately we are now suffering due to the wildlife having moved into our house! This is their revenge as if they knew that we were the ones who kicked them out of **Betty Magennis's** house.



The Dipalata Experience

Jackie Kennedy



When Philip finished at Wukwashi a couple of weeks before the end of our time in Zambia we took up an offer from Jeff Speichenger to go and do a few wee jobs at Dipalata mission station. This was a place that we had heard many things about over the years and it was great to finally get to go and see it for ourselves. Jeff came to Kitwe to collect us and after packing the pick-up with a few wee boxes at

Musenga we headed up country. It was quite a long drive, the last 35 kilometres



being on dirt roads and sand. Coming across oxcarts in the pitch dark and on soft sand is quite a challenge.



One of the first jobs Philip did was to put a ceiling in the hall of Betty Magennis' house. She has had to combat bats at night and the ceiling should help. It has also had the benefit of making the house a bit cooler. While Philip did the work inside some the men that work around the station went to work on the outside of the roof, sealing up any gaps that the bats could get in. The timber that was used was hard, every nail hole had to be drilled first. Finally the job was completed just before Betty came back from furlough in Northern Ireland. The welcome she received had to be



seen. People ran from the village in order to welcome her back and there was a procession in front of the car right up to her house. We were told that she had probably delivered most of the children there.

I spent a bit of time up at the maternity hospital and saw both the ante-natal clinics in operation as well as the baby clinic when vaccines were given and general checks made on the progress of the children. Also on one day a month **Dr David McAdam** flies

in from Chitokoloki hospital to provide surgery.

I was also able to help Betty unpacking some of the boxes which we had transported up from Musenga. Betty makes up baby packs for all the newborns at the hospital. The new mothers receive a pack containing clothes, blankets, nappies and a toy.

Philip's next job was to start to do some renovations on a house which will eventually provide staff accommodation. The house needs a lot of work but Philip was able to make a start working again on the ceilings. He was helped by Stanley,

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one of the workers at Divalata. One of the benefits of working with the local people is that they will then develop the skills to continue on and it was great to hear Stanley say that he felt that he could now go and do a ceiling in his brother's house.

We had a really great time at Divalata which was topped off by a drive back to



Lusaka through the Black Forest and the Kafue Game Park. We were able to add a river crossing by pontoon, some forestry work in moving fallen trees and an elephant sneeze right beside the jeep to our list of experiences. Needless to say we moved on quite quickly. We are very grateful to the Speichenger family and Betty Magennis for their hospitality and fellowship through out our stay (even the kids didn't want to come home!).

Leuven Bible College renovations

Diane Harrison



I had a desire to be part of a Brass Tacks team for some time, but it wasn't until January 2013 that I actioned this by contacting Alan Park and expressing my interest. However, with no trade or skill (and being female, although was quite happy to get my sleeves rolled up!) I did feel rather inadequate, but was determined that if I was given the opportunity I would endeavour to contribute in every way possible and give it my all.

Alan started to email details of various prospective projects but none seemed to

suit probably for more practical reasons. That was until he emailed in January 2014 with the 'ideal project for me, 2 weeks in Belgium in April'. I lit up! Had my opportunity arrived??

Following some further correspondence and a few tweaks at work, the trip was organised and flights, etc booked.



The project was to renovate the reception area at the Evangelical Theological Faculty (ETF) in Leuven, situated 19km east of Brussels. **Paul Dodds** was the team leader with **Ben Andrews** also from Cardiff and **Murray Lawrie** from Arbroath the other members.

We began by knocking down the existing walls which was quite physically demanding but very satisfying! One day I was up a ladder working a jack hammer to remove a brick wall when I looked down and saw a rat run just below the ladder. Needless to say I stayed up the ladder longer than planned but I don't think the lads noticed! However, the rat came back and ran down a hole just at the bottom of the wall I was working on. The lads had spotted it by this stage and could see it hiding

down the hole. I decided to stay up the ladder and work higher than planned! The rat eventually appeared and fled with Paul throwing whatever tool he had in his hand at the time at it, but I think he missed, although thankfully the rat didn't appear again!



Once we had everything demolished, we set about putting up new framework, plaster boarding and taping, etc ready for painting. I was able to gain experience (under Paul's guidance)

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in tasks not previously undertaken and hopefully was able to contribute a little!

Our hosts, **Larry & Debbie Peck** made us very welcome and Debbie was a great cook, so I think we were rather spoilt, when I hear reports on other Brass Tacks projects!

I really enjoyed the experience and working with the team and would encourage anyone with a desire to become involved in a Brass Tacks project to go for it!

Wukwashi school

Alan Park

We were delighted to have the opportunity to return to Zambia once again and to catch up with friends and events in this rapidly changing country. The roads are busier with many more vehicles, and commuting long distances on public transport has become the norm for many, with luxury coaches providing transport between the main population centres.



Paul Dodds arrived a month in advance of the Kennedys and me, and this gave opportunity to prepare the foundations in readiness for pouring the slab for the school. Just when we needed it, the cement company changed its location and we had quite a task to get 300 bags of cement. **Steve Studd** was very patient about the whole

thing and drove between depots chasing up promises of cement mountains. This was not helped by one of the long weekend holidays which fell at a most crucial time and further delayed the start of building work.

Three of the workers came from Luanshya to help, and the others were from Kitwe and Chingola. We had two lads who were brick makers and they joined in by giving help with the labouring and also doubling as cooks for the workers. They



are both from a JW background and we trust that the contact made there will yet bear fruit.

We completed two classrooms, which was less than we had anticipated, however the team of local men were trained in the Brass Tacks way of doing things during our time with them and hopefully they will be able to continue as funds permit.

Henry and Joyce Mutembo have been working for several years with children with special needs, and besides those children who attend the schools at Wukwashi and Mambilima, they have a large network of mothers whom they visit and provide support as they struggle to provide a stimulating environment for their child to develop.

Just as we were finishing our stage of the building they had a big outreach event which was attended by about 180 mothers and children. You may wonder where the fathers were, well, sadly some fathers lose interest in the responsibility of bringing up a child who needs more attention, and they simply leave.

Please continue to pray for this work.

New address for Colin and Liz Breeze

Please note that after many years at 17 Osborne Avenue, which served as the Breeze family home and the Brass Tacks office, Colin and Liz will be re-locating later in October. We wish them every blessing in their new home.

Colin and Liz Breeze
73 Station Road,
Wallasey
CH44 4AW
0151 923 2513

**Goods for MMN can still be taken to Marlborough Road garages.
Please ring before delivery.**

Notebook

- We will be very happy to **come and give a report of Brass Tacks** to your church if you contact the office. 0141 237 4131, newdom@brasstacksuk.org
- Please let us know if you would like to **change the number of copies** you receive. Phone or email the office.
- Pray for:

New volunteers

Projects planned over next few months

The school building and mission house at Kollegal, India

Safety for teams as they work

Ease of travel

The Lord to bless those facilities which benefit from the labour provided by the volunteers

The families at home who also have to sacrifice when a volunteer is part of a Brass Tacks team.



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