

# BrassTacks

Autumn 2017 Issue 62



Serving those who serve...



Phil Kennedy and the roofing team, Chitokoloki mission house

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# Editorial

Having welcomed Philip and Jackie Kennedy to the Brass Tacks family earlier in the year, Philip has been kept busy with projects in France, Tanzania, Zambia and by printing time will be in Angola. Please continue to remember the families of both Paul Dodds and Philip Kennedy as the ones who have to adapt to their absence while they are on projects.

Earlier in the year Paul Dodds and Andy Johnston were in India with a good team of new volunteers and since then Andy has made another visit to India where he travelled widely and has returned home very challenged by the tremendous needs in that vast country. Who knows, this may generate more opportunities to serve in that vast land.

Paul has also been involved in the 2 projects in France and is preparing to travel out to Angola shortly. At the time of writing the passport and visa situation

for Paul has been troublesome due to bureaucracy issues. However sooner or later we hope to get him out there!

This year we have been glad to welcome 5 new volunteers, all from Scotland, and have had several enquiries from the rest of the UK. Frequently we meet people who tell us of family or church members who would like to come on a Brass Tacks project. Please encourage them to get in touch with us as soon as possible so that we can have an idea of skills and availability.

**Editor, Sheila Park**



MCCC senior boys who worked with the BT team

# Programme for next few months

## North West Renewal

Issues with paperwork have delayed this project, so there is no fixed date for the commencement.

## Kamundambala school, Saurimo, Angola

Brian Howden, Jonathan Singleton and some other willing hands are building a new school at Kamundambala mission just outside Saurimo. Work on this will continue for the next few months and they could do with extra help. Paul Dodds and Phil Kennedy should be there by print time. If you are keen to get involved, the visa process can take several weeks so bear that in mind.



## Manara ministries, Jordan

The youth camp just outside the capital is in need of maintenance. We are organising a team to travel out at the end of November for a few weeks. Accommodation improvement, shower and toilet block and kitchen renewal.



## L'eau Vive centre, South France

This is a concreting job which is needed to facilitate users of vehicles with wheelchairs. Part of the carpark and the entrance pathway need to be laid with a slab.

## Summer projects

### Moshi, Tanzania

Allan and Jacqui McKinnon have had an involvement in this work for many years, as missionaries as well as helping to manage from a distance the ongoing work. MCCC is recognised as a safe haven for vulnerable young people, and during the time when we were there, the social services brought a young girl who had undergone some traumatic experiences and needed a place to be safe and cared for.

The children at MCCC love to show off their singing and football skills to the various groups who pass through. Brass Tacks has done projects there in the past and so it was a great privilege to go back and do our part to repair and develop some of the infrastructure.

# Jonny McKinnon

I was blessed to be brought up in a Christian family and made the decision to commit my life to Christ and be baptised at the age of 12. I'm now married with three children and God has put mission on my heart since meeting my wife Lynsey. For the past 8 years working as a joiner in Glasgow, my wife and I have explored several avenues for God to use us in a practical way none of which came to fruition - until this summer. Having lived in Moshi, Tanzania for many years as a child, when I heard a Brass Tacks team was planning a project there I was keen for us to go as a family and join the team. As it worked out the family were unable to come but my wife encouraged me still to go and serve.



Working with Alan and Phil was a real encouragement and a great introduction to practical mission overseas. Alan's Bible studies in the mornings with the young men from the centre made me realise that it's not just about fixing roofs and plumbing toilets but more importantly sharing the gospel and being a Christlike example to others. Fixing the roof is a

bonus! I hope to be able to give more of my time in the future to projects like this and would love to work with Brass Tacks again if they'll have me!

(Editor's note: Anytime Jonny, Lynsey permitting!)



Jonny proved himself to be ambitious on the baking front. He was given cake mixes and desert mixes by a concerned wife and also his Mum. To save weight he threw away the boxes with the instructions which made for a lot of guess work when it came to the other end. Some texting to and fro with a lot of laughs all round and he set to on the cake mixes. Note the improvised food mixer using a rechargeable drill. The cakes were eagerly devoured by the boys from the senior hostel as well as the team.

# Sandy McPherson



Sandy and Jonny making the window frames

I volunteered for the Brass Tacks project in Moshi, Tanzania in June. The task was to make renovations and improvements to the facilities and accommodation at Moshi Christian Children's Centre. I had previously visited the centre when Alan and Jacqui McKinnon served there as missionaries from my church in Glasgow.

The team was made up of 4 workers from Brass Tacks and another 4 young men from the centre who provided extra help. I was mainly working on new window and door frames and repairs to the adventure playground, all of which were in poor condition due largely to termite damage.

Although we took many tools with us, with the amount of woodworking involved we decided to use some of the budget to purchase a chop saw. This really speeded things up, and without it, we would have ended up with some very sore arms sawing the wood by hand. Finding suitable wood was a problem, however we managed to buy sufficient planks at the local market which allowed us to rebuild the playground facilities.

The window frames had to be made on a bespoke basis due to the irregular window openings. We sourced some good quality hardwood, almost like rosewood,

at a local furniture maker who was also able to cut the wood to the sizes we needed. All this took time, and at some points we wondered if we would manage to complete the task.

Unfortunately my trip was cut short by a few days as my wife back in Glasgow went into labour 3 weeks early. Some frantic calls to KLM and their very understanding staff meant that there was only a minimum charge for changing the flight dates. I was able to fly home on the evening of the same day I got the news of the impending arrival of our second child. We were all having Sunday lunch at a local restaurant while I was trying to arrange flights and payment. I don't think I tasted much of my food.

Mary Mapema MacPherson was born on the 26th June while Daddy was still in Amsterdam airport. The name Mapema is a Swahili word which means "Early", and is a fitting reminder of the circumstances surrounding her birth. All was well at the birth and we are now adjusting to being a family of four.



New window frames in situ



Showers for the senior girls hostel



Sandy and Kathryn's bundle of joy



Children's playground equipment

# Chitokoloki mission house

Julie-Rachel is a nurse at the Chitokoloki mission hospital in North West of Zambia. She has been building a house with the help of friends from overseas, and the next stage in the project was to put the roof on. Philip Kennedy flew out to Lusaka where Julie-Rachel met him and they avoided the long road by using the small plane which was flown by Jonathan Lake. (Jonathan and his wife Jo are new missionaries based at Kalene.)

The first task was to raise the wall level by a couple of courses to give good headspace on the veranda. This added to the work load, but there was a good team of local men on site and they managed to get the roof completed within the three week timeframe.

Julie-Rachel writes:

*"I just wanted to write and thank-you so very much for sending Phil out to help me here at Chitokoloki. He did a tremendous amount of work in the few weeks he was here and it was particularly impressive considering the challenges of building in rural Africa. Truly, the Lord had the right person at the right time for the job in hand. The roof is finished and a truly superb job."*



Roof progress

**Truly, the Lord had the right person at the right time for the job in hand.**



Julie Rachel's new house

# TELit update



Some years ago, Brass Tacks did a project in Linwood, Scotland, for the Opal Trust where an industrial unit had been obtained by Robert and Anne Smith for use in their folders ministry, or to the un-informed like me, tracts distribution. A team of four worked on the insulated workshop space so that the leaflets could be kept within storable limits of humidity and temperature. Below is a short update of how the work is progressing.

Anne writes:

*The store carries about 300,000+ folders so that any of the 180 titles are readily available when required. We supply literature in 10 different languages. The room is great as the steady temperature and humidity keeps the stock in good condition.*

The folders continue to go out worldwide in quantities of 1 to 50,000.

One of our largest users, 'Every Home in Scotland for Christ' have distributed almost all of the 100,000 folders we supplied in the space of 4 months. The folder is

called 'Finding the way through Scotland' and offers those who are interested some further studies in the scriptures.

There is a church in London having a regular order of about 3,500 folders per month. Other orders are significantly smaller with one user requesting a single foreign language folder (specially printed) to give to a friend operating a car wash whose first language isn't English.

We also provide folders for special events such as themed vintage evenings, horse racing or elections etc. One such example is Cumbria Gospel Outreach who speak to many travelling people at the Appleby Fair, as well as the weekly Keswick Market. Christians with stands at Agricultural shows also make use of a lot of folders both for children, adults and those from the farming community. At the Edinburgh Festival around 10,000 folders are given out every year.

**Website: [www.telitquick.org](http://www.telitquick.org).  
E-mail: [info@telitquick.org](mailto:info@telitquick.org)**

# Fondation Totai, Bolivia



Paul and Aaron

Foundation Totai is an evangelical Christian NGO (Non-Government organisation) that works to proclaim the gospel of Christ through the provision of practical services in healthcare, sports and education. We are based in Trinidad, Bolivia near the Amazon Basin in South America and are comprised of a staff of Bolivian nationals and overseas missionaries. We partner with a local church, El Jireh Church, to help teach and disciple Christians in our community as they seek to grow in Christ. We accept international volunteers throughout the year for a variety of purposes and this is where Brass Tacks stepped in to give us their support.

**We were very excited to welcome Paul Dodds and Aaron O'Neill to the Foundation...**

We were very excited to welcome Paul Dodds and Aaron O'Neill to the Foundation in April, 2016 as Brass Tacks partnered with us to develop our second volunteer dorm room. Our second dorm room was only completed to the extent that it had rough brick walls and a rough cement floor and it was unfit for any use. Paul and Aaron came and finished the work for us;

we got the walls cemented, the floor tiled and the electricity and plumbing sorted in the bathroom and kitchen/laundry area. They were with us for 5 weeks and we were really impressed with their work ethic and the speed with which they got everything done. They even took time to help sort out our septic tank! While we are still waiting for funds to furnish this dorm room and use it for its intended purpose, we are using the room to augment our church services during youth group and kids club. It has given us a lot more space to be able to better accommodate more children and young people. We are truly grateful for the support of Brass Tacks, and the time we had with Paul and Aaron. We hope they enjoyed their time with us; especially remembering their encounters with piranha fishing and cow's head soup with much fondness!



Paul with piranha

[www.foundationtotai.org](http://www.foundationtotai.org)

## Brass Tacks Fellowship evening

You are welcome to join us for our bi-annual fellowship meeting, this year hosted by the assembly at Northampton (Friday 10th November 2017, 7.30pm, Gospel Hall, Spencer Bridge Road., NN5 7DP)

- Go-Youth Trust report, Falkirk, Scotland - **David Bremner**
- Report on school building in Angola - **Paul Dodds**
- On site interview with church in Aix-en-Provence, France - **Brad Dickson**
- A mechanic's first impressions of Angola - **Mervin Hanna**
- Future project DVD, Manara ministries, Jordan.

**Refreshments will be provided.**



Children's playground equipment repaired, Moshi, Tanzania

**BrassTacks** 

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