

### **“A Diamond in the Bush – Reflecting the Light of Jesus”**

That is how Panji Kaunda, son of Zambia's first President, described the Village of Hope (VoH) when he visited. By God's incredible grace, VoH started with six children in 2006 on essentially undeveloped land. The ministry now impacts the lives of thousands in this poor rural area of Zambia. VoH's commitment is to raise up Zambian children to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ as sold-out disciples of His.

Zambia has been classified as being the most orphaned country in the world. There are over 1.6 million orphans in Zambia. Many of these children have lost both of their parents to the HIV/AIDS crisis. They have no one to care for them, no one to educate them, and no one to prepare them for their future.

Villages of Hope is dedicated to sharing God's love by rescuing and nurturing orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia. They provide essential needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare. However, they also provide the children at the Village of Hope with an exceptional education at the School of Hope and give them hands-on experience and knowledge to better care for themselves in years to come.

Villages of Hope is unique in that it is dedicated to becoming financially sustainable. By starting and managing small and medium size businesses, VoH has been able to generate about 60% of the support needed to operate the Village and School. These businesses provide vocational skills training for the children and employment for more than 200 people in an area where unemployment is about 85%.

(This 3-minute video is a great overview of what Village of Hope is all about. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlevdzIHOLY>)

## **CARE FOR ORPHANS AND TEEN MOTHERS**

### **The Village of Hope:**

The village is family-centered with 11 houses of 6-12 children (either boys or girls) living together. The 69 children range in age from 2 to 18. Each house has a house mother or father.



*A Children's Home with Housemother*



*Girls Washing Clothes*

Each child was placed by the Zambian Government's Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW). Many, before placement by MSW, were orphaned, abandoned, physically or sexually abused, trafficked, or traumatized by violence against their mothers. Some suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome or various developmental disabilities. Some were rescued from prison where they were incarcerated with their mother.





*Toddlers Rescued from Prison*



*Teenager Cooking for His Home*

At VoH, children learn basic living skills, cook the food, clean, do their own laundry by hand, and care for one another. Activities include bible studies, monthly birthday events, leading worship at church, sports activities, Boys and Girls Brigades, and group study times.

### **The Elizabeth House:**

The Elizabeth house was built in 2017 to provide a safe place for young girls who become pregnant. The pregnancy rate among young women is very high in the rural areas of Zambia. Often girls are forced to leave their homes or have an abortion when the pregnancy is discovered. Also, although against the law, girls often attempt to abort using very primitive and unsafe means, meaning that they are never able to have children again.



*A Teen Mother*



*Child Care While Moms Go to School*

The Elizabeth House is a place where the girls can come, receive excellent medical attention, training in taking care of their babies, and most of all love and encouragement. The Hope Nursery cares for the babies so the young mothers can continue their education at the School of Hope.



## QUALITY EDUCATION

### **The School of Hope:**

In rural Zambia, the government is challenged to provide quality education due to a shortage of classrooms, teachers, teaching materials, and books. In order to provide a high-quality Christian education and to prepare students in the Village for life and jobs, VoH saw the need to build its own school. Due to student success, word spread quickly and parents in the surrounding community asked to send their children to School of Hope. In nine years, enrollment has grown from 25 to 550 students.



*Hope School*



*Children Arriving by Bus at School*

Children start pre-school at age 3 and graduate Grade 12 fully equipped for work and/or college. VoH teaches the Zambian curriculum in new and innovative ways for Zambia. Learning activities, reading groups, art-based learning, small group work, hands-on projects, and much more provide learning in a brain-based learning environment.



*Elementary School*



*Pre-School*

There are 45 certified teachers teaching small classes. Teachers are trained at Zambian colleges and universities and participate in on-going professional development as they teach using best practices. Over 700 teachers from the area attended teaching workshops held by School of Hope in 2022.





*School Library*



*Football (Soccer) Team*

The school also has a nice library and offers a variety of extracurricular activities including a football (soccer) club.



*High School Graduates*



*Graduation Celebration*

The School of Hope is striving towards high academic achievement as well as providing vocational learning opportunities. They are greatly surpassing the national average on all national exams. The School of Hope was rated the #1 secondary school out of 250 schools in the Central Province of Zambia. This year School of Hope held its seventh high school graduation. They have now graduated 250 students. An amazing 85% have gone on to college or skills training.

### **Special Needs Children:**

In Zambia, many children are born with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) because of a superstition that drinking during pregnancy helps develop strong, healthy babies. However, there are few resources in Zambia to help children with the physical or learning disabilities resulting from FAS. These children are often hidden away or abandoned by their families.

Some of the children that are placed at VoH by the Ministry of Social Welfare have experienced great physical or emotional trauma. Some suffer from the effects of severe malnutrition. Others have witnessed horrific violence such as the murder of a parent. Some were incarcerated when their mother went to prison.



*Sylvia*

In 2022, the Zambian Police Victim Support Unit called on VoH to help in an unprecedented way. They asked VoH to be a safe haven for children rescued from abandonment, physical and sexual abuse, child trafficking, and child marriages. VoH has stepped up to meet that need.

In order to help these special needs children, VoH needs classrooms where these children can receive learning help in a small group or one-on-one setting. To meet this need, BRBC has stepped up and is providing \$50,000 to build these classrooms through our RENEW campaign. Construction of the classrooms began in January. BRBC is blessed to be able to be a blessing to some of the world's most disadvantaged children. (See the video at: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qrSyFCfIgNEaVTLS3AodmXpAjw1j\\_F4C/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qrSyFCfIgNEaVTLS3AodmXpAjw1j_F4C/view?usp=sharing))

### **College Bound:**

VoH is helping Zambian orphans and vulnerable children enter post-secondary education. They have helped provide scholarships to over 100 students giving them an opportunity to go to college or further skills training programs. Eleven of VoH's young people currently attend Bible college.

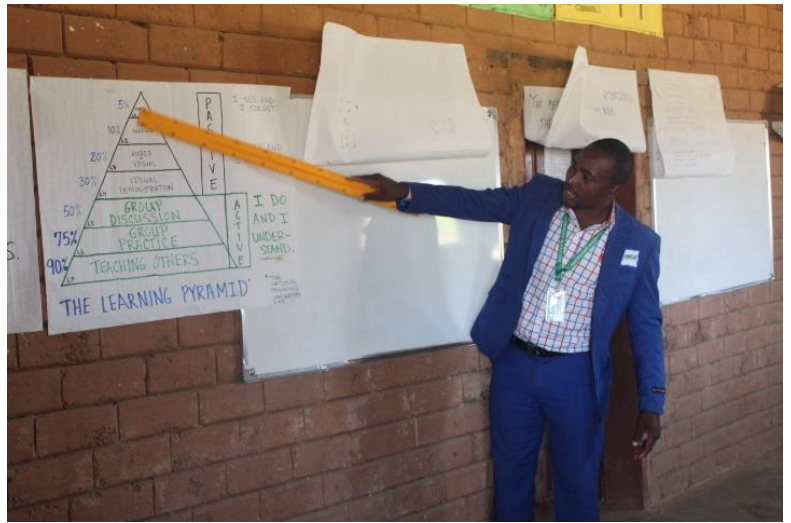


## The Hope College of Education:

To address the need for more qualified teachers, VoH started a teachers' college that is accredited by the Zambian Government. Hope College of Education provides a way for individuals to pursue a career in education affordably and pave the way to improved student learning in Zambia. They are partnered with Mulungushi University, a well-recognized institution of higher learning in Zambia. They have 120 students.

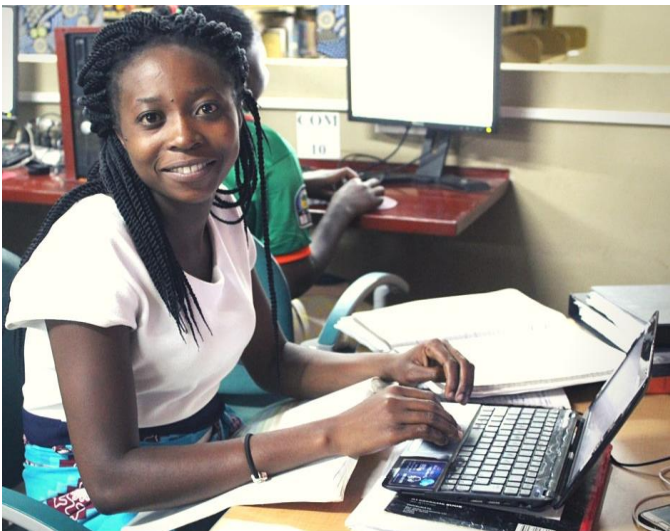


*Opening the College of Education*



*Classroom Instruction on Learning Theory*

Hope College of Education is becoming a central hub for teacher education in Zambia. They instruct school teachers in how to teach from a Christian world view and how to apply best practices for educating children. BRBC members have helped equip the Hope College of Education with dozens of free or low-cost laptops refurbished by Chap Gleason at Laptops for Missionaries.



*Laptops Donated by BRBC Members*



*Future Teachers*

They hold a unique position in Zambian tertiary education. Their dual commitment to exceptional academics and vibrant Christian formation guides their direction, shapes their priorities, and creates the learning community that is Hope College of Education. The college will help provide high-quality education, foster excellence among Zambian educators, and facilitate educational attainment and future professional success for Zambia's youth. (See: [www.hopeedu.org](http://www.hopeedu.org))



### **The Hope Agricultural Training Center:**

The VoH Vocational Skills Training Center was built in 2019. Plans are underway for vocational training programs to teach a variety of skills for future employment. Initially, VoH is focusing on agricultural skills that will be most applicable in their rural area. TEVETA agriculture trade tests are offered through the Hope College of Education so that students completing VoH's three-, six-, or twelve-month agriculture training programs can receive a certification. There are 80 students in their residential agricultural training program.



*Milking Cows*



*Irrigating Crops*

### **Vocational Internships:**

Work internships are offered for graduates of the School of Hope and youth in the Village of Hope in the areas of carpentry and wood working, welding, metal fabrication, vehicle mechanics, tailoring and sewing, commercial cooking, baking, education, and agriculture. Teens and young adults learn work behaviors and skills in a variety of employment settings as they transition to adult life in the community.



*Building Furniture*



*Learning Mechanics*



## **ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**

### **Economic Development and Community Employment Program:**

The care of children involves long-term commitment. The daily needs of children for food, clothing, housing, medical care, and education continue even when donors cease giving. The work and ministry at VoH cannot be solely dependent upon the economic situation in the West or the prevailing currency exchange rate. Therefore, a focus has been on economic development that will help sustain VoH's call and ministry to the "least of these." VoH's Hope Farm and its businesses now provide about 60% of the funds needed to operate the Village of Hope and the Hope School.

The Hope Farm and the various VoH businesses provide training, work experience, and jobs for about 200 local, rural Zambians. Over 1,500 community members benefit from family members employed by Hope Ministries. For everyone who gets a regular paycheck, there are 6-8 beneficiaries. People have food, school fees are paid, seeds can be bought for crops, children have a place to live, and much more.

Another benefit of these businesses is that VoH now has training locations for the youth in the Village as well as for some of the students at School of Hope. They are able to learn about food services in the restaurant, baking, agricultural work, animal husbandry, construction, plumbing, woodworking, driving, sewing and tailoring, and more.

### **The Hope Farm:**

The Hope Farm is a vertically integrated agricultural operation that provides food security for the School and Village. VoH provides a well-balanced diet for their children. They grow about 75% of their own food. The Hope Farm has provided food for over two million meals for hungry Zambian children and adults.



*A Maize Field*



*The Maize Harvest*

The farm harvested 50 tons of maize (corn) in 2020, the main starch of the diet in Zambia. In addition, VoH grows beans and sunflowers (for cooking oil). To provide fresh vegetables for the Village and School of Hope they also grow tomatoes, cabbages, spinach, Chinese cabbage and other green leafy vegetables. Their irrigation system allows them to irrigate several of their fields throughout the dry season (April-November) and during periods of drought so that they can maintain fresh food throughout the year.





*Many of the Children Maintain a Garden*



*Learning to Be Self-Sufficient*

VoH's orchard contains over 400 banana, orange, grapefruit, guava, and mango trees.



*Native Fruits*



*Bananas*

VoH's 45 dairy cows provide fresh milk to the children in the Village as well as beef. A herd of 80 goats also provides meat.



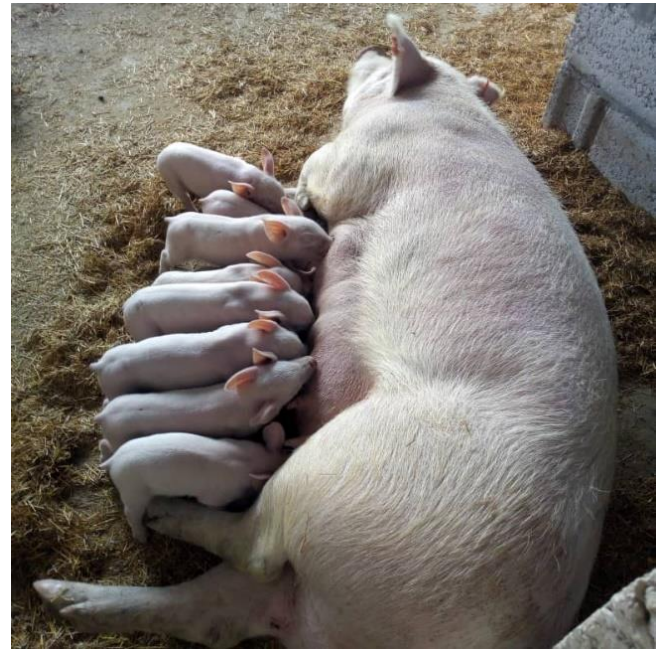
*Beef Cattle*



*Goats*



Hope Farm also has 200 egg layers, providing eggs for the Village, the school, and the restaurant. They regularly have 600 broilers that are maturing to provide chicken for the meals for children in the Village. They also raise pigs.



### **Electricity Crisis:**

Because of the worst drought in 40+ years, beginning in 2019, the entire nation of Zambia has lost much of its electrical generating capacity. The nation's main source of electricity, the hydroelectric power plant at Lake Kariba, can only be run intermittently. VoH depends on electricity to provide lighting, run refrigeration, and operate the well pumps that provide drinking water and irrigation.

To deal with this crisis, VoH installed a 95kw solar micro grid and a system of storage batteries. They have begun recycling wash water and converting to LED lighting. They have begun using corn cobs from the maize harvest as a supplemental fuel for cooking.



*Installing Solar Panels*



*Creating a Solar Micro Grid*



### Water Crisis:

VoH depends on wells to provide water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and for irrigation to grow the crops that provide the food they eat. In August 2021, VoH was shocked to wake up without water in the Village. They rerouted water pipes from the vegetable gardens to provide water for the Village. At the same time, they learned that two of the irrigation wells were pumping mud. They too were going dry as a result of the prolonged (12+ years) drought. VoH shared their plight and BRBC responded with \$6,000 in financial help towards the \$60,000 they needed to drill the new wells.



*Drilling for Water*

A hydrologic engineer spent two weeks mapping the property and selecting the most likely sites for hitting water. Then the drillers came. Two of the sites that were drilled were dry even after they drilled down more than 300 feet. A third site yielded just 2.5 liters a second, good for domestic uses, but it kept collapsing. It took five days for the drillers to stabilize it with steel casing. The situation was looking pretty desperate.

Finally, on the fourth well, the drillers hit a location that yielded 6 gallons a second - over 360 gallons a minute. This is just what VoH needed and what many had prayed for – sufficient water to irrigate their crops.

Watch the video as God pours out his blessing when the drillers hit water and water gushes from the new well: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKmjtdIhLGQ>

### The Hope Businesses:

VoH is located on the main north-south highway in Africa – the Trans-African Highway or Great North Road. They have opened a take away (carry out) restaurant and a mini-market to serve travelers .



*Take Away Restaurant*



*Mini Market*



Because there are very few rest areas for cars and trucks in Lusaka that don't have loud music, a bar area, or prostitutes, VoH provides a safe and peaceful place for truck drivers to park and rest as they travel in and out of Lusaka. Additionally, they provide them with a mini-mart, hot meals at the VoH restaurant, hot showers, access to TV to watch soccer games, and a pool table. On a good night, up to 48 trucks park on VoH's property.



*Overnight Parking for Truckers*

Maureen teaches sewing to students in the School of Hope's secondary grades. Her creations are sold in the Village of Hope shop. The profits help support the school.



*Maureen Sewing*



*Students Learning to Sew*



Clothing and craft items are sold at the Village of Hope shop which fronts on the Great North Road and online through the Village of Hope web site.



(See: <https://villageofhopeshop.com>)

### **The Hope Bakery:**

VoH began baking in their take away restaurant, but could not meet all the demand. When VoH found that bread was not always readily available due to supply chain issues, they decided to start a bakery to assure food security for the Village and Hope School. With \$6,000 donated by BRBC, they purchased ovens and opened their own commercial bakery in early 2022. The bakery now provides all the bread used by the school and Village, sells bread to the surrounding community, teaches culinary and business skills to Village teens, provides employment for a number of persons in the community, and provides income to help support VoH programs.



Click on the link below to see a short video of the bakery first being put into operation:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VEuJTrPTTo17pHE5opqd2v8l1H8RGVgu9/view?usp=sharing>



## **CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **The Hope Church:**

VoH's community church has a weekly attendance averaging 120 children, youth, and adults.



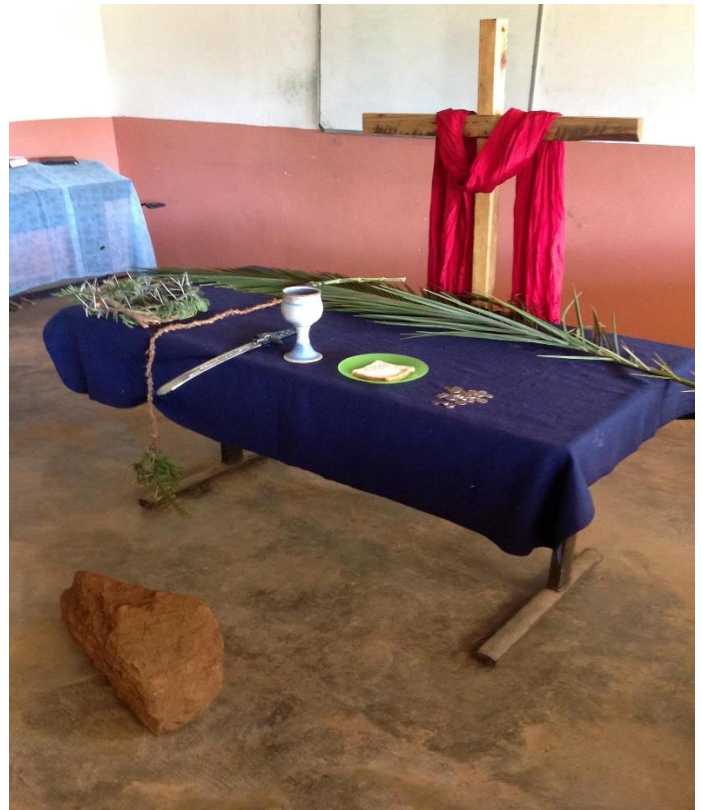
*Worship at the VoH Church*



*Water Baptism*



*Hearing The Word*



*Table Set for Good Friday*





The children serve as the church worship teams.



The young adults join in the preaching/teaching schedule. Pictured below are Paul Kalangwa (left) and Terrence Kay Kunda (right), one of VoH's Rhema Bible College students, bringing the message on Sunday morning.





### Hope Studios:

VoH has created a music studio where their talented singers and musicians can record the Christian music the young adults are performing. Some of the young adults are even composing worship music.



You can listen to an a capella performance of "Jehovah Is Your Name" by the Village of Hope choir by clicking on the link below.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw1pinrpPkU&list=OLAK5uy\\_khwUDAkX6Fja3XgouO\\_ABx8bflt4FwaY&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw1pinrpPkU&list=OLAK5uy_khwUDAkX6Fja3XgouO_ABx8bflt4FwaY&index=2)

### School of Hope:

Christian teaching is at the core of the School of Hope. VoH strives to help every child understand his/her identity in Christ. They do this through daily prayer, praise, and Bible lessons.



Monthly "Set-Apart" Christian mentoring is provided to about 200 students. About 100 teens have participated in the Alpha Course, a Christian discipleship program taught in collaboration with three Zambian churches,. Hope School graduates have the opportunity to attend Rhema Bible College.



### Smart Choices:

In Zambia, 59% of teen girls fall pregnant. At VoH, the "Smart Choices" Christian abstinence training has been very effective. In 13 years, no girls living at the Village of Hope have become pregnant and only 1% of the girls from the community attending the School of Hope have gotten pregnant.

### Boys and Girls Brigades:

All resident children at the Village of Hope are members of the Boys Brigade or Girls Brigade. Students at the Hope School can also join the Brigades. To visualize a Boys Brigade, think of a blending of Boy Scouts and Awana. The children at the Village of Hope have regular Bible lessons and instruction in the Christian faith as essential aspects of the Brigades. They work on discipline through various drills and marching overseen by the Brigade officers. They have the opportunity to attend Christian camps during school vacation times.



*Young Boys Brigade*



*Girls Brigade on Palm Sunday*

The Boys' Brigade was founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith in 1883 to develop Christian character by the use of Christian religious services and classes, drills with a semi-military like discipline and order, gymnastics, and summer camp.

The stated object of the Boys' Brigade and the Girls' Brigade is *"The advancement of Christ's kingdom and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian character."*





The Brigades help round out the focus on Christian discipleship that the children experience at the Village of Hope through daily praise, prayer, and Bible lessons at school, Sunday church services, and Sunday school. In keeping with BRBC's emphasis on Christian discipleship, \$5,800 of BRBC's Global Outreach budget is given to sponsor the Boys and Girls Brigades at VoH.

### **Chimwemwe Ladies Club:**

The Chimwemwe Ladies Club is a group of rural village women who meet for Bible study and fellowship and create hand crafts that the VoH ministry helps to sell through its web site. They started a home business to help support their children's education. They make colorful bags from recycled plastic. Their jewelry is made from seeds and paper beads. Over \$20,000 worth of goods have been produced and sold.





### **Ministry with North American Churches:**

VoH has church partnerships representing congregations from various denominations from nine states in the U.S. Several church mission teams visit each year to help with needed projects.



*Each person from a church missions team from Northern Virginia collected donations from their workplaces, families, and friends. School supplies, toys and games, story books, feminine hygiene products, soccer equipment, and hand knitted hats were all donated and taken by the team to Zambia.*

## **TOTAL HOLISTIC HEALTH CARE**

### **Holistic Approach to Health:**

VoH wants their kids to grow up strong and healthy. This means providing an environment for physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. They believe that at the center of preventative healthcare is good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle.

### **Nutrition Program:**

VoH serves over 250,000 nutritious meals annually including over 1,100 meals served each school day. They provide a well-balanced diet for their children. VoH grows most of their own food. In an area where hunger is rampant because of the 12-year drought, the nutrition program provides food security to more than a thousand people.

### **The Hope Health Program:**

The two VoH infirmaries and staff provide medical care and case oversight for over 1,000 rural Zambians living or working at Village of Hope or attending School of Hope. Students who become sick can be examined in the School Infirmary. The Village Infirmary is a place for children and staff in the Village to receive basic medical care. Services include medical exams, counseling, and referrals. A full-time medical doctor serves both infirmaries. She also works with the local government hospital for health needs beyond the scope of infirmary services.



## **OUR PARTNERS: Benedict & Kathleen Schwartz**



### **Benedict Schwartz**

Benedict is a businessman, entrepreneur, husband, father, grandfather, and Christian disciple seeking to follow Jesus. He holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, and a Masters in Counseling from Connecticut State University. He has developed software programs for Charter Schools, Independent Living Centers around the United States, worked with colleges and universities, and was an adjunct faculty member at Cornell State University. His desire and call to respond to the needs of orphans, especially as a result of the AIDS pandemic, resulted in helping his church in MD to build a children's village in Namibia, and then Village of Hope in Zambia. He serves as the Executive Director for All Kids Can Learn International and directs all the operations in Zambia. (Watch this 2-minute video of Benedict telling how the Village of Hope was started. <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofHopeZambia/videos/132297202054341>)



## **Kathleen Schwartz**

Kathleen is an educator, musician, wife, mother, and grandmother. She received her BA from McDaniel College (Western Maryland College at the time) in Social Work, and Religion and Philosophy. She later received a BA in music from Thomas Edison State College. She has served as organist, choir director, and Director of Music in churches over 30 years. She was the co-founder of Joyful Sounds School of Music in BelAir, MD. In Zambia she founded and now directs the School of Hope. In addition, she coordinates volunteer teams and individuals who come to visit the Village of Hope. (See for a brief interview with Kathleen: <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofHopeZambia/videos/1993192800696288>)

We praise God for all he has done and is doing! The Gospel is reaching and impacting the lives of thousands of economically poor, rural Zambians! Help us to mold children into men and women who will transform their community and ultimately transform the country of Zambia.

Follow Village of Hope on FaceBook at: <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofHopeZambia>

All Kids Can Learn International

[www.akclivillageofhope.com](http://www.akclivillageofhope.com)

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## **Current Prayer Requests & Needs**

Please pray for:

- The School of Hope's ministry to students with special needs
- The School of Hope to grow and welcome more students
- The children brought to Village of Hope after suffering abuse
- The young adults who have grown up in the Village of Hope who are now living in the community and seeking employment in a country with 85% unemployment
- The staff at Village of Hope, School of Hope, and Hope College of Education (over 200) – caregivers, teachers, agriculture workers, security, and business workers
- The resources to be able to continue the many programs God is leading Village of Hope to do
- That many will come to know Jesus as their Lord and will walk with him all their lives

Current pressing needs:

- 2 Buses: Our buses are over 30 years old and are constantly breaking down. We need safe, reliable transportation.
- A Truck – We haven't had a working truck on the Hope Farm for 3 years. We need one. Recently we struggled to borrow one to take 31 pigs to market.
- Accommodations – As our college programs and agriculture programs grow, we desperately need additional student housing.