

# Elizabeth's Library

## Visit Report



Jason & Cinnamon Miles  
May 29th, 2014

## Visit Overview

On May 29th, 2014 ELI Board member Jason Miles and his wife Cinnamon had the opportunity to travel to Susu Village in Zambia to visit the ELI program. They were in Zambia leading a Northwest University trip that included three nursing students and three teaching students.

The Susu community pulled out all the stops in welcoming the group. The visit included a wonderful song-filled greeting by the 250 students and their teachers. The group received an incredibly warm greeting by the teachers and village elders.



The central courtyard of the village is centered around the flagpole with lots of open space for children to play.

## Where Is Susu Village?



The Susu community is located roughly an hour passed the town of Cabwe, which is roughly an hour north of the Capital Lusaka.

The path to Susu is a long one - on a particularly bumpy dirt road. At the end of the dirt road you transition onto small village trails that are more frequently used by cattle and pedestrians than by vehicles.



The road from Cabwe to Susu Village



## **School Status**

The school is lead by Kenneth - a warm and vibrant headmaster. They have 250 students ranging from 1st through 7th grades. The school building is relatively new. It was completed within the last five years. Prior to that the teachers would meet with the children under the Zambezi Teak trees.

The primary challenge associated with the school is that the teachers are local volunteers that don't have formal educational training beyond secondary (High) school. Their education and training directly impacts the quality and effectiveness of the children's education.



The School house is relatively new and includes a small library room/Teachers office

As with most community schools in Zambia, Susu doesn't receive governmental support. The seventh grade students are permitted to take the formal national exams, and if they pass, they are eligible to attend a secondary school - the closest one being in Cabwe.

## **ELI Support**

From what we could tell - the school didn't have any books except those provided by ELI. They had received books earlier in the year, and upon our visit, they receive another large collection.

The headmaster and teachers enthusiastically received the new books and magazines we were able to deliver. They discussed how they'd use them and were excited to see the impact they would have on the students.



## Village Life

Susu Village is like many rural Zambia villages - the community is close-knit and life revolves around the farming, church, and school. The community has several assets that make it a vibrant community including clean water - thanks to a USAID water well and tower that was installed in 2011. They also have a good quality school building with three large individual classrooms.



The church was small but very nice inside



The most vibrant aspect of the community seemed to be their ability to effectively farm. Although it didn't appear that they have any ongoing outside support besides that from ELI, they clearly have good farming practices.



The USAID Water Well & Tank Provide All-Year Water. Sandy is the village Elder.

The quality farming means that the children receive a healthy lunch each day at school. It consists of Nshima, (a traditional staple food that is similar to firm mashed potatoes - made from Maize - Nshima is eaten by all Zambians regardless of economic level). The Nshima is served with a large helping of beans.





There is a large cooking hut that serves as the kitchen

The village elders were very gracious in welcoming us, praying for us, and sharing their perspective on the challenges of the community. They expressed deep appreciation for the support and partnership with ELI - and asked us to pass on greetings to all the ELI donors.



Kenneth receiving the new ELI supplies



## Summary

The Susu village project is a beautiful example of a long-term opportunity to provide support and partnership to a small village that doesn't have any other outside support mechanism. The ELI partnership is incredibly important to them and they are eager to serve as good partners in support of the children of their community.

