



**NEWS...from Marge McPeak
District 5580 Literacy Chair**



Summer is over and it's September -- Rotary's Literacy Month. There are two projects I'd like to highlight in this issue of Cross Currents and I hope that you will be featuring Literacy Topics for at least one of your Club meetings this month.

The two Rotary Clubs in Grand Rapids collaborated in a several-year project to make part of a City Park into a playground for children and families. As part of the community space a Little Free Library was provided, something that all family members can enjoy.

Another project was undertaken by the Quad Cities Rotary Club who, in the summer of 2008, had the opportunity to hear about the Peace Corp experience of local resident Kelly Norri. She included in her talk a request that their Rotary Club assist a resident of Sinda, Zambia Africa in obtaining his college degree. After some discussion, it was decided to use this opportunity as a Club Rotary International Project. Due to technical policy questions, the club did not receive any financial support from either District 5580 or the International organization. Ultimately three years later Masauso Mwale graduated from the University in Morogoro Tanzania, Africa with a degree in Business and Agriculture with a minor in Marketing. As an employee of the Department of Agriculture in the Eastern Province of Zambia, Mwale began teaching his friends and neighbors how to grow their food. He then went into the "bush" on the extreme edge of the Eastern Province to teach those people how to grow their food. Success became inherent and when anyone had a question as to what to do people would say "call Mwale--he will know".

Education was very important to Mwale and he along with his wife, Faith, began building a school. He asked the Quad Cities Rotary Club if they would support the project financially with a loan. The Club and its supporters funded the school project. In May of 2016 the school was certified by the Zambian Education Department to provide education to children in Sinda. The school has two certified teachers who teach the young students only in English believing that will provide additional opportunities to each student later in their lives. The school will teach a maximum of 40 students ages 4 through 16. The school is called "Quad Christian Academy". Educational Literacy has become Mwale's goal for the children of Sinda, Zambia.

Mwale and his family are repaying the loan provided by the Quad City Rotary. However, they are in need of educational supplies and funding to support the challenge of educating children in such a rural area as Sinda. The vast majority of residents living in Sinda and the surrounding area are very poor and will benefit from the school. If anyone is interested in supporting this project, please contact the President of the Quad Cities Rotary Club at P.O. Box 695, Virginia, MN, 55792.

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