

January to June 2007 News

Makeni Ecumenical Centre
PO Box 50255 Lusaka, Zambia
<http://makeni.org.uk>



Dear Friends,

This is the first newsletter for 2007. If you have any questions, please write to one of the addresses on the website for more information!

Basic Education

On Friday, 29th June, 2007 from about 08:50hrs to about 12:45hrs we held our first inter-house athletics competitions in many years. The programme started as scheduled with a march past the basketball court with each of the houses displaying its banner. The house mottoes read; "Backward Never, Forward Ever", "For Quality and Excellence" and "Victory" for Kafue, Luangwa and Zambezi respectively.

At the opening, Fr Mukuyamba, MEC chairman and the Guest of Honour, appealed to the competitors to display great sportsmanship and assured everyone of the management's blessings. The day's events were then graced with a prayer from Father Ngoma.

Competing athletes strived to live up to their respective mottoes, much to the delight of the spectators. The programme ran smoothly as scheduled with the teachers and the students from the Electronics class adequately dispensing their duties.

After all the cheering, jeering and near quarrels and above all splendid levels of competitions by the athletes, there had to be but one winner. Zambezi were declared the winners by a slim margin and walked away with a new trophy. At a later date the house name will be inscribed on the trophy as the winners of the 2007 Inter-house Athletics. Luangwa also claimed a trophy for second position. Prizes were given to the two houses by Fr. Mukuyamba amid shouts of victory and excellence from the pupils. Deserving pupils will be given their individual prizes at a later date when the list is compiled.

The Guest of Honour thanked the pupils and the teachers for having successfully held the Inter-house competitions and assured the school

of continued support in future, since sport plays an important role in the development of a child.

In his closing remarks, the PTA chairman, Mr. Kabalukila, thanked all the parties involved for a successful event and said that the hosting of such competitions was in line with government policy of improving the teaching of physical education in schools.

The day's events were officially ended with a prayer from Mrs Stephenson and the national anthem.

St Nicholas Orphanage

We are pleased to pass on the news that three children from the orphanage successfully proceeded into senior secondary school (Grade 10). These are:

1. Chipol Malambo (Olympia Park High School, Lusaka)
2. Audrey Kabwe (Chipembi Girls Secondary School, Chisamba)
3. Daniel Zulu (Golden North School, Chawama, Lusaka)

There is more news of the children's time with recent volunteers later in the newsletter.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Project

HIV/AIDS is highly stigmatised, which has led to damaging effects such as dismissal from employment, depression and loss of self-esteem. Likewise, students are denied places in schools and universities because of actual or perceived HIV status.

As a result, it is now a requirement for government ministries, NGOs and corporate bodies that they have an HIV/AIDS policy in place, providing guidelines on how to support those living with HIV/AIDS.

In line with these requirements and assisted by TEVET, the MEC HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy has been launched. The policy was contributed to by MEC staff, Adult Training Programme students, the local community and the Executive Committee members. Staff are wearing T-shirts once a week carrying a text reminding all of the policy.

The Launch was presided over by Fr Mukuyamba as MEC chairman. Other senior members present were Mrs Christine Allen (Personnel and Administrative Manager) and Mr George Halubobya (Headmaster of the Basic School).

A total of 77 ATP students (from Agriculture, Electronics, Home Economics and Carpentry Department) received T-shirts. Fifty MEC Staff Members including volunteers, Gordon and Julia Lowes received Golf Shirts. Refreshments were also served during the launch.

Below is the Budget Breakdown of the Launch Expenditure:

50 golf shirts @K55,000	2,750,000
75 T-shirts @K25,000	1,875,000
5 crates of soft drinks @K42,000	210,000
Samosas (snacks)	114,000
2 packets of serviettes	10,200
1 bottle of cooking oil	7,800
TOTAL	4,967,000

The US dollar equivalent is approximately US\$1,180.

MEC Production Unit

Meat processing has been going on since October 2006, necessitated by the fact that the marketing of pigs to meat processors suffered over low prices.

Preliminary training in butchering, de-boning and smoking of ham was conducted by Dutch expert Mr Ton Linthorst, from the organisation PUM. The training was attended by Agriculture members of staff Mr B. Zulu, Mr Kapalu, Mrs Wenda Dil and the students from the Agriculture General and Settlement.

The second training was conducted by Mr. Nol Nieuwenhuis and was attended by Mr Zulu, Mr Silwenga, Mr Kapalu, Mrs Dil and all Agriculture students. Two different types of pork sausage were made. (Boerewors and Pork Sausage). The introduction of pork sausage products to our customers was greatly appreciated. The processing is gaining momentum and the experience in meat processing is setting in.

In order to increase the departmental personnel's awareness in meat processing, two members of staff were attached for two weeks with Majoru Investment Limited, a well-regarded meat processing businesses in Lusaka.

The kitchen/processing room is currently undergoing upgrading with the financial assistance from volunteer Mr Gordon Lowes.

The Piggery stock is being improved and increased in order to feed the processing and will be maintained at 8-10 sows, which means we may be having about 100-200 pigs for processing annually.

A smoking chamber made within the production unit will help to increase the range of products we can offer.

Biogas Project

The Biogas Unit is currently under going new trials with the help of volunteers from Holland Edwin Oosting, Jack Rusthoven and Albert Meems.

The first step was to empty the main tank completely. Then a thorough check for any leakages which was done by Edwin, proving the tank to be okay.

The second step was to put water in the tank so that the pressure can be checked before introducing the pig manure. We expect that by the end of August/mid September, 2007 we will start testing the gas stove again.

Volunteers and other staff

Geeske Meems and ***Cindy Schotte*** arrived on 22nd February from the Netherlands, bringing with them some funding from Dutch friends of Makeni. Geeske was joining us through a university placement as part of her studies in Holland and spent six weeks with us, while Cindy was with us for three months.

Both girls settled down very quickly and took a particular interest in the orphanage. They did a lot of creative activities with the children and also continued taking them for walks and for fun days out at local places of interest including "Adventure City" (a new children's park), Lilayi Lodge for game viewing and bowling in Arcades.

In addition they upgraded the pathway to the Carpentry Department and repaired the basket-ball hoops which had been started by other volunteers. They also helped to renovate a store-room and to implement a storage and issuing system. Shelves and doors were put in with the help of the Carpentry Department.

During her stay Geeske produced an 82 page booklet, for her thesis, giving details of each child in the orphanage. Her parents are visiting MEC from 14th July – 9th August, 2007.

Gordon Lowes and **Julia Lowes** arrived on 12th April 2007 from England and have spent three very productive months with us. There will be more news about their activities and contributions to the centre as a whole in the next newsletter.

Donations

We would like to thank

- Aids Angels for Africa (Canada) for their continued support for the orphanage
- Saanich Community Church (Canada) for assistance with the Orphanage Extension
- Our Dutch Friends for help with the Mwomboshi SV roof and sponsorship of Bertha, Daniel and Christopher
- Kerkinactie (Netherlands) for assistance in funding the Family Planning project
- Kloosterkerk (Netherlands) for supporting the orphanage and HIV/AIDS projects
- Gordon and Julia Lowes (England) for their donation to the orphanage
- M. Ryall (England) for supporting the orphanage
- Diaconie Barendrecht (Netherlands) for helping with the Carpentry workshop extension and student sponsorship
- Andrew Knowles, (England) for help with the orphanage extension
- Caroline Coombe (England) for sponsorship of Audrey Kabwe at Chipembi Girls' School

Overseas Visitors

The centre was privileged to have Archbishop the Right Revd John Anthony Hepworth from 19th-26th May, 2007 as a guest of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Pastor David Eagle from the Saanich Community Church in Canada, where Dr Pierre Dil and Lee Ann congregate, visited MEC on the 6th June 2007. He started his visit by attending the weekly Wednesday

Community Service, was given a conducted tour of MEC and ended by having lunch in the orphanage with the children.

Mr Robert J. Johnson from USA visited the centre on 22nd May, 2007. Before the visit, he donated some money, which will be added to the funds set aside for the extension of the girl's dormitory in the orphanage. He also brought some children's books, educational books and other items.

Thank you also to all of the following who spent some time with us or assisted us in other ways:

- Henry Houben – who was visiting projects in Uganda and found time to visit us also;
- Wonnt & Bep Kleirie, and Arjen & Rose de Waay – The two couples were visiting Mbaya, Musuma and Mazabuka;
- Catherine, Michael and Rebecca Lowes – Gordon and Julia Lowes' children;
- Alison and Mike Lee, friends of the Lowes;
- Fr David Marriot, priest from Traditional Anglican Church, Canada;
- Tineke Dodd, a friend of MEC since July 2003. She and her husband Warren have since been transferred to Ghana.

Web News

We have added Geeske Schotte's report titled "Diary of a Volunteer" to the website. It makes nice reading and will give you an insight into a volunteer's week at the centre. We also have a newsletter from our Dutch Friends.

From time to time we unfortunately have to change our on-line email addresses, due to spam. Please check addresses you use ending @makeni.org.uk are still valid at the main website contacts page.

Please let the webmaster (makeni.org.uk) have your latest email addresses, so that we can continue to reach you via our on-line mailing list.

Warm Regards,

Mrs C.M. Allen, Fr Andrew Mukuyamba, Mrs W. E. Dil, and the staff of Makeni Centre.