

January to June 2006 News

Makeni Ecumenical Centre
PO Box 50255 Lusaka, Zambia

<http://makeni.org.uk>



Dear Friends,

From 2006, we are hoping to write at least quarterly newsletters to keep you up to date with our latest news and in particular to acknowledge all of our friends' generous support. This is the first report for 2006. If you have any questions, please write to one of the addresses on the website for more information!

Orphanage Verandah

We have received Donations from **Truus and Jan Veldkamp**, friends of MEC in Holland, **George and Moonyeen Muller** in South Africa and **Andrew Knowles** in England.

A spacious verandah with a beautiful slasto stone floor has been built.

As a pleasant outside area, this is already extensively used for homework, craftwork, choir practices, and as a kitchen extension for food preparation.

The half-yearly Kloosterkerk donation

Our grateful thanks to **Mr Wim Goris** and the Mission Committee of the **Kloosterkerk** for their faithful support.

Thanks are also due to the directors and staff of **Makeni Limited** (an English company started by people who used to work in the Makeni area) for their kind donation, and pledge of continued support.

Mrs Claus and friends in the Flanders

Thank you for educational sponsorship of Daniel and Christopher in the Orphanage!

Kerkinactie (Church in Action)

We thank **Dr Snoek** for the wonderful contribution of €3000 for Family Planning, and continued support from the Kerkinactie.

Volunteers and other staff

We were privileged to have **Debbie and Bruce Milano** with us through the Church in USA.

They are retired M.A.S.H. nurses from the US Army, and had seen active service in many troubled spots in the world. During their time with us they revived and revised the work in the Family Planning Clinic. They did a great job in the renovation of the premises and putting an excellent administrative system in place. The attendance in the Family Planning clinic improved greatly during their stay.

During this time we employed Martina Makota to help with administration and translation. Martina has been a great help. Before the Milanos left, MEC was able to employ a permanent Nurse – Mrs Daphne Mukandawire. They were able to handover the work to her. Besides his medical contributions, Bruce made himself useful as a 'Jack of all trades', filling vacancies as extra driver, buyer, carrying MEC animals to the vet and so on.

Through the Milano Medical Mission (MMM), which is a trust funded by Debbie and Bruce and International Anglican Fellowship (IAF), they were able to make visits to settlement villages and donate, on a regular basis, a supply of essential medicines. They also did Family Planning and AIDS counselling in the settlement villages.

We would like to thank the Milanos most sincerely for their work in MEC. We hope that they will come and spend time with us again.

In March, **Anton Dil**, Truus Veldkamp and her husband Jan Veldkamp came to Zambia for the first anniversary and unveiling of the tombstone of our late GM and Founder of MEC, the Very Revd Pierre Dil. It was a meaningful occasion and well attended by various churches, organisations and friends.

During his stay with us, Anton cast a critical eye over our Information Technology facilities in the various departments and in the Computer School. He made many constructive suggestions and installed new software and virus updates. He brought us software, a laptop donated

by the Open University, books and had discussions with Mr. Tapisha (the Computer Lecturer).

We are planning to upgrade the computer school building to attract more people for computer literacy classes.

The Open University

We would like to thank the OU for their donation of three computers and two laptops. We would like to convey our sincere thanks to **Paul Soady** and **Dr Stephen Batie** of the Open University for making this donation possible.

We were fortunate to get some space in a container from an organisation called **Operation Sunshine** to ship the computer donation to Zambia. **Ken Tee** was available to receive the delivery of computers at Folkestone for the shipping.

We are happy to report that on June 21st we had notification of the arrival of the container in Lusaka which we hope should be cleared shortly.

Truus and Jan Veldkamp

Truus and Jan were with us for two and half months from March, during which time they made many valuable suggestions and contributions to the work of MEC.

Truus' many years of experience in Holland as a Child Welfare Officer and knowledge in Child Psychology were very valuable. The orphanage children especially benefitted from her expertise.

At Truus' suggestion, we have adopted a more open policy in increasing children's visits to extended family when we feel the environment is safe.

We also are making more effort to let the children experience life outside the safe walls of MEC, so that they do not suffer too much of a culture shock when the time comes for them to leave.

Truus and Jan did lots of low-cost outings, like going to the shopping malls and trips to our Villages, especially for children.

They also arranged outings to the local zoo and nearby gardens (Munda Wanga) and started daily walks around the back roads of

Makeni, Jan giving turns to the youngest children to have rides on his shoulders.

Jan (a retired art teacher with many years of experience) also gave the children art lessons, which they greatly enjoyed. He also took them in groups to visit our two local Art Galleries, hoping to foster their talents for possible fundraising projects in the future .

In all for the children it was a time of great fun and recreation, and they sorely miss 'Aunt Truus and Uncle Jan'. Back in the Netherlands, Truus and Jan, together with an enthusiastic team of helpers, have founded a 'Friends of Makeni Website' and a MEC Trust. They will continue to do fundraising for Makeni Centre. and follow closely the progress of MEC in all departments. They will also be our Liaison Officers to the growing number of volunteers from the Netherlands and Belgium.

With the help of the Friends of MEC in Holland, the Veldkamps bought a lot of gifts for the orphanage besides leaving a donation for comfortable benches for their community rooms.

African AIDS Angels and Saanich Community Church

We would like to thank **Dr Pierre and Lee Ann Dil** for the fundraising they are doing on behalf of MEC through AAA (African AIDS Angels) and the Saanich Community Church.

The AAA supports the work of the orphanage in education, food, medical bills and uniforms.

The spending of the money kindly donated by Saanich Community Church has been delayed, because the group that was supposed to coming from Holland to do the building have postponed their trip till next year. We have therefore decided to go ahead as soon as possible using a local builder, to do the girls dormitory extension. This is a priority need, and since we have received a second donation from Saanich Church. It is now financially possible.

We would also like to thank **Mrs Hazel Cornes** from Wales, whose first donation was used for beds for the orphanage, and whose second donation will go towards the conversion of an unused chicken house to a Biogas Kitchen.

The donations of **Mrs Saradah Jayaseelan** from Australia and **Ms C. L. Francis** in England will also go to the Biogas Kitchen. Thank you!

A full report on the Biogas Project will come in the next quarter.

Just a brief note: A team of 4 young men from a Dutch university will arrive in Zambia on the 4th July to build a dome into which pig manure will be channeled to make biogas. The gas will be used to cook the main meal for the orphanage.

Warm Regards,

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