



Newsletter

Makeni Ecumenical Centre

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Sharing experiences and information with our partners

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What Makeni Offers:

Training Courses

- General Agriculture
- Electronic Systems Maintenance and Repair
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Tailoring and Designing
- Food Production
- Computers (short courses)

Education

- Secondary School
- Primary School
- Pre and Nursery School (Day-care)

Projects & Community Services

- Family Planning
- HIV/AIDS Testing and Counselling
- Orphanage
- Agriculture Settlement

Kloosterkerk Worldwide invests in Rural Water and Skills Development

By Joe Silwenga

Kloosterkerk Worldwide (KKW) funded a number of initiatives and projects in 2010 in the Makeni Ecumenical Centre run Settlement Villages of Chisamba, Kalwelwe and Mwomboshi. The support covered water development projects and capacity building initiatives.



Funding was provided for the sinking of 4 new boreholes and rehabilitating of 5 existing ones. This has eased the people's access to safe drinking water.

Training in Cooperative Management, Entrepreneurship, Conservation farming and construction of Appropriate Storage structures (see pictures above and below) featured under capacity building initiatives. All of these cost more than K100m to accomplish.

Makeni Ecumenical Centre and



three the communities are very grateful for the assistance rendered. We wish the Kloosterkerk family all the best.

Makeni receives a minibus from the Friends of Makeni

By Joe Silwenga

Makeni Ecumenical Centre was once again blessed with the donation of a 14-seater Proteus minibus from our all-weather Friends of Makeni, Den Haag. The



vehicle was acquired through Southern Cross Motors at an approximate cost of K92m. This came in the wake of increasing demand for transport for staff and students.

The donation has eased transport needs for the institution. The Friends of Makeni also acquired a double-cab ford ranger vehicle for settlement and administrative use early this year. The Friends collaborate with Makeni in the support of the orphanage, education in Makeni and the Agriculture settlement villages.



Editorial Team

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African AIDS Angels lifting vulnerable rural people from poverty

By Joe Silwenga

African AIDS Angels (AAA) is a Canadian charity that has been helping Makeni Ecumenical Centre in the delivery of its community services, especially the orphanage.



Maize being packed after harvest

In the last three years, AAA has been supporting our Agriculture Settlement Project Extension Support Project (ASP-ESP) which involves distribution of inputs and extension services to very vulnerable families. There were 35 beneficiaries.

The ESP has produced a remarkable harvest in the 2009/2010 season. The average yield per household was 27 (15-39) bags/acre, a great increase from the previous 8-15 bags/acre. Each family is expected to have at least 15 bags for sale. In preparation for the 2010/2011 season, all the beneficiaries have managed to obtain part of their inputs from sales of their maize crop. It is expected that they will double their field sizes and consequently production by April 2011 if the season is favourable.

39th Graduation Ceremony

By Chizuma Phiri

September 10th 2010 was a very special day not only for Makeni Ecumenical Centre but also for students as this was the 39th Graduation Ceremony, which saw a total of 39 students graduate from various fields.

The graduands were from the fields

of General agriculture, Settlement agriculture, Tailoring and designing and Food production. Electronics students were not present.



The guest of honour at this colourful ceremony was Honourable Lameck Mangani (above), Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Vocational Training. In his address he urged the graduating students not to seek employment only but to put to good use the skills acquired so that they can become self-employed, since formal jobs are very scarce.

Earlier, in his welcoming address, Fr Andrew Mukuyamba, the Executive Chairman of the Centre commended the Government for providing an environment conducive for private institutions to carry out training. He bemoaned the higher fees of registration by TEVETA.

Nicholas the Miracle Baby Turns 2 years



By Ireen Chinyama

Nicholas Tembo (above), the youngest child at St. Nicholas Orphanage, turned 2 years old on the 4th of August 2010. He is called a miracle baby because he was brought to St. Nicholas when he was about 5 weeks old. The mother

died of HIV related complications. He has shown a lot of resilience. He was a bit slow and reluctant to start crawling. However, after introducing him to a baby walker, at the doctor's advice, he has started standing and walking a few steps. He has also been recovering quickly from other disease attacks. He is sponsored by Barbara Topley and Little St. Mary's, Cambridge, U.K.

MEC Holds Training in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

By Chizuma Phiri

An in-house training was conducted for 22 members of staff in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation to enhance productivity in their respective departments and sections.

The workshop, which started on the 27th of September 2010 and lasted for 10 days, was officially opened by the Executive Chairman Fr Andrew Mukuyamba, who urged the participants to take the workshop seriously.

It was a wonderful 10 days as participants (of which the writer was one) did not only learn about Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, but the workshop also gave them a platform to interact and helped in giving deeper insights about operations of various departments.



The workshop covered objective setting and indicators, problem analysis, logical framework, data collection, monitoring and evaluation approaches to mention a few. The participants were awarded certificates.

Face to face with the pupils: The Bertha Kabwe experience

By Joe Silwenga

Bertha Kabwe was out for teaching practice at one of the rural schools of Solwezi in the North-western Province of Zambia between June and August 2010. She was face to face with the pupils since she joined Solwezi College of Education about 20 months ago.

She was faced with the challenge of speaking KiiKaonde, the third Zambian language she had to learn while in Solwezi. She reports that she had to strive to teach well in a new language. She is proficient in English, Bemba and Nyanja. Regardless of her limited Kaonde, Bertha scored above 75% on the rating. She will be completing her course in December 2010.

Bertha, with her two siblings, Audrey and Wisdom, was one of the first orphans that St Nicholas Orphanage Village took in at inception in 2000. The Vice Principal from Solwezi College is very pleased with her conduct and performance. She has been sponsored with help from the Friends of Makeni.

WEDDING OF THE YEAR – Esther is Now Mrs Ngoma!

By Ireen Chinyama

September 4th 2010 was a memorable date for Makeni Ecumenical Centre in general and St Nicholas Orphanage in particular. This is the day Esther Nkhoma was marrying Philemon Ngoma in a colourful wedding ceremony.



Newly wedded posing for a photo with Mrs Dil (right) and Mrs. Chibuye (left).

The ceremony started with a service at the Church of the Good Shepherd within the Centre.

The reception was held within Makeni at General Hakamangwe's residence. General Hakamangwe is one of the Board Members of Makeni Ecumenical Centre.

Esther, who is 21 years old, was one of the first orphans at St Nicholas Orphanage. She was engaged to Philemon after she completed her junior secondary school at Makeni Ecumenical Centre School. She has a very good talent in plaiting hair and other hair styles.

We are grateful to all who offered their material and financial support to Esther and Philemon. We wish them well in their marriage.

39th Graduation Information Desk

By Enid Stephenson

Makeni mounted an Information Desk for the public, parents and prospective students during the 39th Graduation Ceremony on 10th September 2010. There were a



number of products that departments under the Adult Training Programme and the St Nicholas Orphanage displayed.

The Agriculture Department had on display onions, chickens, sausages and pork meat which were later sold to the public.

The Carpentry Department displayed school desks, coffee tables, baby cots and a shoe rack. A good number of people attending the ceremony expressed interest, particularly in the school desks.

The Home Economics Department displayed some garments, curtains,

toilet seat covers and kitchen sets which aroused a lot of interest from the public. Hopefully next time around there will be more of these products on sale. The department also had on display cakes and scones which were sold out to the public. They were also responsible for preparing food for our guests and the students' farewell party.

There were also various items displayed by St Nicholas Orphanage such as door mats, which were sold at K10, 000; paintings done by the orphans and a building model just to showcase the skills they have.

The information desk also provided the opportunity to market information on the activities and courses offered at the centre as brochures and flyers were distributed to guests and the general public attending the ceremony.



Desks, clothes, a baby coat and food displayed by the various departments of the Centre.

