



Newsletter March 2013

Makeni Ecumenical Centre

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
- Computer short courses

Education

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

Projects & Community Services

- Family planning
- HIV/AIDS testing and counseling
- Orphanage
- Agriculture settlement

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Makeni Ecumenical Centre Primary school achieves 100% Pass Rate for Grade Seven

Mwanangombe Kandala – Headteacher

Our congratulations go to the teachers of MEC Primary School for achieving a 100% pass rate for Grade 7! This perfect result reflects ten years of achieving a pass rate of more than 85%.

It is every parent's desire to see their children well-educated and it is our philosophy that the school offers a quality education that will prepare pupils for higher grades and a challenging future.

These excellent results were made possible through our motivated and well-qualified grade 7 teacher. The other factors to which we attribute the results are a secure infrastructure, provision of suitable text books and good use of teaching and learning aids.

The perfect pass rate is a testimony and an assurance to parents whose children are in our care that we are determined to provide quality education. We hope that parents wishing to bring their children to MEC will feel encouraged to do so.

Wisdom and James top Grade 12 results

Ireen Chinyama - Matron

Wisdom Kabwe and James Chininga of St Nicholas Orphanage Village topped the results during the 2012 Grade 12 academic period.

Wisdom scored the highest among 24 pupils who sat Grade 12 examinations and



was closely followed by James. Well done!

Both young men are interested in pursuing careers in fields of biological sciences. Wisdom is interested in being a nurse while James (pictured above) is interested in being a radiographer.

The two boys came to St Nicholas Children's Village in 2001. Wisdom was 7 and James was 8 at the time their parents passed away and have attended MEC's school since then.

Now that Wisdom and James have completed Grade 12, they will be integrated into their extended families.

We wish to thank all donors and cooperating partners for their continued and generous support to these children.

Students addressed on corruption

Edward Phiri – Training Coordinator

On 20th March, Makeni Ecumenical Centre Adult Training Programme students were addressed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to increase awareness of the problem of corruption. There were 56 students in attendance from General Agriculture, Agricultural Settlement, Food Production and Electronics.

In his address, Mr Trinity Haambokoma emphasised how the public can actively participate in the fight against corruption in Zambia and introduced students to the role of the Anti-Corruption Commission in this respect. He went on to define the effects of corruption and its penalties to would-be offenders.

The functions of the ACC include educating the public on the dangerous effects of corruption; preventing corruption in both public and private sectors of society and initiating and receiving and investigating allegations of corruption.

Regarding the effects of corruption, Mr Haambokoma highlighted injustices in socio-economic development, compromise of the rule of law, increase in criminal activity, a widening gap between the rich and poor, lower quality of service delivery, undermining

of security, distorting of standards and inefficiency, amongst many other things.

The consequences of corruption when convicted are fourteen years imprisonment, forfeiture to the state of any property received, or nullification of corrupt transactions and prohibition from occupying any public office for five years.

We thank Mr Haambokoma for spending time with us to discuss this important issue.

Say no to corruption!

Mwomboshi Settlement Village commemorates International Women's Week

Catherine Oreta

Mwomboshi Settlement Village (MSV) was a hive of activity during International Women's Week, which started on the 1st of March, after Makeni Ecumenical Centre was selected to host joint activities in the village through the Non-governmental organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC).



The NGOCC secretariat and its members took their various activities outside Lusaka to the communities within Chibombo District to share with women in rural communities the meaning of this day set aside to recognise the struggle of women for equality.

In addition to running an Agricultural Settlement Project,

MEC is also involved in raising awareness of HIV and AIDS and family planning in the region. This activity is carried out in collaboration with the Zambian Helpers Society, who run mobile under-five, anti-natal and curative services.

Invitations were sent to the village headmen, villages, farms and schools surrounding MSV to commemorate the day and over 500 people from MSV, Mweemba, Herdon, Shibwato, Kamano and other villages participated. Many women and several men took part in a colourful march past the MSV community building, some wearing their church uniforms. There were also performances of educational sketches, poetry and drama for entertainment.



The guest of honour was Mrs Isabel Sibongo of the NGOCC. In her speech, Mrs Sibongo emphasised how to deal with women's issues such as early marriages, gender-based violence, the role of women in decision making and safe motherhood.

Mrs Wenda Dil, the co-founder of MEC, and Chief Shibwato were also in attendance. The chief was very grateful that such a wonderful occasion could be commemorated in his chieftdom.

Clinic activities with the Zambian Helpers also took place.

Gertrude Shinkanga gives motivational talk to pupils

Mwanangombe Kandala – Headteacher

To supplement classroom learning, pupils need to be exposed to real life situations. This is attained through various interactions, which include motivational talks by prominent members of society.

So it was a privilege for the school to have Mrs Gertrude Shinkanga, the Executive Director for Youth Concern, present a motivational talk on three issues: early marriages, gender-based violence and safe motherhood.

Mrs Shinkanga advised children not to involve themselves in early marriages, as it cuts short the progressive plans a child has to accomplish before adulthood. Early marriages result in children dropping out of school and they then fail to have any meaningful qualification. She emphasised that one must be mentally and physically mature before entering marriage.

“There is a need to be economically mature and independent for you to afford to support a family,” Mrs Shinkanga said.



Speaking about safe motherhood, the Youth Concern director advised children to avoid early Pregnancies, pointing out that early pregnancy, before the body is ready for such a delicate process, results in several ante- and post-natal complications.

Mrs Shinkanga informed the pupils that gender-based violence has become a challenge in our society and explained that teasing the opposite sex could be considered an act of violence.

She further explained that gender-based violence included emotional acts like withdrawing love from your partner.

The motivational talk was concluded by encouraging pupils to be accommodative of the opposite sex and learn to work together in groups to achieve academic excellence.

MEC Excels in zonal essay writing competitions

Mary Haambulo – English Teacher

MEC School excelled in zonal essay writing competitions held at Munkolo Basic School on the 21st March, 2013. With eight schools participating, the competition was stiff.

To prevent bias, the essays were anonymously marked by all language teachers from the eight schools in the zone.

Two pupils were chosen to represent Makeni Ecumenical Centre:

Diji Mwale (Grade 6) and Violet Mukumbi (Grade 9).

The pupils were accompanied by Mrs Beatrice Nkhowani and Mrs Mary Haambulo, teachers

in the primary and secondary school respectively.



Diji Mwale wrote on the topic “Why pupils absent themselves from school and what should be done to overcome the problem”. His essay was judged to be exciting, with creativity and passion in the choice of language, scoring him 88 out of 160 marks and winning him second place, after Hospice Clinic School.

Violet Mukumbi wrote on the topic “Causes of poor results in schools”. Violet cited absenteeism, walking long distances, drunkenness, chores at home, poor facilities in schools, using unqualified teachers, peer pressure, and pupil–teacher relationships amongst the causes of under-achievement. She was commended by the panel for her grammar and scored 114 out of 160 marks, winning her second place for her class, after Bayuni Basic School.

We thank Diji Mwale and Violet Mukumbi for their great effort in the competition and wish them continued success, hard work and a future as responsible citizens in years to come.

The two pupils were awarded a mathematical instrument set and a pen each.

We say

“VIVA MAKENI!”

Bertha Kabwe wedded in a colourful ceremony

Ireen Chinyama

Makeni Centre once again had the opportunity to witness another exciting event in the life of Bertha Kabwe, one of the children raised at St Nicholas Children's Village.

We have reported before on Bertha's successes at Grade 12, her acceptance at Solwezi College of Education, her employment at MEC and later her employment with the Ministry of Education.

Bertha joined us in 2001 and was sponsored by Makeni Ecumenical Centre

with the help of donors, from Grade one to twelve. She did very well at secondary school and then went on to study education in Solwezi.

Having been a successful child in education, Bertha is now married to Chewu Syakatayi, who is a public administrator by profession.



It was a very beautiful occasion to see Bertha have a successful kitchen party on 14th April 2013 and the wedding took place on 21st of the same month.

Fr Nathan Ngoma conducted the Ceremony at the Church of the Good Shepherd, at Makeni Ecumenical Centre.

VISION

Prosperity for All Zambians, God Being Our Help

MISSION

“To provide skills training, education, settlement, health and community services with the sole aim of empowering people to live a decent life.”



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