

M.E.C. MAKENI ECUMENICAL CENTRE – ANNUAL REPORT – 2003

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Dear Friends,

Warm Greetings from Makeni Ecumenical Centre. We are writing to share with you activities and events that took place in the year 2003.

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ADULT TRAINING PROGRAMME:

The 2002 – 2003 Adult Training Programme came to the usual happy climax of “Graduation Day” which took place on 5th September, 2003. Adult Education Projects Academic results are available from Mrs. Christine Allen on request.

Another intake of adult students started immediately after graduation. Fees had to be raised to compensate for the loss of value of our local currency and inflation. Students enrolling for our tailoring course were required to pay K45,000 per month, and those doing the agriculture course paid K40,000 per month. The registration fees were increased to K10,000 while the I.D Card will cost K5,000.

Nine students who enrolled for our carpentry course were sponsored by ZECAB (Zambia Education Capacity Building) Programme.

Yet another academic year of the Radio & TV Craft Certificate Course came to a close in December 2003. As you may know, final examinations for this Course are conducted by the Government Department. This year’s results were as follows:

	Fail	Pass	Credit	Merit	Distinction	Total
Communication Skills	5	7	5	-	-	17
Maths	6	3	3	3	2	17
Trade Theory	2	6	4	2	3	17
Practicals	-	3	7	7	-	17

Clearly, we need to improve our teaching of Mathematics and Communication Skills.

The Centre's Management is constantly looking for ways to provide better adult education programmes. It was decided to introduce more short, demand driven Courses, in the 2004.

AIDS ORPHANAGE VILLAGE OF ST. NICHOLAS: By Judy Passmore
The nearly 40 children in the Village are growing up very fast and they are doing generally very well. Mutinta, one of the baby orphans whom we wrote previously, completed her course of medication against T.B. She was very well thanks to the drugs from the University Teaching Hospital (U.T.H) and Child Health Programme (CHAP). She was attending baby class and just loved it. It came therefore a terrible shock when she suddenly got ill and died. Her death caused great sorrow to the staff and the children. May her soul rest in peace.

The Children are doing very well in school. Esther Chisenga came first again in her class right through the year. Two of our children, Audrey and Daniel, Attended a Workshop on HIV/AIDS and they took part in the drama group. The play was about AIDS.

We are happy we bought a big new pot and washing line on which we can hang our laundry.

We had as has now become usual, a party on St. Nicholas Day. It was a very happy occasion with the children singing Zambian/Dutch St. Nicholas songs at the top of their voices.

A friend of Makeni Ecumenical Centre living nearby, Mrs. Dodd, offered to make all the preparations for Christmas and presents for each child. Children of members of staff living within the Centre were also invited to the Christmas Party.

A positive development in this project is the introduction of the HEPS (High Energy Protein Supplement) food supplements. We approached an agency, Project Concern International (PCI), for HEPS and Soya Cooking oil donations and we are happy to report that these are now being received monthly. The Orphanage staff was taught how to prepare the porridge. The children are now eating the Soya porridge every morning instead of plain mealie meal porridge. Happily, there will be a constant supply of HEPS, Soya cooking oil and maize grain or whole wheat or rice till June 2004.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT: By Joe Silwenga

The Agriculture Department enrolled 32 students in the 2002/2003 intake. 13 enrolled for Agriculture (General) and 19 for Agriculture Training for Settlement. In Agriculture (General) 7 got full certificates, 5 failed and may re-write exams, and one (1) did not write. We lost two students in the Agriculture Settlement Class due to chronic illness.

16 families were settled in our settlement villages in the year under review, half of them going to Chisamba and the other 8 families to Mwomboshi. One (1) successful candidate has not moved to the settlement village yet, due to family complications.

The Agriculture Department introduced new techniques in demonstration plots to help students appreciate different production and soil improvement techniques. We have also introduced a commercial approach. Through this we sold green maize, tomatoes, onions and carrots providing the department with an income of more than K250,000. Other commercial demonstrations involved growing of maize on improved fallow (450²), irrigated maize (1,250²) and rain fed maize (3,500m²).

Though the piggery did not perform as expected, we sold over 40 pigs within Makeni and to Master Pork (our biggest buyer at the moment). A few changes will be done soon to come up with a formula to enhance profitability for the enterprise.

The Mushroom enterprise performed better. The profits amounted to K301,700. The total sales were K482,700 against the total K181,000.

BASIC EDUCATION: By George Halubobya

The Executive Committee of MEC finalized to open a Grade 9 class in 2004, as part of our policy to extend Upper Primary School by one grade each year. It

was also to add another Pre-School class since there is great demand for places. Additional classrooms for these expansions needed to be found. Also, a further 20 school desks costing K3.6million (US\$1= KwachaK5000) needed to be procured. We also needed to acquire additional teachers and text books.

The additional room for another Pre-School class was the Tuck shop and Tuck shop moved to one of the chalets at the orphanage village. For the additional class, chairs and tables were made by the carpentry department and were ready by the first week of July 2003.

The headmaster has applied to ZAMSIF for funds to help improve the facilities of MEC's Primary and Pre-Schools. With the help of St. Francis' Roman Catholic School Makeni, our Primary/Basic School was given K1,500,000 by "Seed For Africa" an International Organisation which encourages schools to produce food for own consumption and or sale. The school has asked for a piece of land to carry out its food growing project.

- **Staffing**

There were five teachers including the headmaster, employed by the Centre in the Primary Scholl Department, and a further two teachers for Pre-School and baby class and two part-time teachers for grade eight class, a total of 9 teachers.

- **Enrolment**

There were 362 pupils enrolled in our Basic Education School in 2003, 184 boys and 178 girls. The demand for places in various classes remains high

- **Payment of School Fees**

There has been a slight improvement on payment of school fees by parents. More effort is still required to normalise this exercise.

- **Pre-School**

15 boys and seven girls graduated to grade one (1) of our Primary School in 2003. Those below the age of six have not been selected, instead they are to remain in the same class until 2004. A number of toys need replacement as most of them are partially or completely worn out.

- **Grade 7 Results**

26 boys and 20 girls sat for Government Grade 7 Examinations in November 2002. 22 boys and 16 girls were offered places in Grade 8 in various schools

including the newly opened Grade 8 at Makeni Ecumenical Centre at the beginning of the year 2003. This represents 83% of the total number of candidates who sat for the examination.

- **Grade 8 Class** opened with 22 boys and 15 girls.

FAMILY PLANNING: By Celine Chibesa

The family planning project still continued with the same activities.

Project Goals

1. to continue sensitizing clients that most family planning methods do not prevent them from sexually transmitted diseases, pelvic inflammatory diseases and HIV/AIDS.
2. to continue individual and group counselling sessions
3. to raise awareness that family planning is for both men and women.

Static Clinic

Individual and group counselling sessions continued throughout the year.

OUTCOME

A total of 5,722 clients were attended to. From this figure 1029 clients were new acceptors and 4,693 were old acceptors. 20 female clients were counselled for unwanted pregnancies.

Due to financial constraints, it was not possible to engage a doctor for the weekly visitations; as a result we referred all clients needing doctors' attention to the University Teaching Hospital.

We managed to raise K1,927,500 from the sale of clients' cards.

STATISTICS FOR BOTH STATIC AND MOBILE CLINICS

	STATIC CLINIC			MOBILE CLINIC		
	N/A	O/A	Supply	N/A	O/A	Supply
Microlut/ Microgynon	366	255	700	448	1564	6344
Injection Noristerat	169	927	3140	112	694	806
Male Condom	55	156	7471	469	806	33104

Note: N/A New Acceptors
O/A Old Acceptors

CONCLUSION

We still need to put a lot of effort to raise the interest of men in family planning.

The Mobile Clinic By Mable Mwenya

The Service Delivery Team visited the following Sites:

1. Mumbwa District – Kacheta Primary School, St. Michael, Katobo, Munyati, Shichingolo and Mukobela
2. Chisamba District – Chabusha, Zambeef, Fringilla and Seedling Farms.
3. Chongwe District – Chinkuli

In collaboration with the Zambian Helpers Society, the following sites were visited. In Chongwe District – Mukonka, Muyanga, Mwachilele, Namanongo and Tengama. In Mumbwa District – Chipwili and Mwanachikoka.

CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLY STATISTICS FOR 2003 – Mobile Clinic

	PILLS			INJECTION NORISTERAT			MALE CONDOM		
	Mic N/A	and Mlt O/A	Supp	New	Old	Supp	N/A	O/L	Supp
1st Quarter									
March	127	142	1347	17	93	110	32	26	1820
2 nd Quarter									
April	59	178	704	16	74	90	69	125	5696
May	27	105	393	3	15	18	44	59	2992
June	51	175	657	20	60	80	75	80	5279
3 rd Quarter									
July	64	222	853	16	89	105	102	78	4564
August	86	194	848	32	71	103	85	49	3496
Sept	49	220	795	10	85	95	131	178	9464
4 th Quarter									
October	53	182	693	5	95	100	96	141	6858
Nov	14	68	271	13	92	105	38	48	1872
Grand Total	530	1486	6561	132	674	806	672	784	42041

Note: Mic = Microgynon
Mlt = Microlut

STATISTICS FOR THE ACCEPTORS – Mobile Clinic
January - December

	New Acceptors	Old Acceptors
April	135	386
May	123	181
June	126	236
July	182	389
August	100	372
September	139	483
October	135	437
November	65	208

HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT: By Catherine Oreta

HIV/AIDS Prevention Activities at the Centre continued during 2003 as usual in the form of Conducted Focus Group Discussion Sessions, Individual Counselling and Home Visits. We also regularly distributed information, educational and communication (IEC) materials.

In 2003 we also conducted monthly outreach field trips to rural sites habitually visited by our Family Planning Project Mobile Team, namely; Shichingolo, Munyati, Mukobela Katobo, Kacheta and St. Michael in Mumbwa – Nampundwe rural area, Chinkuli in Chongwe rural and Fringilla/Zambeef/Seedling Farms in Chisamba-Chibombo rural area. In all these sites we conducted focus group discussion sessions in the process reaching about 10,000 clients, $\frac{3}{4}$ of them women. We also conducted individual counselling for about 200 clients, mostly women with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) complaints. We distributed HIV/AIDS/STIs brochures and posters and IEC materials. We also shared Gospel message wherever possible and appropriate.

In urban township areas we conducted weekly home visits around John Laing township, near Sable Transport, near Mosque Road Police, near the Islamic Centre and around Kafue Road Garden Hotel, and in areas around Makeni near Panjira Cooperative and along Bayuni Road. We offered individual counselling and shared Gospel Message where possible. We also made monthly field visits to Makeni Truck companies namely – Truck Africa and Satwant Transport and

reached about 80 men mainly truck drivers through these programmes. We also distributed to them IEC materials for them to take home.

We visited home based orphans monthly under the Home Based Care Project and took them food rations and also ensured that they were in schools and their school fees paid by Makeni Ecumenical Centre.

HOME ECONOMICS: By Janet Jere

The Department offers training in skills and knowledge. It is a one year course programme. We offer the following subjects.

- Nutrition and Nutrition Education
- Mother and Child Care
- Housekeeping
- Tailoring and Designing
- Handcraft
- Business Management

With the above mentioned subjects students are able to start their own business projects i.e. Tailoring and Designing, and Handcraft, or to find employment.

There are two lecturers, Janet Jere as Head of Department (HOD) and Mary Lungu Banda as a part time lecturer in Tailoring and Designing. Mr. Silwenga of agriculture school helps in teaching Business Management in the HED.

Academic Details

Our academic calendar starts on the third week of September every year. Although initial enrolment in 2003 was low, it improved during the year. We are looking forward to January 2004, when the enrolment will improve. This is what usually happens.

Examinations

We give good quality skills and knowledge. Our Certificates are of high quality and value. Our Examining Board is registered under the Technical Education Vocational Enterprise Authority (TEVETA).

Short Intensive Courses

As from January 2004 HED will introduce new Short Intensive Courses, lasting from one week to three months. Some of the Courses to be offered are:

- Cake Making

- Tie & Dye
- Flower Arrangement
- Tailoring and Designing

SETTLEMENT VILLAGES: By Joe Silwenga

The Settlement Projects are generally doing well except for the constant poor payment of loans by settlers. As management we are not happy at the rate the villagers are paying back their loans. Settlement Officer, Mr. Joe Silwenga, investigated the issue once again and wrote up a well thought out repayment scheme, copies of which are available on request. It is hoped that this new scheme will be implemented soon.

The Settlement Project old Toyota Double-Cab vehicle had to be sold. A replacement vehicle was bought from reserve funds.

In 2002/2003 we settled 17 people including one from the previous year. 8 in Chisamba and 9 in Mwomboshi. Loan recovery stood at 2.2% a slight (i.e. 0.5%) increase compared to 2001/2002. 48 settlers in total repaid some loans in 2002/2003 as opposed to only 11 in 2001/2002.

There is growing desire to practice conservation agriculture among the farmers. This follows the positive results of techniques like pot-holing and the use of chicken manure. We have created clusters 6-8 farmers/group to increase community sense of ownership, easy supervision and follow-up activities.

Livestock rearing is increasing in almost all the settlement villages. Settlers are especially interested in pigs and goats although the number of cattle kept by them has increased too.

In 2003 greater emphasis was placed on Community Participatory Programmes through which we are now encouraging settlers to take responsibility for their own affairs. All the three Settlement Villages have written project proposals to the Zambia Social Sector Investment Fund (ZAMSIF) to source funding among other things, improve water supply to the communities. Mwomboshi and Chisamba have even created agricultural cooperatives that have allowed for the acquisition of fertilizer for the 2003/2004 growing season.

Two boreholes were sunk in our Mwomboshi and Chisamba settlement villages; both of them have a good yield of water. In view of past disappointing experiences in our various settlement villages with solar powered pumps, diesel

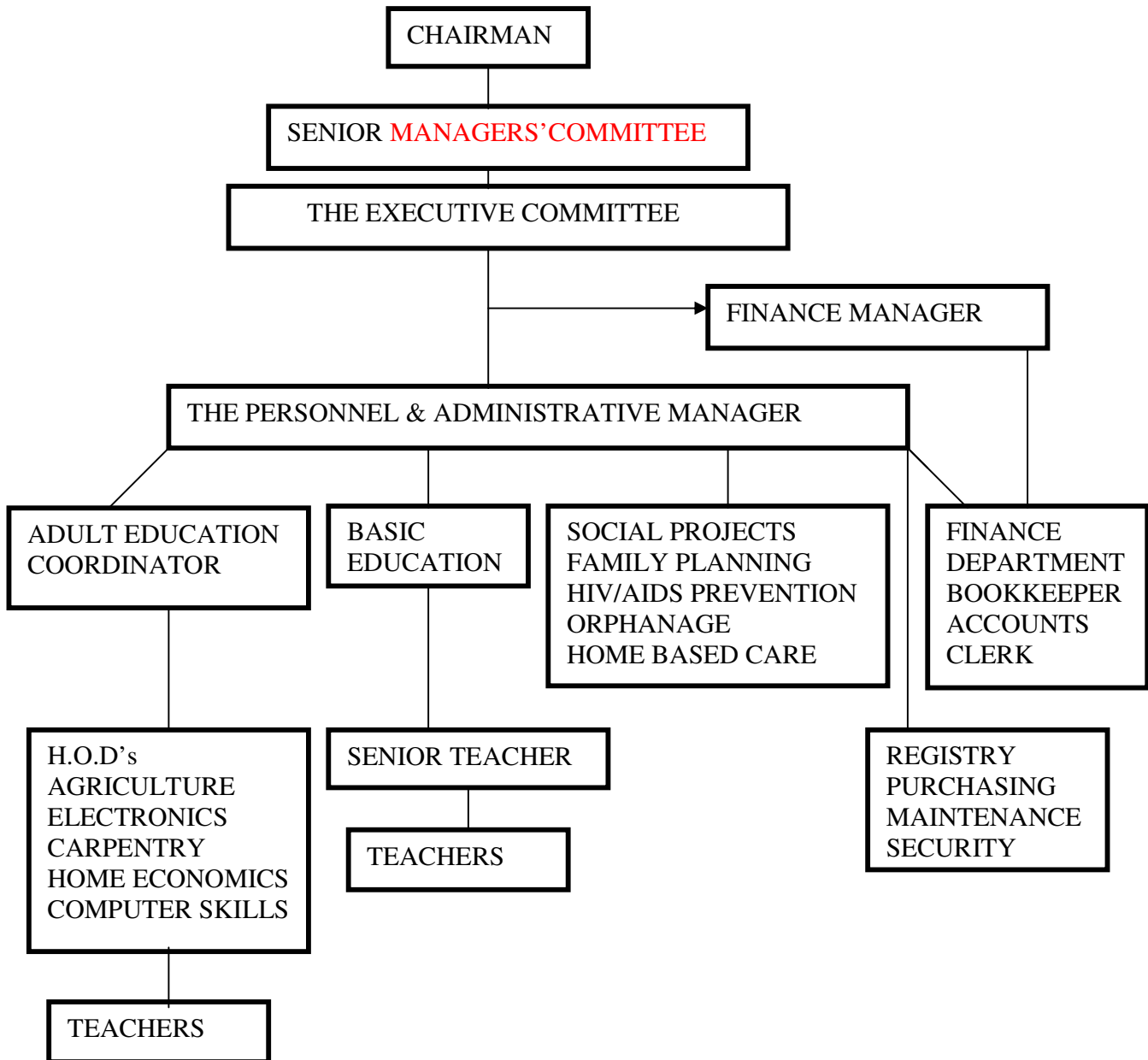
pumps and electricity-driven pumps, it was decided this time to try out wind-driven pumps. Two windmills and pumps were imported from South Africa at a cost of K73million (US\$1 = K5000) and have now arrived.

We made the usual claim from the Ministry of Finance for refund of VAT taxes and import duty payable on irrigation equipment. We may get back from Government K11,660,950 in taxes involved in this purchase.

OVERSEAS VISITORS

C. Borsje	Family in Christ Mission
W. Kleine	Family in Christ Mission
Mark Bosman	Family in Christ Mission
Dr. Hans Snoek	Global Ministries Africa/Middle East Desk UPCN Utrecht
Jos Van Bommel & Elsbeth Kors	Father & Mother of Karin Van Bommel Volunteer Netherlands Ambassador Kloosterkerk The Hague
Peter & Yvonne Schönherr	Priest Newcastle
WHF Goris	University Student, Liverpool
Rev. David Goodacre	University Student, Liverpool
Hannah Radcliffe	Flying Angels School
Alex Hutchinson	
Rev. Thomas Morrow	

ORGANISATION CHART:



Each department has a sub committee:

Adult Education Sub Committee

Basic Education Sub Committee

Family Planning/HIV/AIDS Prevention/Home Based Care Sub Committee

Orphanage Sub Committee

Settlement Project Sub Committee

Makeni Ecumenical Centre is administered by an Executive Committee consisting of senior members of staff and the five chairpersons of the sub-committees. The Senior Managers' Committee deals with policy matters and with the help of sub-committees plans for the future activities and programmes. The Executive Committee therefore meets every month to ensure that the projects are running smoothly.

We hope that the news items recorded here are helpful in keeping you up to date with the activities at MEC. Please visit our website <http://makeni.org.uk> for more details.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely

Christine Allen
Administrative Manager