

MAKENI ECUMENICAL CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2005

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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 2005.

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Organisation

Makeni Ecumenical Centre (MEC) is a Christian non-Governmental Organisation, formed in 1971, whose mission is to offer education, health, family planning and community services within a Christian framework. MEC offers child and adult education programmes of a wide variety, and courses in agriculture settlement to the people of Lusaka and Zambia as a whole. One of MEC's major programmes is the creation of rural "Settlement Villages" in which families trained by MEC in agriculture are settled permanently.

Makeni Ecumenical Centre is administered by an Executive Committee consisting of senior members of staff. There is also a Senior Management Committee, which sees to policy matters. The Executive Committee meets regularly to ensure that projects are running smoothly. In turn, each project or department head is answerable to the Executive Committee.

General News

Founding Director, Fr Pierre J. Dil passed away on March, 9th, 2005 in St Luke's hospice, Cape Town, of cancer. A funeral service held on 16th March at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Makeni was attended by about 900 people. Works and Supply minister, Marina Nsingo, delivered a speech praising Father Dil for his humanitarian works, describing his passing as a loss not only to Zambia, but to the world. First president of Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, kindly joined us in the afternoon, having been delayed returning from a tour of India. You can read more about this here <http://makeni.org.uk/FrPierreDil.htm>.

The unexpected illness of Mrs Christine Allen was also a serious blow to the centre this year and her recovery has helped greatly in the running of the office. We were extra grateful for the help of Mr Silwenga, Fr Mukuyamba and Sandy Adams in the office at this time.

All the departments have felt the absence of Father Dil and Mrs Allen this year.

An ARV (Anti-retroviral) Clinic is nearing completion within MEC grounds. This will be of great use to Makeni and surrounding townships, in the fight for longer survival and quality of life of AIDS sufferers. This programme is a co-operation between MEC, the District Health Management Team in Lusaka and the Ministry of Health.

A Board has been formed to ensure that we achieve our aims, with the following members:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Fr A. Mukuyamba | MEC Chairman | Chairman of the Board |
| Mrs C.M. Allen | Exec. Comm. Members | Secretary |
| Mrs W. E. Dil | " | Co-founder MEC |
| Mr G. Halubobya | " | Member |
| Mr J. Silwenga | " | " |
| Mr J. Pollen | Town Planner | " |
| Mr K. Musabakwenda | Lawyer | " |
| Dr M. Ngoma | Medical Doctor | " |
| Brig. Gen. Hakamangwe (Rt) | Farmer | " |

Gifts Received

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received from the following:

1. African AIDS Angels, Canada
2. ZWO Kloosterkerk, Netherlands
3. Stichting Kloosterkerk, Netherlands
4. G. van der Laan, Netherlands
5. F. A. Kars, Kuiper, Netherlands
6. Little St. Mary's, Cambridge, UK
7. Truus and Jan Veldkamp, Netherlands
8. Mr and Mrs R. Robinson, UK
9. Kerk in Actie/ZWO Kloosterkerk, Netherlands
10. Mr G. Muller, RSA
11. Mr and Mrs Hoekstra, Netherlands
12. Ms Nyrhrien Marja, Finland
13. Mr & Mrs M. Klaus, Belgium
14. Maaïke Gomes, Netherlands
15. Spectrum Community Secondary School, Victoria, BC, Canada
16. Traditional Anglican Church – International Anglican Fellowship USA
17. Revd John Crowe Dorchester Abbey, UK
18. Klooster Church Sunday School, Netherlands
19. The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK
20. St John the Baptist, Piddington, UK
21. Friends of Makeni in the UK, Netherlands, USA, Canada and Belgium

Thanks are due also to other organisations, groups and individuals not named here, in some cases because they preferred to be anonymous or because we did not know if they wished to be named.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of our on-site volunteers:

- **Deborah and Bruce Milano**, from the USA, who have been working with the Family Planning and AIDS outreach projects
- **Sandy Adams**, from Scotland, who continues to work all hours in the office and as a versatile factotum
- **Yvonne Kars**, from Holland, and **Matthew Dil** from Canada, both of whom spent valuable time with the children of St Nicholas Village for Orphans

And this list does not include the work done by volunteers who provide assistance from wherever they are, in many ways, including by raising support through activities for Friends of Makeni groups in their own countries.

Without our supporters, our work could not continue!

ADULT TRAINING PROGRAMME

The 2004 – 2005 Adult Training Programme came to the usual climax of Graduation Day which took place on 9th September, 2005. The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Hon. P. Daka was the guest of honour. The results were as follows:

| | <i>Full Certificate</i> | <i>Referred</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Agriculture General | 8 | 3 |
| Agriculture Settlement | 8 | 0 |
| Carpentry & Joinery | 7 | 0 |
| Home Economics, Tailoring & Dressmaking | 6 | 4 |



The Adult Training Programme works closely with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Vocational Training and TEVETA.

During the year, 200 desks, 200 chairs and new carpentry equipment were received from TEVETA. A large carpentry workshop is now being considered, to accommodate the equipment.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (B. Zulu)

Introduction

In the year 2004 – 2005, the Agriculture Department total enrolment was 25, of which 15 were for Agriculture General and 10 for Agriculture Settlement. Out of 15 Agriculture General students, four dropped out due to financial and domestic problems. There was one resit student from the previous intake.

In the Agriculture Settlement students group, out of ten, two dropped out due to financial problems and sickness. Eight managed to graduate, though only seven qualified for resettlement and one needed to settle an outstanding loan.

Short Courses

Short courses proved to be a viable project. The department had 6 participants from Justo Mwale Theological College for a period of 5 months. Two of the students were female, while four were male evangelists coming from different churches, sponsored by Justo Mwale Theological College.

All six participants were accommodated within the centre. From an outlay of about K7m the department managed to earn roughly K22m for a profit of over fifteen million Kwacha (US \$4500).

Justo Mwale Theological College showed interest in bringing other students for short courses in future. A larger number may be expected in the year 2006.

Crop Production

The department successfully distributed cassava cuttings to new settlers in the settlement villages. We also planted some cassava (“Nakomoya”) on our demonstration plot for multiplication. Velvet beans was also planted for seed multiplication and some seeds were distributed to settlement villages. Other crops produced on the small demonstration plot were

maize, tomato and onions. From the sales of the mentioned crops the department raised K158,000 (US \$45).

Mushroom Production

The yield for mushrooms was 6,000 grammes. The total sales amounted to K76,900 (US \$20).

Piggery

The piggery unit has not been able to sell to local meat-processing firms, because the prices have drastically dropped and the firms now have their own production units. The piggery has therefore been selling pigs to MEC staff on a monthly basis. The table below summarises financial trends that pertained in the unit up to November 2005. (US\$ figures are approximate.)

| Month | Kwacha | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| January | 596,700 | (US\$ 185) |
| February | 425,000 | (US\$ 130) |
| March | 408,000 | (US\$ 130) |
| April | 985,000 | (US\$ 310) |
| May | 2,021,000 | (US\$ 630) |
| June | 1,214,000 | (US\$ 380) |
| July | 1,462,500 | (US\$ 460) |
| August | 1,304,750 | (US\$ 410) |
| September | 955,000 | (US\$ 340) |
| October | 1,104,250 | (US\$ 180) |
| Total Sales | <u>10,476,200</u> | <u>(US\$ 3,270)</u> |
| 39 remaining saleable stock | 13,119,200 | (US\$ 4,010) |
| 13 Unweaned Pigs | 3,450,000 | (US\$ 180) |
| Total Expenditure incurred | 22,058,900 | (US\$ 6,900) |

It is clear from the figures above that the unit did not break even. In order to alter the picture it will be necessary to start a small-scale processing activity, in which case some items will need to be obtained. This will include one deep-freezer, butchers tools and packaging materials. This will help add value to the pork products and facilitate sales, hopefully to supermarkets and direct customers.

Poultry

The department has continued making its own feed for poultry in order to reduce costs. In 2005, the unit had 200 birds. 6% was recorded as the mortality. A total of 188 birds were sold at K17,500 each (US \$5).

From the sales, the department raised K3,290,000. The cost of rearing a bird was K13,368. the total cost for the batch was K2,513,200. Hence there was a profit of K776,800 (US \$220) or 23.5%.

Settlement

In the year under review, the department had 10 settlement students of which 8 managed to complete. Two dropped out due to sickness and financial problems. Out of the students who completed their studies, four have settled well in Chisamba and three in Kalwelwe. One has not been settled due to an outstanding debt.

Loan Recovery

In spite of the drought, the department recorded a total recovery of 2,578Kgs of maize from Mwomboshi, Chisamba and Kalwelwe settlement villages. 800Kg was received as ground rent and 1,778Kg for loans. The department raised about K1,950,400 (US \$560) from maize sales while the remaining quantity of maize was reserved for chicken feed with a value of K560,000 (US \$160).

Loans repaid in cash were about K10,000,000 making total loan recovery K12,510,500 (US \$ 3,570). The recovery in 2005 was partly affected by the drought. Currently the total debt owed by settlers stands at over K230,000,000 (US \$65,700).

A summary of Loan Recoveries from 2001/2002 – 2004/2005 is shown on the table below. There is a steady increase in loan recovery.

| <i>Details/Year</i> | <i>2001/02</i> | | <i>2002/03</i> | <i>2003/04</i> | <i>2004/05</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Recovery % per year | 2% | | 2.2% | 5.4% | 5.44% |
| Approximate Amounts Recovered | ZMK | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | 11,200,000 | 12,500,000 |
| | US\$ | 1550 | 1830 | 3480 | 3880 |

Some reasons for these improvements are a regular extension service, timely mobilisation of empty grain bags, increased emphasis on payments and the changing attitude of some settlers.

Currently we have a total of 307 families in all settlement villages. (Kafue 20, Chisamba 96, Mwomboshi 71, Kalwelwe 34 and Mwembeshi 86.)

Other Issues

Windmills were installed in Chisamba and Mwomboshi, helping to reduce water problems.

Lack of irrigation water remains a critical problem as currently windmills are just used for domestic water. Plans are under way to ensure that reservoir tanks and pipes are installed to facilitate irrigation of vegetable gardens.

In trying to overcome the problem of food shortage, the department distributed cassava stakes to settlement villages. Cassava is drought resistant and so in times of drought the farmers can depend upon it.

The department has also continued to offer community mobilisation skills to settlers and this has helped farmers in the identification of community problems and for access to government agencies and NGOs. This has led to our settlement villages benefiting from the Ministry of Agriculture fertiliser support program, which supplies fertiliser at half the market price.

Farmers have also continued to use conservation methods such as pot-holing, velvet beans for soil fertility improvements, tea manure and also organic fertiliser. The use of conservation methods reduces the cost of input and improves yield.

BASIC EDUCATION (L. Chipwalu)

The school calendar started on 10th January, 2005 and ended on 2nd December, 2005.

Staffing

Basic Education has eight members of staff employed on a yearly contract basis and five Grade Eight and Nine teachers who work on a part-time basis. This department is headed by Mr G. M. Halubobya and deputised by Mr L. Chipwalu.

Enrolments

Nearly all the grades were fully enrolled. The following were the enrolments for each grade as at 2nd December, 2005.

| | <i>Boys</i> | <i>Girls</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Baby Class | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| Pre-School | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| Grade 1 | 13 | 13 | 26 |
| Grade 2 | 20 | 16 | 36 |
| Grade 3 | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| Grade 4 | 22 | 17 | 39 |
| Grade 5 | 23 | 22 | 45 |
| Grade 6 | 21 | 20 | 41 |
| Grade 7 | 21 | 25 | 46 |
| Grade 8 | 17 | 26 | 43 |
| Grade 9 | 16 | 20 | 36 |
| Total | 182 | 181 | 363 |

Examinations

32 out of 46 (70%) passed their Grade 7 composite exams and were therefore selected for Grade 8.

28 out of 33 (85%) passed their Junior Secondary School Leaving Examinations (Grade 9).

CARPENTRY DEPARTMENT (Roy Adams Ntini)

The Carpentry Department trains students aged 14 years upwards in Carpentry & Joinery, with the capacity to enrol 20 students in each intake. However, in 2005 only 5 students were enrolled. Inability to pay fees is seen as a key reason for the low enrolment.

At the end of the 12 months course, the students sat for the Grade Seven Trade Certificate Examination under the Examination Council of Zambia.

The Carpentry & Joinery course, which consists of four subjects, has been able to equip students with the required skills in the carpentry field. Through the projects, tests and assignments students have shown that they have achieved the required knowledge in the course.

Attendance of students was very good, although there continue to be problems with non-payment of fees. The department has secured places for the students to undergo a period of

practical experience in different companies dealing with furniture production, roofing and wood processing from January 2006 until the time they will be writing their final examination (April 2006).

During the year the department engaged in some maintenance work. The students made new beds, repaired old beds, tables, chairs and benches and helped in mounting notice boards.

In Adult Training the students mounted more than 100 students desks from TEVETA. In the Basic Education Department the students repaired more than 50 desks.

In March 2005, we had a project of making 20 big tables for the Christian Children's Fund, which raised K540,000.

In August 2005, the Carpentry department recovered Industrial Woodworking Machines from TEVETA. The department has not yet put the machines into use as the current workshop cannot accommodate the machines. Therefore a project proposal has been drawn up for the building of a new carpentry workshop that could accommodate the machines. This would also enable the department to introduce a fully-fledged production unit, which in turn could make the department self-sustaining.

COMPUTER SKILLS DEPARTMENT (Derrick N. Tapisha)

Slowly the programs have started to recruit students again after a lengthy closure due to lack of a qualified trainer. The short computer courses offered run for a week and each programme runs for a duration of 15 hours (3 hours per day). Below is a chart showing the courses offered and the enrolments as from 1st October – 31st December 2005.

| <i>Course Programme</i> | <i>Students</i> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Introduction to Computers | 14 |
| Introduction to Windows | 12 |
| Introduction to Spreadsheets | 13 |
| Introduction to Word-Processing | 13 |
| Revision | 1 |
| Total | 52 |

The number of working computers is currently six, which are equipped with Windows 98 or an earlier operating system and an office package such as Microsoft Office 97, or components of such a package. The department has a number of obsolete donated computers, from which we hope to raise some revenue for ongoing maintenance work. The computer room is in need of extensive repairs due to a leaking roof. We hope to carry out these repairs in 2006.

The Open University in Milton Keynes, England, donated two laptops to the centre and have stated that they are willing to donate further equipment. These will be used by staff mainly for teaching and staff training. It is also hoped that we will be able to bring some more up to date computers into Zambia in 2006 with a view to teaching an internationally recognised syllabus such as the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL), or the e-Citizen syllabus currently employed in the UK. However, there is extensive work to be done before the centre could achieve ICDL accreditation, in terms of building improvement, upgrading of computers, acquiring suitable software and staff training.

FAMILY PLANNING DEPARTMENT (Catherine Oreta)

The Family Planning Project continued with its activities during the year as usual.

Static Clinic

Individual and Group Counselling on family planning was conducted. Video shows on family planning were also shown.

Outcome

A total of 11,050 clients were attended to. Of these, 3,595 were new acceptors and 7,455 were old acceptors. Mrs Marble Mwenya, the Family Planning nurse, terminated her contract at the end of October and was not replaced by the time the report was being prepared.

A total sum of K2,018,900 (US \$575) was raised from the sale of cards.

The Mobile Clinic

It was not possible to start service delivery activities as the project had no funds to recruit a nurse and a driver.

Static Clinic Statistics

| <i>Contraceptive</i> | <i>New Acceptors</i> | <i>Old Acceptors</i> | <i>Supply</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Microlut | 220 | 500 | 2160 |
| Microgynon | 340 | 900 | 3720 |
| Noristerat Injection | 1050 | 2150 | 3200 |
| Depo Provera | 960 | 1080 | 2040 |
| Male Condoms | 1025 | 2825 | 45524 |
| Total | 3595 | 7455 | 56644 |

The Microgynon Pill was out of stock from July. The Project was buying Safe Plan from Society for Family Health for clients who preferred oral contraceptives and selling to them at K500 per 2 cycles price, as recommended by the supplier. K101,100 has been recovered from Safe Plan sales since September, 2005.

HIV/AIDS PREVENTION (Catherine Oreta)

The HIV/AIDS Prevention group video shows on HIV/AIDS related issues continued as usual during the year at the Centre. The project now has its own video tapes. Individual counselling and HIV testing were conducted during the year at the Centre.

HIV testing was done in partnership with Maternal Child Health (MCH) General Clinic, which is conducting Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission programmes. Due to the demand for voluntary counselling and testing by clients after watching videos and attending discussion sessions, the project requested the sister in charge to cater for these clients so long as the number would not distort their Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission records. The project limits itself to pre and post test counselling. Blood tests were done by the MCH clinic.

We had 46, mostly female, clients tested, out of which twelve tested HIV positive. Eleven were female, one male. The twelve were referred to Kanyama Clinic for further investigations, including CD4 count and possible access to free Anti-Retrovirals (ARVs).

The project also conducted home visits on a weekly basis to homes in the compounds around the Centre. During the home visits, we conducted individual counselling on HIV/AIDS issues and also shared a Gospel message.

We conducted monthly outreach services to Kalwelwe, Mwomboshi, and Chisamba Settlement Villages. Mobile counselling and testing services were extended to rural sites in partnership with Kara Counselling. The following table summarises the uptake of these services.

| <i>Site</i> | <i>Counselled</i> | <i>Tested</i> | <i>Positive</i> |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Kalwelwe | 48 | 24 | 2 |
| Mwomboshi | 21 | 16 | 2 |
| Shikatende | 56 | 17 | 3 |
| Total | 125 | 57 | 7 |

We received K750,000 (US \$215) towards fuel and lunch allowance costs for four persons from the United Nations Volunteer Secretariat for mobile counselling and testing activities conducted during the International Volunteer Day Commemoration (in line with the Millennium Development Goals) in the first three days of December at Mwomboshi, Shikatende and Kalwelwe.

Evaluation was done on the HIV/AIDS activities at the Centre and the rural sites in relation to the funds received from the NGO Coordinating Committee Basket Fund in 2004 for the training of psychosocial community-based counsellors.

We attended HIV/AIDS workshops organised by Global Compact Zambia and TEVETA.

Materials were received from the Society for Family Health and Zambia Centre for Communication Programmes for distribution mainly to rural sites.

The project was visited by trainee ladies in home-based care from EnviroGreen. Three trainee psychosocial counsellors from Chainama College visited the project during their attachments for supervision in counselling. Mr. Mpundu of Makeni Catholic Church Home-Based Care visited the project for supervision in child counselling during his practicum attachment in child counselling training.

Monthly reports were prepared on the nutrition program of which St. Nicholas Children's Home is a beneficiary together with the HBC children from the compounds.

Other events attended included

- The Day of the Physicians, a get-together for caregivers, nurses, doctors, priests and pastors organised by the Home-Based Care group at the Catholic Church in Makeni. Experiences were shared on how to give support to the sick and the affected relations.
- Project Concern International monthly meetings
- NGOCC monthly consultative meetings

HOME-BASED PROJECT (Catherine Oreta)

A total of 42 children benefited from the project, mainly in terms of school fees. Seven were in secondary schools and the rest at primary level and mainly in community schools. Payments of schools fees for two children for their third term was not possible as the respective schools in Linda and Kanyama could not provide receipts until the end of the term.

The project delivered 25Kg breakfast bag of mealie meal monthly rations to children living with their guardians in Kanyama, Linda, John Laing and Chawama compounds and around Makeni. A total of 14 households benefited, with 51 beneficiaries.

The children from the compounds and their guardians also received 2 T-shirts each and some bathing towels that were given to the secondary pupils by Friends of Makeni in Canada.

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT (Martha Mbiya)

Attendance

The number of students using the library from all the departments is good, they are all utilising the one hour library period very well. At times they find that one hour is not enough to do their research and also write their assignments. Lecturers also do their research in the library.

Reading Material

There has been an improvement in the number of books which were needed for reference by both lecturers and students especially in Electronics, Carpentry and also Home Economics.

The Agriculture department receives books from Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation (CTA) and also magazines, serials and periodicals on monthly and quarterly basis from different institutions within the country and abroad.

With the aim of acquiring more up to date books, we will continue to ask for more donations from various organisations by writing to them. Older books need replacing and there are also inevitable losses through borrowers failing to return items.

The Carpentry department is seeking donations of books on carpentry, joinery and bench and site skills.

The Home Economics department is interested in receiving books on food production, catering, flower arranging and 'tie and dye'.

The Agriculture and Electronics department are also trying to replace or acquire a number of books. A full list will be made available via the website in due course, or please email for details.

There is a need for more Information Technology books, particularly books on using Windows and modern office packages (particularly Microsoft Office and OpenOffice). Any books supporting the teaching of the Computer Driving Licence or similar computer literacy training materials are also particularly useful.

Please see if you can help!

RADIO & TV MAINTANANCE (I. J. Mtonga)

General

In January the program had 24 registered students. By mid-year four had dropped out.

Eighteen students had paid their examination fees by 30th August. One student was disqualified from sitting examinations due to late fee payment. One previous student re-sat examinations.

There is continued evidence that students passing through the programme are being hired in local companies within a short time of graduating.

Lack of equipment hampered exam progress and it is felt that staff need to take some refresher courses to stay up to date with modern technology.

There is a need for modern oscilloscopes, signal generators and digital counters, as well as a good number of television and radio sets.

SAINT NICHOLAS CHILDREN'S HOME (Judy Passmore)

There are 12 boys and 22 girls in the orphanage.

Truus Veldkamp and her husband Jan were with us here from March 2005. They spent a lot of time playing games with the children and encouraging them with their painting. Jan stencilled some of their paintings on to the dining room wall and painted them. Now they can look at their own paintings on the wall.

Jan painted numbers 1 to 12 on our buildings and most buildings have been given a local name by the children living in it. The house names show the children's happiness, as you can see from the following list:

- 1 Store-room
- 2 Titwe-Titwe – Pounding Song (Kitchen)
- 3 Nyumba Yodalitsika – Blessed House
- 4 Nyumba Yazakudya – House of Bread
- 5 Nditse wokondwela – We are Happy
- 6 Twatasha – Thank you
- 7 Malo Yachiyembekezo – City of Hope
- 8 Mpatsoyamoyo – Gift of Life
- 9 Rufaro – Happiness
- 10 Nicholas Friend of Children
- 11 Our Home



*Yvonne Kars and
children from
St Nicholas Village*

Truus and Jan also upgraded and repaired our playground. They also purchased a radio, DVD player and TV Set. A video recorder was donated by Anton Dil. The children now have a good entertainment choice. We shall always be grateful for their good gesture.

We were also visited by Dutch volunteer Yvonne Kars. During her three months stay with us she was a great blessing to the children and Mrs Dil as well. Yvonne did some painting with some children and did needlework with others. They painted some tins that can be used as to hold pencils, buttons or other small items, or be used as flower pots. She taught the children how to knit and make bags. They also learned to make key holders and wrist bands.

Yvonne also painted the Pre-School building inside and all the tables and chairs and Baby Class. She painted pictures of Mickey Mouse which were put on the wall outside the door and she had one painted with a kangaroo for baby class.

Yvonne spent a morning with three children sharing a meal with them talking and teaching them how to play the keyboard. Her last two weeks her husband came to be with her and everyone went to the Zambia Agricultural Show. The children were very happy and excited. She also put up some shelves in the dining hall for the toys to be displayed and some additional shelves in the storeroom for linen. She also gave the children some toys and a keyboard on her departure day.

We were also visited by Matthew Dil, Mrs Wenda Dil's grandson (Lee Ann and Pierre Dil Jnr's son). During his two months stay, he spent most of his time with the children. He taught them new games and helped them with their English, Mathematics and writing. He also taught papier maché. He installed the DVD player and showed them how to operate it. Matthew and Mr. Milano took some of the older boys to watch a football match.



Matthew Dil

The children were all very fond of Matthew. Every time they saw him they called out his name. He promised to come back to Zambia especially to St. Nicholas. During the Sunday Service before he left, the children sung for him and gave him a small present as a token of love and appreciation and he baked a cake with the help of his grandmother for the children. He also gave them some pens and pencils.

Project Concern International continued providing the the orphanage with high energy protein supplements, oil and grain as usual.

Mary Chininga, Grace Phiri and Judith Passmore attended some Caregivers and HIV/AIDS workshops organised by Family Support Unit of the University Teaching Hospital (UTH). Certificates of Attendance were given at the end of the training sessions.

Twenty of the children are in grades 1-6, and five in grades 7-10. There is a wide range of ability, with Audrey and Esther being star pupils in their respective classes. Some children started their studies late due to disruptions in their home life and are having more difficulty coping, while others are less academically able.

Final Words

It has been a difficult year, with the passing of Father Dil and also with Mrs Allen's illness, but we have come through with a renewed sense of purpose and courage.

The rains in 2005-2006 have been good, which is always important for the success of agricultural projects.

Once again we thank all our supporters for their generous support, especially the Klooster Church, Church in Action, Churches in the U.K., Churches in Canada and USA and Friends of Makeni in UK, Canada, Holland, USA, Flanders and AIDS Angels in Canada, without which many of our projects simply could not operate.

With Warm Greetings,

Mrs. C M. Allen (Administrative Manager) and the staff of Makeni Ecumenical Centre.