



Newsletter Special Edition 2nd Qtr 30th June 2013

Makeni Ecumenical Centre

Sharing experiences and information with our partners

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Comment

This Special Second Quarter Edition of the Newsletter highlights the external support Makeni Ecumenical Centre received from our partners during this period, and its impact on achieving the mission of the Centre.

Our thanks and sincere appreciation goes to all partners and friends that come to our aid and contribute to making decent lives for many people under our social programmes.

Thanks to the Friends of Makeni

By Margaret Mulimba and Evans Sodah

The Makeni Ecumenical Centre School received a variety of educational materials and equipment from the Friends of Makeni, covering pre-school up to Grade 12. This will definitely contribute to the improvement of the school educational standards.

In his emailed letter of thanks, manager Joe Silwenga, writing on behalf of the Executive Chairman and the Centre said, “We indeed appreciate your donations and your efforts. We are grateful to all who were involved and we wish to register that we are keen to receive future help of a similar kind.”



Reports from all the departments that received the materials are that they have added a lot of value to their work. We also appreciate the work Tienieke and Henri did. They provided the necessary orientation and coaching in the use of various education materials.”



The school was grateful to Henri and Tienieke for organizing workshops for teachers, which included Identifying learning difficulties in pupils, How to teach mathematics, Adaptive teaching, and How to teach like a champion. Other orientations were done on the use of ICT, physical education and sports.

Makeni Ecumenical Centre continues empowering Mwembeshi Settlers

By Sharon Zulu

Makeni Ecumenical Centre, in honouring its vision and mission, presented letters of offer to Mwembeshi Settlers as the first step towards having certificates of title. The occasion, which took place on May 10, 2013, was graced by the area member of parliament, Honourable Keith Mukata, the Deputy Minister of Finance. In his address to the settlers, the deputy minister urged the settler farmers to utilize the land efficiently in order to produce more food for consumption and sale. He advised all farmers not to sell the land and insisted that there should be no politics involved in the issue of land as MEC was working towards formalising the transfer. He stated that MEC did an honourable thing in empowering people who could not afford to buy land at astronomical prices.

Speaking earlier at the same occasion, the executive chairman of Makeni Ecumenical Centre, Fr Andrew Mukuyamba, said the vision of MEC was to help under-privileged people develop and realise their potentials.

The recipients and the Village Management Committee Chairperson, Mr Zulu, thanked MEC for the offer and the Deputy Minister for his support.

Mwembeshi Settlement Village is part of the Agriculture Settlement Project of MEC and has been in existence from 1971. There are 84 families that will benefit from the land empowerment initiative involving over 600 hectares of farming land.

Visit of Vera Oates and Paul Jongeling – Strategy Advisors to MEC

By Wenda Dil

In March this year MEC had a special visit by Vera Oates and Paul Jongeling, who came to offer strategic technical assistance to the institution. This was



Vera's third working visit to MEC and Paul's second. The dynamic duo had previously visited MEC from December 2011 to January 2012 with their son Geert to upgrade the computer laboratory.

Vera (above) is a Senior Strategic advisor for the City of Rijswijk, in the Hague, Holland. She has 27 years working experience as team manager for vision, mission strategy and development, and manages politically sensitive issues.

Paul is Senior Project Manager and consultant for TOTAL E&P, the



Netherlands. He has 28 years experience as team manager for project strategy and process management.

Looking with professionally sensitive eyes at MEC

during previous visits, it is understandable that two such experienced people were anxious to share their valuable expertise with the Centre. They were longing to help management identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and to facilitate the formulation and development of long term and strategic plans in order for MEC to respond to the changing times and improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the organisation as a whole.

At their arrival in Lusaka on the 2nd March, Vera and Paul almost immediately started their programme. There were daily learning and planning sessions with the executive committee, available board members and later other members of staff. A draft strategy paper was almost complete after almost one month of business.

It was an honour for the Centre to have had two such highly qualified people giving their skills, time, energy and goodwill so unselfishly and cheerfully. It is management's prayer that they are well and healthy.

Learning through the Power of Play – the fingers of Tienieke and Henri

By Stella Tapisha and Margaret Kasonde

It was a great honour and privilege to have the opportunity of learning from Tienieke and Henri Zwarts. The School benefited and learnt a lot at the nursery school section about the concept of "Learning through the Power of Play" by establishing playing corners, a new idea for our staff. When it came to play activities, children used to have free play only.



The playing corners were introduced by Tienieke and Henri by the use of the "choose board", where children are given the chance to choose what they want to do and what is possible to be done.



A child is not supposed to choose the same activity daily. The teacher has to monitor every child and activity.



The playing corners have five sections. These are home, creative, building, reading, and puzzles and games.

The home is a corner where children develop expression and understanding of their home environment.

The creative corner is an area where children learn how to paint colour and draw. Children express creativity and development techniques by using different materials.

The building corner is where construction takes place. Children learn how to build with blocks, lego, other materials and objects. The teacher has to show the pupils how to build and print pictures of what they build.

The reading corner has many picture books. Children learn how to make their own stories according to the picture of the book.

The puzzle and games corner allows children to take turns in different skills such as counting, problem solving and how to work and play together.

There were several workshops which helped teachers learn more about how to improve the learning system such as

having an instruction table in the classroom to help the slow learners.

Barclays Bank Celebrates with the St. Nicholas Family

By Ireen Chinyama

A team from Barclays Bank (Zambia) Ltd visited MEC St Nicholas Children's Village to celebrate with the orphans as part of Corporate Social Responsibility on World Aids Day. The team included the Barclays Director and the Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility.

It was a memorable moment for children not only because of the gifts that were brought and given, but also the encouraging words and moments the Barclays staff shared. The children learnt that even Barclays staff passed through a lot of problems to reach where they were. This really inspired the children. Some expressed interest taking banking as a career. The Barclays staff gave lessons to the children on HIV/AIDS and helped with homework and reading.

Among the items donated were 2 bails of blankets, 26 mosquito nets, 40 plastic plates and 36 pairs of shoes. They also gave sweets, biscuits, cakes, puffs, giggies and drinks as well as Christmas hampers which had assorted items inside.

This was the second time Barclays visited St Nicholas Orphanage. The Matron, Mrs. Ireen Chinyama thanked Barclays for their help.

“Miracle Baby” Nicholas in School

By Ireen Chinyama

It is very wonderful that “miracle baby” Nicholas Tembo (below) started pre-school this year at Makeni Ecumenical Centre School.



Nicholas was admitted to the Orphanage four years ago when he was small and vulnerable. He is now steadily growing but has delayed in developing speech and was

confirmed as a slow learner after going through medical examinations. The Centre is happy that he has started learning how to talk. He is 4 years of old.

Despite not being fluent in speaking, Nicholas is able to say so many words and imitate whatever the teacher tells him to do. He is very good at observing and doing what he observes. He is also learning how to paint objects. He can jump and touch any part of his body when told to do so. He is very energetic. No one really believed that baby Nicholas could be in school and learning so much.

Dorcas Mothers Donate to St Nicholas

By Ireen Chinyama

The Seventh Day Adventist Makeni Mission District Dorcas Mothers donated items including toiletries, under-garments and cosmetics among others, to St Nicholas Orphanage.

Speaking on behalf of the Dorcas Mothers, leader Mrs Mpikwa encouraged children to use God’s Words to live better lives morally and spiritually. She said that in this world there were only two people who were made in the image of God and are taken care of by God. Since the Orphans at St. Nicholas were part of this family of Adam and Eve, they are taken care of by God and whatever they needed God would provide through different people like the Dorcas Mothers.

The children sang songs of appreciation and thanks in response. The matron, Ireen Chinyama, thanked the Dorcas mothers and commended them for their work.

Joke Ruiters’ Training in Tailoring Yielding Positive results at the Orphanage

By Ireen Chinyama

In August 2012 Joke Ruiters from the Netherlands visited St Nicholas Orphanage for 4 weeks. During her visit she conducted training in tailoring and cutting for mothers and children at the St Nicholas Orphanage.



She taught mothers and children how to cut and make shorts, skirts and gym dresses. The training has yielded an indelible impact on the skills of mothers and children and also has enabled children to have a life skill for the future.

A tailoring project started in April this year aimed at making Physical Education attire and uniforms for children and the School as a source of income. Though uniforms were not included in the first phase of April-May, PE shorts and skirts for all the children at the orphanage were made and a few sent for sale. Work is in progress to make the same for the last term in September.

Participation in the Sector Sports Event Delights MEC Pupils

By Evans Sodah

MEC School participated in the Sector Sports events during the May-July School Sport Season in volleyball, netball and football. It is a requirement of the Ministry of Education for schools to encourage and design extra curricular sports activities. MEC has adopted this policy with positive results.

The sector sports activities were held at Mount Makulu Secondary School where the pupils managed to achieve an excellent second place overall out of 8 schools. Four pupils were chosen to represent the sector (or Bayuni Zone) which is made up of eleven schools. Out of the four pupils selected, two girls participated in girls' soccer. These were Dora Moyo and Chilufya Mumbi from Grades 12 and 11, respectively. Another girl from Grade 12, Euritah Simwenzu, joined the volleyball team, while

Emmanuel Njobvu participated in the boys' under 17 soccer.

During an interview on the selection to represent the Bayuni Zone, Captain for MEC School girls' soccer, Chilufya Mumbi, expressed how wonderful it was to participate in the sector competition since it was a way to meet friends who encouraged them to take the sports, especially girls' soccer, seriously. "Personally," she said, "if I remain focused and train hard, I can reach greater heights". She encouraged other girls to be active and avoid bad vices.

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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