



Newsletter

4th Quarter 31ST Dec 2013

Makeni Ecumenical Centre

Sharing experiences and information with our partners

Inside this issue

- “Thank you very much to all donors”, say orphanage Grade 12 pupils
- Mainza doing pre-school teaching course with support from Pearl Foundation
- First Girls’ Brigade Camp meeting
- Day of prayers for examination classes
- Critical water shortage hits Settlement Villages
- Special lunch for St Nicholas from Sunset Villas
- Jokes

“Thank You Very Much to all donors”, say orphanage Grade 12 Pupils

By Joe Silwenga

Four Grade 12 children from St Nicholas Children’s Home who shall soon be integrated with their extended families

have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Kloosterkerk, Friends of Makeni, African AIDS Angels, Saanich Church (Victoria), St John the Baptist (Piddington), Little St Mary’s (Cambridge), and other donors who supported them during their stay and education at St Nicholas Children’s Home, which Makeni Ecumenical Centre runs.



David Mtonga, Gloria Chisenga, Patrick Mwamba and Gift Machaya.

The four are David Mtonga (18), Gloria Chisenga (17), Patrick Mwamba (18) and Gift Machaya (19). They came to the Children’s Home in 2001 young and vulnerable, aged between 5 and 7. Now they are grown up and looking forward to

joining wider society and contributing to the best of their abilities.

The youngest, soft spoken, shy, but assertive and intelligent Gloria stated, "Thank you for your sponsorship and your help. Without your help I wouldn't have reached where I am. Thank you for the care, support and shelter you gave me, because it is not everyone who finds this opportunity to complete grade 12". Gloria now wants to study Cardiology.

In his message of gratitude Gift said, "I would like to thank you for your support and sponsorship. You have shown me that people still care for the less privileged. Many thanks for clothing me, feeding me, providing shelter for me and for providing me with a good and quality education". Gift wants to study Electrical Engineering.

Patrick said, "Thank you for the nice work that you are doing. I greatly honour you for helping me get through my secondary school education". Patrick hopes to study Civil Engineering.

And David, who was so brief in his message of thanks said, "I would like to say thank you for your sponsorship. I am madly grateful and thankful for your kindness and love. Merry Christmas!" David wishes to be an Auto mechanic or a teacher.

Mainza doing Preschool Teaching Course with support from Pearl Foundation

By Catherine Oreta

Mainza Chinjila has been under our Home-based Care/Orphans and Vulnerable Children (HBC/OVC) Education Support Programme since she was in Grade 8 in 2008. She wrote her Grade 12 in 2012 with moderate results. This did not derail her from aiming high in life.



Mainza during her teaching practice at a school in Lusaka.

Mainza then enrolled in a one-year course in Pre-School Teaching and has exhibited very high levels of discipline and commitment. She has taken everything to do with her education very seriously. The HBC/OVC Support Programme was able to recommend her for sponsorship to The Pearl Foundation (Netherlands) so that she could further her studies. Pearl Foundation is an NGO founded by Tienieke and Henri Zwarts, who were volunteers at MEC between 2012 and 2013. The foundation paid all Mainza's fees for her pre-school teaching course.

Mainza, who is 18 years old and second born in the family, lost her father to HIV/AIDS related illness before she started primary school. She lives in Misisi Compound with her mother who, as a housewife, depended on her husband for income. She could therefore not afford to support Mainza's education from Grade 8.

MEC came to her aid through the NGOCC Basket Fund from 2008 to 2012.

Mainza looks forward to being employed or starting her own preschool when she completes her course in September 2014. She desires to support her mother and siblings, and to live a decent life.

There is not much support available for children who complete Grade 12 education and so MEC is particularly grateful to Pearl Foundation for their financial support of Mainza.

First Girls' Brigade Camp Meeting

By Gloria Chisenga (17yrs) G12



The Girls' Brigade Company of the Church of the Good Shepherd at MEC had their first camp on 9th August 2013 at Musamba Basic School in Chilanga, 10km south of MEC. The camp was a gathering of companies, which are linked to various church congregations, where girls were able to participate in various competitive Girls' Brigade activities.

The activities included Bible exploring (this time the book of Acts was used),

sketches, singing, orange juice making and sports.

The Church of the Good Shepherd Company, which comprises mainly the girls from St Nicholas, came out number two out of a total of 6 companies. The girls experienced the positive value of being in Girls' Brigade. They learned a lot and are looking forward to another camp in 2014.

Day of Prayers for Examination Classes

By Mary Haambulo

Friday, 27th September 2013 was a special day of prayers dedicated to all examination classes - Grades 7, 9 and 12. The day was graced with hymns, choruses and clapping by the School Choir led by the Patron Mr Banda, a member of staff. The Deputy Head Teacher then invited everyone to pray individually to God before the sharing of the word.



The Bible reading was from James 1:2-8 and it was shared by Fr Mukuyamba. He encouraged the pupils to have faith in God and also to ask God for wisdom as they go to write their final examinations. "Whatsoever you shall ask shall be given

in the name of our lord Jesus Christ”, he said.

The intercessory prayers were given by Mr Joe Silwenga and Mrs Mary Haambulo. Mr Banda (see picture below) presented a very touching sketch in song, which moved everyone present, so that many felt they had a need to repent and ask God for his mercy and forgiveness.



Mr Banda demonstrating how a sinner is laden with sin but can still find forgiveness in God.

Critical Water Shortage Hits Settlement Villages

By Joe Silwenga

Mwomboshi and Chisamba Settlement Villages have been hit by a critical shortage of water. This came to light during a land demarcation exercise that MEC staff carried out in September 2013. The two villages have been growing by an average of seventeen families each year in terms of population.

Chisamba Settlement Village now has 227 families served by only 14 boreholes: 16 families per borehole. Mwomboshi Settlement Village has 92 families served by 7 boreholes: 13 families per borehole.

As things stand, families furthest from the water points have to walk for up to 30 minutes when drawing water, crossing half a dozen 10 acre plots to the water points. Due to the effort required to draw water, some families have dug their own shallow wells in the dambos (wetlands) near their homes, including for drinking water.

They do not have facilities to treat this water.



Men patiently waiting for water during the land demarcation exercise as one of their friends went to draw water from the nearest borehole.

According to the Water Assessment Report and later Water Development Plan covering 2009 to 2013, which was funded by Kloosterkerk Worldwide (The Netherlands), the two Settlement Villages had a deficit of 52 boreholes.

MEC's target was to sink 20 new boreholes over a five-year period. However, over the period less than 10 boreholes were sunk since not enough funding partners came on board. Most of the new boreholes were funded by Kloosterkerk Worldwide. The situation is desperate and needs serious attention.

Special Lunch for St Nicholas from Sunset Villas

By Joe Silwenga

St Nicholas Children's Village had a surprise day when Sunset Villas delivered a ready prepared lunch on 26th September 2013. The meal included boiled rice, grilled chicken and beef and was delivered by Sipiwe Mutale. The aroma was very tempting so when the children came home from classes it was evident that their appetites shot up. Both aunties and the children enjoyed the special lunch gratefully.



Sunset Villas is part of the Hickey Group of Companies, who have a long history of supporting MEC, ranging from free publicity, school materials, foods and second hand clothes through Radio Phoenix, using of tents and chairs for graduation ceremonies from Events Hire Ltd to a Mwomboshi video documentary from Hickey Studios.

We wish HGC increased business in 2014 as they render help to vulnerable people of our society.

Jokes

By Stephen Muleya

You need a little bit more chemistry to see sense in this drama:

- ❖ **1st Chemistry student:** Why did a neutron go into a shop and get a drink without talking to a seller?
2nd Chemistry student: Because there is no charge for a neutron.
- ❖ **Gloria:** What is the surest fundamental particle? Give a reason for your answer.
Mwamba: Proton; because it is always positive.
- ❖ "I am as useless as an electron today," said an athlete. "Why?" asked a spectator. "Because I have completed countless orbits around the running track!" replied the athlete

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."

Makeni Ecumenical Centre,
P.O. Box 50255, Lusaka
Tel 272853, Fax 272437
meccentre@iconnect.zm,
www.makeni.org.uk

Editorial Team

Fr. A. Mukuyamba, Joe Silwenga,
Ireen Chinyama & Mulimba Mponda