



# Newsletter

2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER April/June 2014

## Makeni Ecumenical Centre

*Sharing experiences and information with our partners*

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## **St Nicholas Children's Village undergoes a face lift**

**By Fr Andrew Mukuyamba**

St Nicholas Children's Village at Makeni Ecumenical Centre has been given a new look with the help of partners in the Netherlands and Belgium. The project was aimed at improving the sanitary conditions and facilities of the Children's Village.



One of the newly upgraded toilet facilities

In January this year the bathrooms and toilets were renovated. The 8 toilets, 5 bathrooms and a laundry room were fitted with wall and floor tiles, giving them a lovely look. New plumbing works were done, which included replacement of old toilet pans, cisterns and fitting of new water boilers (geysers) for both the boys and girls hostels. The ceiling boards in the kitchens were replaced and

painted. The renovations were supervised by Paul Jongeling and Vera Ootes. The whole project cost K63,166 (€7,900).

The renovations have cheered the children and aunties of the orphanage as well as management. MEC is very grateful to Paul Jongeling and Vera Ootes of the Netherlands and to the Belgian ladies led by Mrs Mieke Claus for their financial, material and moral support.



In his words of thanks for the assistance, the Executive Chairman, Fr Andrew Mukuyamba, said "It is our prayer that God Almighty will continue to give our partners good health and many blessings as they support the vulnerable of our society. Thank you Paul, Vera and the Belgian ladies for making a positive difference in the life of our children at St Nicholas Orphanage."

## Newly constructed bridge washed away in Mwomboshi

By Sharon Zulu

The Mwomboshi Settlement Village community celebrated the construction of a new bridge across Chalampa Stream in September last year only to lose it in February this year due to rains. The old bridge was washed away by the rain more than 15 years ago.



The bridge constructed in 2013

The bridge served as a link to other communities around Mwomboshi Settlement Village during the peak periods of the rainy season between January and March. Without it the community has difficulties accessing the clinic, secondary school, hammer mill (when the one in the village is not functioning) and markets.

In 2013 a contractor was engaged to construct the bridge through the Chisamba District Commissioner's office, with the assistance of some

members of the community. However, the bridge was constructed incorrectly, without major concrete works properly done.

A few months into the rainy season, after heavy rains, the materials on the bridge were washed away, making it difficult for people and vehicles to use the bridge. It is hoped that the project will be revisited and that the bridge will be repaired properly.

## **Pig Production Unit renovated**

**By Troyte Kabulo**

The Pig Production Unit of Makeni Ecumenical Centre's Agriculture Department was recently renovated at the cost of K16,648 (€2,100). The unit was funded using internal resources as part of the long-term strategic goals.



Newly renovated pig production unit

The main reasons for this undertaking were not only to ensure student training took place in a conducive

environment and ensure animal health and safety, but also to re-align the unit to contribute more towards the Centre's income-generating activities by facilitating an increase in livestock reared.

The structures, which had been in need of repairs, made it difficult to properly and safely handle the animals. It was also difficult to clean the floor of the pens thoroughly. Some roofing work and the poultry production unit remains to be done.

## **Aiming high for a brighter future - Grace Kambika shares her dream**

**By Ireen Chinyama**

Grace Kambika came to St Nicholas Children's Village at Makeni Ecumenical Centre when she was just 3 years old after the passing on of her parents. She started her pre-school education at Makeni School in Grade 1 and her performance has been good throughout all the grades.

In the 2013 Grade 9 National Examinations, Grace managed an excellent 425 marks, making hers the second highest mark in the class of 56 pupils who sat the examinations, well above the minimum score for progression of 335 marks. When contacted by our reporter she said, "I want to lead a good life in future".



Grace Kambika in class at Makeni Ecumenical Centre School

The fourteen year old girl is now doing Grade 10 and aiming very high. She enjoys playing with the younger girls and always tells them that she would not want to go back to the living conditions she was in when she was orphaned. She says she would not want to experience suffering and misery again and that is why she works hard both at home and at school. She sees her grandmother suffering to earn a living and wants to help her in the future. So she wants to pass her Grade 12 with flying colours, go to university or college and get a good job. She believes everyone has a chance to lead a good and comfortable life if they are supported and work hard.

She appreciates what MEC and the donors are doing for her and would not want to disappoint them.

## **Remedial teaching accounts for the success of Grade 9 pupils**

**By Ireen Chinyama**

In 2013 St Nicholas Children's Village had six children who wrote Grade 9 examinations. Among these were three girls who were repeating the year because they did not do well in the 2012 Examinations. Naturally, they did not like the idea of repeating and they felt uncomfortable. The other three girls were attempting the exams for the first time.

To help the children, the Orphanage staff devised some remedial measures. With the help of personalised attention, group discussions, revision, additional reading and studying, we are pleased to report that all the children passed their Grade 9 Examinations and were admitted to Grade 10. Remedial work and support-based teaching proved very important for encouraging the pupils' interest in learning, increasing their confidence and improving the standard of their comprehension.

Their results exceeded the expectations of their teachers, making this a great achievement for the St Nicholas' children and staff.

# My First Year in College - James shares his story

**By James Chininga**

My experience at Chikankata College of Biomedical Sciences has been very good. The college is situated in Chikankata District of the Southern Province of Zambia. This is a new district (Chikankata was previously under Mazabuka District) and is 125km away from Lusaka, off the main road before Mazabuka. It is a relatively quiet location, making it conducive for studies.

I have just finished writing my first semester examinations and am now on a holiday and working at Makeni Ecumenical Centre.



James Chininga conducting a laboratory session while on holiday at Makeni Ecumenical Centre School in July.

Chikankata College of Biomedical Sciences has over 160 students, of which 61 are in the first year.

It was quite easy for me to adapt to the college environment and I enjoyed each day of my life at the college. Besides, I am also learning how to speak Tonga, which is the main language in the Southern Province.

In the first semester I was taking courses like Cytology (with Genetics), Communication and Study Skills, Computer Studies, Anatomy and Physiology, and Natural Sciences which include Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. I have been studying hard and I am sure that I will pass all the courses. I am sure of that because my continuous assessments were above 50% in all the courses.

The college is owned and run by the Salvation Army Church, but is largely funded by Government. It is a mission college.

In the second semester, I will be taking courses such as Molecular biology, Biostatistics, Anatomy and Physiology, Histology and others. I am looking forward to going back to college.

I thank the staff of Makeni Ecumenical Centre, all donors and supporters for all that they have done and what they will do for me in the future. To God be the glory.

# MAKENI ECUMENICAL CENTRE

**ENROLMENT FOR 2014 IN PROGRESS!!!**

## 1 – SCHOOL

PRIMARY SECTION IN ALL GRADES  
SECONDARY SECTION GRADES 8, 9, 10, 11 AND 12.

## 2 – SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

GENERAL AGRICULTURE, FOOD PRODUCTION,  
ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR  
TAILORING AND DESIGNING, CARPENTRY AND JOINERY

All Training Programmes are  
accredited with TEVETA

## **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.*

## **Editorial Team**

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