



Newsletter 4th QUARTER October/December 2014

Makeni Ecumenical Centre

Sharing experiences and information with our partners

Inside this issue

1. Makeni settles last families in Mwomboshi and Kalwelwe
2. Esther Chisenga studying nursing at St Francis Hospital
3. Deputy Head-teacher attends Peace Training in South Africa
4. MEC Settlement Project: a model of interventions in stimulating rural development
5. Pupils visit the National Assembly of Zambia

Makeni settles last families in Mwomboshi and Kalwelwe

By Joe Silwenga

Makeni Ecumenical Centre Agriculture Settlement Project settled the last group of families in Mwomboshi & Kalwelwe Settlement Villages in October 2014, eight families in Mwomboshi and five in Kalwelwe, bringing the totals to 102 and 47 families respectively. Each family has a plot of land.

The major issues that MEC has to deal with in these villages are development facilitation and capacity building.

The developmental issues facing the two villages include water and sanitation, low productivity, high poverty levels, environmental challenges and lack of access to markets, among others.



A truck carrying the belongings of families who were settled in Kalwelwe and Mwomboshi

Capacity building work is intended to address lack of effective local and community leadership, improving productivity of farmers, developing market linkages and helping to protect the environment.

For 2015, the focus on will be Chisamba Settlement Village, which

has settled more than 230 families to date. There is still land to settle people here for the next three years.

Esther Chisenga studying Nursing at St Francis Hospital

By Esther Chisenga

My experience at St Francis School of Nursing and Midwifery surpasses that of secondary school. I am studying Enrolled Nursing. It involves a lot of different and interesting subjects. There are a lot of practical assignments that need to be done and there is no room for idleness.

I am in my first year and taking Anatomy and Physiology, which involves the study of living bodies. Others courses are Fundamentals, pH, Nutrition, First Aid and Microbiology. Most days we visit the laboratory for experiments and I spend most of my time studying, writing a lot of notes and doing practical tests. I am learning a lot of different things that I never learnt at secondary school, especially in Biology. I am also learning how to treat patients, especially how to socialize with them according to their condition.

I have found the course very interesting. Next year I will be taking Paediatrics, Tropical Medicine, Pharmacology and Surgery.

I am thankful to Makeni Ecumenical Centre and the Friends of Makeni for their support and sponsorship.



Esther in her room at St Francis School of Nursing & Midwifery

I pray that they will continue helping and supporting the vulnerable children of our society because it is indeed reducing the big gap of vulnerability in many different lives. They have been there for me from the time I was at St Nicholas Children's Home. I was employed at the Centre after my Grade 12 up to the time MEC helped me to be enrolled at St Francis School of Nursing and Midwifery.

St Francis is situated in Katete District in the Eastern Province of Zambia. Katete District is 488 Km east of Lusaka.



Fr Mukuyamba, the Executive Chairman, shakes hands with the Lusaka District Medical Officer during the signing ceremony of the Letter of Understanding between MEC and Makeni Health Centre in December 2014

Deputy Head-teacher attends Peace Training in South Africa

By Margaret Mulimba

Mrs Margaret Mponda Mulimba is the Deputy Head-teacher of Makeni Ecumenical Centre School and Matron of the School Peace Club. From 15th June to 13th July 2014 she attended a peace-building and transformations course at St Augustine University College, in Johannesburg, South Africa, sponsored by Africa Peace-Building Institute, under the Mennonite Centre Committee. She now reports:

I consider myself as one of the most privileged teachers at Makeni Ecumenical Centre to have had an opportunity to attend a course in Peace-Building and Transformation. I feel elated for having attended this training, which covered a broad section of modules on peace.

These included Conflict Transformation, Peace-Building, Peace Clubs: Theory & Practice, Peacemaking and Local Ownership & Sustainable Peace.



The Deputy Head-Teacher, Mrs Margaret Mulimba, in striped green top, with other participants in South Africa

The knowledge will assist me and the peace club to grow from strength to strength in areas such as conflict resolution, establishing other peace clubs, creating local ownership and striving to work on sustainable peace. The training did not expose me to the classroom environment only, but also to multicultural settings important for peace-building, and allowed me to visit important national economic, political, social and cultural sites of South Africa, which helped me understand South Africans better.

I recommend that many teachers should be sponsored for the same course every year, because it will help in building Peace Clubs in schools and increase awareness on the need for community as well as national peace.

I wish to thank the management of Makeni Ecumenical Centre for allowing me to attend the course. I am greatly indebted to the Zambian Chapter of the Peace Club for having selected me for this invaluable training.

MEC Settlement Project: a model of interventions in stimulating rural development

By Joe Silwenga

Ever since the new government came into power there has been renewed debate about rural development. If one is familiar with the political rhetoric promising rural development, one may conclude that it is mere talk.



Part of Kalwelwe Primary, built by the Government. It started as a community school

A case study on the impact of rural planning on development done in 2011 by the author, a former Copperbelt University student, revealed that much of the current state of affairs is as a result of fragmented planning and improper coordination of development efforts.



The second teacher's house, built with support from the Friends of Makeni and the Chisamba Member of Parliament in Mwomboshi

Makeni Ecumenical Centre Agriculture Settlement Project (ASP) offers a lesson on how rural development can be stimulated in Zambia. The project started in the early 1970s and has over the years moved vulnerable families from the cities, especially Lusaka, to the Settlement Villages where they have a new sense of hope and security and purpose. In Zambia many people move from rural areas to urban areas due to hopelessness and no economic opportunities.

Secondly, by settling families in these areas, MEC has been compelled to provide infrastructure, social amenities and services such as schools, health facilities, community centres, electricity, water, agriculture extension and health outreach. With a population growth averaging 15 families per year, some facilities have attracted government attention to the settlements and four of our schools and clinics are now under government management.

MEC has further provided more than 30 boreholes, the majority installed

with India Mark II pumps, and in addition two windmills and a few with submersible pumps. All villages have benefited from hammermills, installed to ensure they do not need to travel long distances to grind their maize.



Hammermill Project in Chisamba established with support from cooperating partners in the Netherlands

These investments and interventions have given the settlers a sense of purpose and encouraged them to live and stay in these areas, and their presence has stimulated the developments we are witnessing in recent years.

The lesson here is that rural development cannot be left to chance; neither should it be from Central government alone.

We also recognise that there is still work to be done. For example, electrification of Mwembeshi and Kalwelwe has not been fully actualised and only Mwembeshi has benefited from an appropriate technology workshop. In short, we continue to look to the future.



Animal Draft Power in Chisamba Settlement Village facilitated with the support from Kloosterkerk Worldwide

In Mwembeshi we have seen further developments, with the Ministry of Agriculture establishing an office, the community spearheading the construction of a police post, and the health centre expanding to a level where there are admission wards.

There is also ongoing cooperation with Chilanga District Council, who are interested in establishing a service centre and Child Fund through Mwembeshi Community Association. The council has invested in housing and other facilities to keep the child sponsorship facility running.

The community in Mwomboshi has been trying to source support for a clinic to target more than 9500 people and have already moulded more than 33000 bricks.

Chisamba also has an overwhelming number of pupils in need of senior secondary education and so the community has moulded bricks to build more than 5 classrooms.



Some of the kilns of burned bricks at Chisamba Primary School, earmarked for the secondary school

Great appreciation goes to the founders of Makeni Ecumenical Centre, Fr Pierre Dil and Mrs Wenda Dil, for the Agriculture Settlement initiative, as well as to all stakeholders that have been playing a role from the inception of this project.

Pupils Visit the National Assembly of Zambia

By Benedict Siame

On Friday 26th September 2014 Makeni Ecumenical Centre School had a wonderful educational tour to the National Assembly of Zambia. The main aim of the tour was to concretise the knowledge that pupils are taught in class by their teachers with what can be seen on the ground.

The School management organised four 30-seater buses to ferry ninety-eight pupils accompanied by five members of the teaching staff, namely Mr K. Mwanangombe, Mr P.

Sichangwa, Miss C. Mongela, Miss P. Bwalya and Mr B. Siame.

They arrived at the National Assembly in the morning to be welcomed by the Public Relations Officer, Miss Lombe.



MEC School pupils walking towards the Parliament Building

The party then toured various exciting parts of the National Assembly and were later taken to the chamber. They had an opportunity to sit where Members of Parliament sit and speak through the microphones used during the proceedings. One officer was assigned to explain the background and history of the National Assembly and what happens in the parliament, how MPs sit in the chamber, as well as the meaning of the lion, the horns and the leopard found in the chamber.

They were also shown the Mace, which is the symbol of authority of the speaker of the National assembly, and is covered by a white cloth if the President of Zambia is there.

The tour was a great eye opener to both pupils and teachers and a great opportunity to ask questions.



Carien Plummiers from Kloosterkerk Worldwide (KKW) demonstrating some handcraft works to the Children at St Nicholas Orphanage when she visited with her husband and two friends in November 2014. KKW is one of the most important cooperating partners of MEC.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Fr Andrew Mukuyamba, Joe Silwenga,
Ireen Chinyama and Mulimba Mponda

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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MAKENI ECUMENICAL CENTRE



Makeni Ecumenical Centre, a TEVETA registered training institution in Makeni, Lusaka, is enrolling students for the 2015 January-February intake in the following courses:

Agriculture General
Settlement Agriculture
Food Production
Power Electrical
Computer Short Courses

Training Coordinator
P.O. Box 50255
LUSAKA
Tel 272853

Hurry, limited places available!