



Newsletter

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Makeni Ecumenical Centre

Sharing experiences and information with our partners

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Fr Andrew Mukuyamba (kneeling) being consecrated Bishop Ordinary of CACZ at a ceremony at Makeni Ecumenical Centre

Fr Mukuyamba consecrated Bishop of CACZ

By Joe Silwenga

Father Andrew Mukuyamba was consecrated Bishop of the Continuing Anglican Church in Zambia (CACZ) during a colourful ceremony held at Makeni Ecumenical Centre on 25th October 2015.

The ceremony was presided over by Bishop Michael Gill, the Bishop of Pretoria and Southern Africa of the Anglican Church in Southern Africa. He was the chief consecrator and celebrant of the momentous event. The co-consecrators were the Right Revd Stephen D. Strawn, Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of the Missouri Valley of the Anglican Church in America and the Most Revd Shane B. Janzen, the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Canada West of the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada.

In his homily, Bishop Michael Gill stated that all things come to pass in God's time. He made reference to the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Joseph went through many challenges in life, but when the time came he was highly exalted and stood as a very important person in Egypt.

He commended Fr Mukuyamba for having waited until the time was right and challenged him to focus on doing greater things for the church in Zambia in his new journey as Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Zambia of the Continuing Anglican Church in Zambia.



A procession during Fr Mukuyamba's consecration

The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries and Anglicans from various parts of Zambia. It was rich in Anglican liturgy and traditions and very well organised. There were many youth and women singing groups that performed inspiring songs befitting the occasion.

Bishop Andrew Mukuyamba is the Executive Chairman of Makeni Ecumenical Centre.

Makeni Ecumenical Centre plans reforms to increase self-sustainability

By Joe Silwenga

Having been in existence since 1971, one can say that Makeni Ecumenical Centre has really run the race. The period has been one of great successes as well as challenges. It was founded by the late Fr Pierre J. Dil and his wife Mrs Wenda E. Dil, who is the current Company Secretary.

Currently the centre offers training in agriculture, food production, tailoring, carpentry, and computer applications. In addition we provide HIV/AIDS support, home-based care for orphans and vulnerable children, agricultural settlement, a primary and secondary school and an orphanage. All of our activities are focussed, in the words of our mission statement, "with the sole aim of empowering people to live a decent life".

With the visit of some of the most important cooperating partners, Truus and Jan Veldkamp, from the Friends of Makeni in the Netherlands and the consultant, Dr Martijn Bazem CMA, in October and November this year, intensive and rigorous discussions were held to review and assess the performance of the entire organisation.

It was concluded that MEC needed to carry out reforms in order to increase its competitiveness, efficiency and

self-sustainability, especially given that the donor landscape has been drastically changing due to donor fatigue and the unfavourable world economy.

A transition plan is underway to set out the direction Makeni Ecumenical Centre will need to take in 2016 and 2017 to reduce the scope of her very diverse work.

MEC loses board member

By Joe Silwenga



The late Brigadier General Alfeyo B. Hakamangwe

On December 1, 2015, Makeni Ecumenical Centre was gripped with sadness when news reached us that Brigadier General Alfeyo Brian Hakamangwe had died. It was a sad moment, considering Gen. Hakamangwe's commitment and dedication to the cause of MEC.

Born on 28th September 1945, the late Gen. Hakamangwe was appointed to the Board of Makeni Ecumenical Centre on 9th October 2005 and had been one of the directors until his death. He brought to MEC diverse knowledge and experience from his

career in the army, diplomatic service, banking, consultancy and private business.

He contributed a lot in the area of developing efficient systems and procedures and through the many responsibilities he had as a member of the Board of Directors. He offered all these as a community service, with no financial benefit.

His funeral service was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross on 4th December, 2015 and he was put to rest at Leopard Hill Memorial Park.

The Board, management and staff wish his family the Lord's comfort and strength.

“More workshops on advocacy against early marriage and teenage pregnancy needed,” says Area Councillor

By Joe Silwenga



Area Councillor Mr J. Mwanza conversing with Bishop Mukuyamba after the workshop

Speaking when he participated in a three-day workshop hosted by Makeni Ecumenical Centre with financial support from NGOCC, the Area Councillor for Makeni Munkolo Ward, Mr Jiptus M. Mwanza, observed that the workshops on advocacy against early marriages and teenage pregnancies had been extremely beneficial and suggested that Makeni Ecumenical Centre hold regular events of this type in his ward.



Some of the participants of the workshop on Early Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy

This was the last workshop held in 2015, from 1st to 3rd December.

"I have learned and benefitted a lot from this workshop. More of such events will need to be held across schools and churches in this ward to ensure that many people are helped," he said. He encouraged all the participants to put to use the information and skills acquired.

The workshop revealed serious gaps in parenting and emotional support for young people. Many young people shared personal experiences that surprised parents, who do not seem to

know what their children go through. It was also revealed that there is little or no emotional or psycho-social support for pupils in schools.

The workshop was attended by 41 male and female participants from Makeni Ecumenical Centre School, Continuing Anglican Communion in Zambia, Bayuni Primary and Secondary School, Makeni GRZ Primary School, Civic Leaders of Munkolo Ward 12 (where MEC is located), and St Nicholas Children's Village.

Donation of blankets from Britain received by St Nicholas Children's Village



Mrs Dil and Ms Nkhata unpacking some of the items donated to the orphanage

The "Knit and Natter" group based in Hackleton, Northamptonshire, spent many months knitting quilts, baby suits and hats, among other items, for Makeni Centre in 2015. With the kind help of Folkestone charity, Operation Sunshine, we were able to transport the items to Lusaka, where they

arrived safely in October, 2015. The donation was received by Mrs Wenda Dil, the Company Secretary of Makeni Ecumenical Centre.

MEC sends grateful thanks to Operation Sunshine for their help in transporting everything, and to the ladies of Knit and Natter, as well as the boys and girls at Hackleton Primary School who took part in knitting and crocheting, for the wonderful donation. This assistance will go a long way to helping children at St Nicholas Children's Village with much needed items. The Orphanage has 28 Children at the moment.

David, Patrick and Gift receive certificates in Entrepreneurship

By Ireen Chinyama

On 18th November, 2015, David, Patrick and Gift attended a graduation ceremony in Entrepreneurship at Lusaka Vocation and Training Centre (LVTC). The boys, who are enrolled on an auto mechanics course, took their final examinations in entrepreneurship (one of six courses studied) and passed with flying colours. LVTC hold a graduation ceremony for this course as a way of emphasising its importance to students, and to encourage their venturing into self-employment.

All the students were dressed in graduation gowns, making the occasion very beautiful. The three

boys were very happy to receive their certificates in entrepreneurship and hope to graduate from their auto mechanics studies in June 2016.

David Mtonga's college experience

By David Mtonga

It has been our honour to hear the stories of our young people and share them with our readers and cooperating partners. It is also a way of appreciating the work of our partners where their mission and our mission have converged.

I am David Mtonga and I am 21 years old. I am doing auto mechanics at Lusaka Vocation Training Centre in the same class with my friends, Gift and Patrick. I am in the second year of the course, which I enrolled in May 2014.

College has been a great experience for me, though there have been ups and downs. I was re-integrated with my family and it was not easy to settle down quickly. I started my course coming from Makeni Ecumenical Centre waiting for my family to adjust. I later had to get into boarding.

We do self-catering and we are learning how to budget from the money I receive from my guardians. I have made good friends and started to like life away from home. I have found being in college one of the greatest experiences of my life.



David Mtonga, one of the beneficiaries of sponsorship from Friends of Makeni

I have learned a lot in auto mechanics. I can identify various parts of the vehicle, diagnose faults and be able to rectify them on a vehicle. Studies are going well and in my free time, I do practicals. The practicals enable me to understand the theory better.

I take engineering science, mathematics, English, communication skills, auto-mechanics theory, ITC, practicals, entrepreneurship and fundamentals of automotive electrical. All the subjects do not give me a problem except auto-mechanics theory and engineering science. I have to work hard and improve in those subjects which are challenging so that I may have good grades and a job after completing my course.

I am extremely indebted to MEC and Friends of Makeni for this opportunity in my life.

In 2015 the Friends of Makeni sponsored five college students with monetary support of K38, 320 (€5,000).

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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