



# Newsletter

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER

July/August 2015

## Makeni Ecumenical Centre

*Sharing experiences and information with our partners*

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### **Mwomboshi-Mweemba Bridge officially opened. Constructed with the help of Japanese people**

**By Joe Silwenga**

The Mwomboshi-Mweemba Bridge of Mwomboshi Settlement Village was officially opened by the area Member of Parliament Hon. Moses Muteteka on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Chief Chamuka, high ranking District Government Officials, headmen, representatives from Makeni

Ecumenical Centre and the surrounding communities.



*Newly constructed Mwomboshi-Mweemba Bridge*

The bridge was constructed through a self-help concept with the bulk of the financial support coming from the Japanese organisation known as TICO. Over US\$6,000 was spent, while the community contributed labour, timber, sand and stones. The labour came from Mwomboshi Settlement Village and the surrounding villages and was supervised by an engineering student from a Japanese university.

The Hon. Muteteka in addressing the gathering thanked TICO for their assistance and encouraged the people to use the bridge responsibly and prevent vandalism.



*Mwomboshi-Mweemba Bridge being used after the official opening*

The bridge connects MSV to the north and is important for pupils who live at Mwomboshi Settlement Village and attend school at Mweemba Primary School, as well as for the people that need to use a hammermill when the one in MSV is not operational. The bridge is also important during the rainy season, especially between February and March when the Mwomboshi River breaks its banks and is impossible to cross.

## **Baby Class renovated and provided with new learning aids**

**By Margaret Mulimba**

The Baby Class underwent a comprehensive renovation in July with the help of Paul Jongeling and Vera Ootes. Cosart Construction was contracted to do the roof, electrical work and ceiling board. The cost of doing the Baby class and the kitchen at St Nicholas was slightly more than K46, 000.

The interior painting, fittings and decorations were done by Paul, Vera and Geert, their son. They donated and fitted various learning and teaching aids that are suitable for the young children to stimulate their learning and creative abilities. The roof had been a source of concern to MEC especially during the rainy season. Without ceiling boards the class was very cold during the winter and very hot in summer.



*The renovated Baby class now in session*

Other areas that were attended to were configuring computers for specific users and the changing of some computer software from Ubuntu to Microsoft Windows. Teachers and pupils both have their own accounts.

Many thanks to Paul, Vera, Geert and Sanne for your hard work. May God richly bless you.

## **The Council of Churches in Zambia celebrates 100 years of work**

**By Joe Silwenga**

The Council of Churches in Zambia celebrated 100 years of work and mission in Zambia on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015, at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe.



*Former President of CCZ, Rev. Moses Lucas Mwale, addressing the gathering at the CCZ 30th general Conference held in Kitwe. He presented a paper titled "Reflecting back on 100 years of CCZ – The Historical Perspective".*

The celebrations coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> General Conference of CCZ. It was held under the theme: Celebrating 100 years of God's providence in promoting service, justice, peace and dignity for all.

The event was started with a Holy Communion service at Mindolo Congregation of the United Church of Zambia. Though the service was held in a new, soon-to-be completed building, the old church building within the grounds evoked strong missionary

thoughts about where the Church has come from in Zambia.

In presenting his homily, CCZ President, Rev. Dr Alfred Kelembo, said the church has to now forge ahead and face the future with courage. He said, "This is possible because God is with us. God is our God. God will help us. He will uphold us and will strengthen us."

After the church service the business of the General Conference followed, with challenging and thought-provoking presentations made by various notable persons.

Makeni Ecumenical Centre is an associate member of the Council of Churches and has been collaborating with CCZ in many different areas of work aimed at uplifting human dignity.

## **St Nicholas Children's Village receives another facelift**

**By Ireen Chinyama**



*Extension of the shelter between the dining hall and the kitchen. The extension gives more space for children to sit and play games.*



St Nicholas Children's Village received another inspiring facelift. This time the focus was on the kitchen and outside.

The kitchen was upgraded with wall and floor tiles, as well as renovations to the plumbing works and other facilities. Outside, the focus was on extending shelters at the kitchen and laundry, and constructing pathways.



*The laundry shelter that was constructed using steel poles. The previous one was on wooden poles.*

These improvements were done by Paul Jongeling and his family when they visited Makeni Ecumenical Centre in July. The projects were inspiring, ambitious and expensive undertakings. The older boys at St Nicholas also provided help. The team worked very hard to complete the project in a limited space of time before returning to the Netherlands.

Both the children and staff were inspired by the work culture of these partners. It is worth emulating. They also donated 13 new mattresses and various cleaning and kitchen utensils. Many thanks again go to Paul, Vera, Geert and Sanne.

In 2014, Paul Jongeling and family refurbished the toilet and sanitary system of the orphanage in collaboration with the Friends of Flanders of Belgium.

## **Mwomboshi Makeni School in need of more teachers' houses**

**By Joe Silwenga**

Makeni Community School in Mwomboshi is in dire need of more teachers' houses. In a recent interview with the head teacher, Mrs Rockie Mweemba-Munjobe indicated that the school has about 210 pupils, but has only one qualified teacher and two untrained volunteer teachers. This implies that the school has a teacher pupil ratio of 1:70 and one teacher has to handle at least two grades. Previously there were two trained teachers, but one was transferred.



*The head teacher, Mrs Rockie Mweemba-Munjobe, showing a visitor the bricks the school has made with the help of the community.*

The school, together with the community, have started making bricks for the construction of another

house, hoping to get some help from some well-wishers or government. They have so far made bricks for one house, but the target is for a semi-detached flat to accommodate three teachers. The school will ideally need seven teachers to function properly. There are currently two houses. One was built by the Friends of Makeni of the Netherlands and an older one was built by Makeni Ecumenical Centre. The one built by MEC was renovated by the Friends of Makeni in 2011.

The School has changed its name from Chalampa Community School to Makeni Community School and now, after being gazetted, is called Makeni Primary School, because Mwomboshi Settlement Village is known by the local community as Makeni Settlement.

## **Patrick shares college experiences and hopes for the future**

### **By Patrick Mwamba**

*Patrick Mwamba is under the older children education support project, assisted by the Friends of Makeni. Here he shares his college experiences and hopes for the future.*

I am 19 years old. I am excited to share my college experiences and hopes for the future.

I started my studies in auto-mechanics at Lusaka Vocational Training Centre in May 2014. Things were a bit new to me. I immediately

noticed that I did not need to put on a uniform.



*Patrick Mwamba*

I was required, almost immediately, to behave like an adult and the engineering language sounded to me like jargon. But now I am used to the learning environment and the engineering language has become familiar.

When I was applying to study auto-mechanics I did not really know what it involved. All I knew was vehicles have engines. I did not know that the engine has many parts and these different parts perform specific functions to make the engine run. But now I have good knowledge about auto-mechanics and the vehicles. I now know the systems and the parts of the vehicle. I can now identify parts and detect the faults a vehicle may have.

Subjects are different from high school subjects. They are detailed and more specific to the field I am in. High school subjects were more broad and diverse, but college subjects are specific. I am learning Engineering Science, Engineering Mathematics,

English, communication skills, Mechanics Theory and Practical, ICT, Entrepreneurship and Fundamentals of Auto mechanics. The subjects are quite challenging. I have to work very hard to get good results. I am seeing my life changing gradually and I hope to get a nice job.

I appreciate so much the help Makeni Ecumenical Centre and all donors, especially from the Netherlands, have given me, without which I would not have been where I am.



*Laboratory Project in progress at Makeni Ecumenical Centre. The concrete tables under construction.*



*Fr Andrew Mukuyamba expressing appreciation to Paul during a luncheon in the library. Seated from left to right are Vera, Sanne & Geert*



*Graduating students preparing themselves during the 44th Graduation Ceremony in September 2016*

### **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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