

April Report – 2011

Greetings to you brothers and sisters in Lord! It tickles my heart just to have an opportunity to share with you about the activities going on in Zambia.

I could not send my report for March because I was so tied up with a lot of things that I literally was collapsing in bed almost every evening. Cynthia's immediate young brother was getting married and the whole of her extended family was camping with us for two weeks. By the time the wedding was over every adult in the house (as well as La`el) was in trouble with a persistent flu which lasted for over a week (2 weeks for Cynthia). But we are now over it and life is back to normal.

Local Evangelism

The weekly local evangelism program has continued with students and Mapepe staff going to nearby compounds of Sonadi and Game. We have figured that if we are to reach out to anybody, those near our college should be the first ones. This sustained effort continues to bear fruit.

In addition to an increase in the number of visitors to the Mapepe church every Sunday, we had two baptisms in the month of April. Brother Love Mukonda got immersed on April 8 after studying with us for close to three months. He seems to be a promising young man with great zeal for God's work. Apart from Love, we also had the baptism of Bright Singandu who surrendered his life to Christ on April 16, 2011. Bright could have been baptized three weeks earlier but always encountered unexpected prohibitive circumstances. Nonetheless, the Lord let it happen on April 16. Praise to God Almighty who blesses the efforts of His children.



Joyfully Sharing the Gospel

Inonge Conference

How wonderful it was for our students to participate in this year's Inonge conference! Inonge is a town in the Southern Province of Zambia close to Zambia's border with Botswana and Namibia. The brethren of Inonge have started organizing an annual conference for churches in that part of Zambia. Over 20 congregations were represented from the towns and villages surrounding Inonge. Mapepe Bible College was invited specifically to help with teaching Bible classes and doing evangelism. There were just over 800 people present the majority of whom were youths. The conference ran from April 21 to April 25.

Just as everybody was enjoying the evening Bible class on Friday (April 22), a tragic accident occurred and a nine-month baby was killed. One of the improvised seats (a long sitting on Y-shaped poles) gave way to weight of the people and collapsed on the baby sleeping on the ground. The baby was rushed to the nearby clinic where he was pronounced dead on arrival. As a result of this tragedy, the house-to-house evangelism program planned for Saturday was cancelled as everybody went to the funeral house until the baby was laid to rest on the same Saturday (April 23).



On improvised seats



Anna baptized

On Sunday afternoon the evangelism program continued and the Lord blessed this effort with seven baptisms. Those that were baptized were Paul Kalonga, Elizabeth Mwemba, Aaron Kadunka, Anna Zulu, Anthony Bakasa, Mwiya Mudenda, and Dorothy Botha. Usually when we go out and get people immersed we have concerns especially if it is in an area where the church is very weak. But baptizing people in Inonge gives us no reason to worry because the church there is quite vibrant and the leadership proactive.



Paul baptized

While at the conference, the students were involved in conducting Bible studies, organizing Bible quizzes, spearheading evangelism, and some were made to be part of the “security personnel” – offering security to everybody at night.

Kapiri Outreach

While 21 of our students were attending a church conference in Inonge 11 other students accompanied me to Kapiri-Mposhi where I was invited to conduct a workshop on church planting. The Inonge and Kapiri programs occurred simultaneously. Kapiri is a crossroads town located in Central Province (about 125 miles north of Lusaka). To get to Lusaka (or countries south, west, and east of Lusaka) by road you have to pass through Kapiri if you are travelling from countries like Tanzania, Angola, Congo DR, Burundi, and Rwanda. The same applies to those travelling from provinces like Copper-belt, Luapula, Northern, and North-Western. As such Kapiri is one of the most morally bankrupt towns in Zambia as it is “home” to people from almost everywhere. It is a place where some church buildings share boundaries with nightclubs!

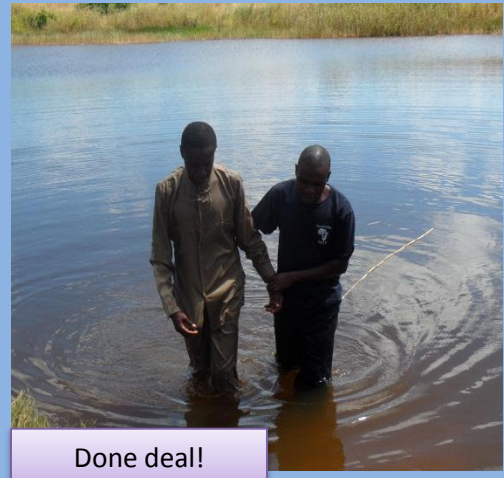


The eleven that travelled with me are from a group that I recently formed as an outreach team to help with image building and recruitment for the school. These are specially trained to sing and preach in such a way that when people listen to them they just want to be students also.



While in Kapiri our students encouraged the Kapiri church through their melodious singing, and also spent some time ministering to the sick at the Kapiri General Hospital. At the hospital we were involved in praying for those that were admitted to the hospital and giving words of encouragement to both the sick and their loved ones who were at their bedsides.

Our days in Kapiri were beginning with a lot of singing followed by Bible lessons on the mission of the church – making disciples of all nations – and then more singing. The Kapiri brethren had arranged everything so resourcefully that there was never a dull moment. On Sunday afternoon (April 24) we were blessed with the baptism of Brother Simon Moshu. The name “Moshu” we were told is Lozi for somebody who fights or is confrontational. Simon needs to live up to the meaning of his name to “fight the good fight of faith.” God be gloried.



Done deal!

Power of the Cross

On Sunday (May 1) I was scheduled to preach at Lusaka Central and I was asked to preach on the Cross of Jesus Christ (theme for the month of April). The subject of the Cross being the central theme of the Bible makes it interesting to talk about. My focus in the sermon was the power of the Cross. The Cross is the watershed of human history; it is a place where our rebellion against God is judged and forgiven.

Indeed, forgiveness was experienced by Sister Emelia Banda who decided to start a new life with Christ. Emelia gave herself to the Lord after the sermon and was baptized immediately after church service. She is no longer a stranger in the household of God because of the Cross. There is power in the Cross of Christ.

Prayer Request

Remember to be praying for the Mapepe Bible College students as they are now on their short break and some of them are visiting with relatives in different parts of Zambia. Pray also for their spirituality so that they can be the light and salt of the different communities where they are spending their holidays.



With Misheck after long day

Our country will be holding tripartite elections late this year to vote for counselors, parliamentarians, and a president. We envy your prayers in this regard for we don't want to experience what some countries experience during and after elections.

May God pour His peace in your hearts.

Your partners,

Kennedy and Cynthia Mukuka