

MAY REPORT – 2011

Grace and peace be upon you brothers and sisters. God is honored through you and among you as you hold on to the faith that you have received through the Holy Scriptures and illumination of the Holy Spirit.

We are being blessed with a great cool weather. We are enjoying it while we can the local meteorologists have predicted a very cold winter this year. The goodness is that “very cold” in Zambia is not equivalent to “cold” in Texas – no snow no ice; it’s something that we can handle. 😊

The Work Continues

How good and pleasant it is when God’s children consistently push on doing his business of making disciples. It brings the joy that a farmer experiences when his field yields a bumper harvest or the joy that characterizes the team that takes the world cup.



Being briefed at Hospice

Our local missions have continued with the normal hurdles and humps of double booking and inexcusable excuses that characterize the mission field. People usually have time to do everything in the world but listen to the word of God. They can postpone all their programs as long as it has to do with not having a Bible study. It’s quite frustrating to walk across numerous hills only to find that the family (or person) you had arranged to study the Bible with has escorted his cousin to watch soccer at the uncle’s place.

Nonetheless, God has his own way of bringing people to obedience. This is the reason his children should not give up doing his work no matter how frustrating it usually gets. We at Mapepe have made a deliberate decision to continue taking the Gospel to the

people even when they seem to not be interested in it. This decisions and the power of God continue to let us witness uplifting results like restoring God’s people to Him, seeing the sick smile with hope, and even people choosing to obey God through baptism. For instance, on Saturday (May 21) when some of our students went to the Hospice to clean the place and visit with the terminally ill, our hidden sorrow was overcome by the radiant joy that was obvious on the faces of the sick. It gives great sorrow to see people in such agony as is at the hospice. But when you see them appearing to feel better just because you are visiting with them, your sorrow subsides and gives in to joy.



Cleaning up the place



Moster (in black shirt) sharing

Moreover, The Lord made us witness the baptism of Bernard Haakwelele who got immersed on May 16. We also celebrated the baptism of John Daka who was baptized on May 29. These brothers live in the infamous Sonadi compound just across the main road from Mapepe campus. While truckers and politicians are busy condemning the residents of Sonadi and

trying to find a way of demolishing this illegal settlement, we are using the advantage of proximity to reach out to the needy people in the same compound. (Truckers usually have goods stolen from their heavy trucks as they slowly negotiate the hills of Mapepe.)



John Daka born again

Up-close with Prize

When I was attending Bible school in South Africa I occasionally felt out of place as the majority of my college mates were children of members of the church of Christ. These were referred to as those that were “born in the church.” Those of us who were first generation members of the church were just guys – no malice intended. There was just a

feeling of being out of place as our fellow students would usually introduce themselves as being born in the church. When we went home for holidays our relatives looked down on us for being in another church and were ridiculed for going to Bible College.

This is something that our student Prize Chingobe is experiencing being a student at Mapepe. The good news for him is that he hears nobody at Mapepe talking about being ‘born in the church’; there are as many first generation Christians as there are those born in the church. However, Prize is ostracized by his family members for being a member of the church and for choosing to come to Bible College. His brother and sister regard him



as somebody who does not reason properly; they think there is something amiss about their youngest sibling. “I am willing to pay any price in order to get the prize set for me,” said Prize punning with his name.

Prize, the last born in the family of 3, is a very committed Christian with plans to be a farmer as he continues to do God’s work. His willingness to learn God’s word and his good character have enabled him to be among the first ever third year students that Mapepe has (they are only 5 third-year students). This is the first time we are having a third year class. Prize when not evangelizing or in class is in the library “to use this opportunity to gain as much knowledge as I can while I

have access to the books.” As such he has been given the responsibility to look after the library and keep it in order – more like a librarian. His good behavior and exceptional maturity have earned him the nickname of “the elder” from his fellow students. He behaves in such a way that makes his peers look like a bunch of teenagers.

“My family makes fun of me in a mean way saying how will you take care of yourself once you are done with your theology?” Prize is not bothered by their discouraging words because “I will use my hands to find food for myself. God gave me hands and I will use them to become a commercial farmer.” Who can stand in the way of such a determined man? We are proud of Prize Chingobe and we are assured that he will accomplish much for the Kingdom as long as he stays strong in the Lord.

What a Surprise!

Some of you will remember the story I shared some years ago (in 2009) about Sebby Chikongwani. Sebby was converted as a result of a follow-up on the World Bible School request made to me by his teacher. Sebby had asked his WBS teacher a lot of questions ranging from salvation to marriage and divorce. His teacher contacted and asked me to link up with Sebby.

After some weeks of Bible study with him he got baptized on October 3, 2009. He threw the broadest smile I have ever seen one give as they come up out of the water. We continued having studies together after his baptism and he even started attending church services at Lusaka Central. But things changed drastically after a month or so and he cut all channels of communication with us. Michelo and I tried our level best to keep Sebby in the fold but he slipped away and all our leads grew cold especially that he even moved to another house. We could not get hold of him and we were just heartbroken because we loved the man.

However, God was still working with Sebby so much that as I was delivering my sermon on 1st May, I just saw Sebby in the pew listening to the message. I was very surprised to see him yet my heart leaped with joy when he looked at me and gave me his illustrious smile. Indeed God's word cannot go and come back empty-handed; it will always leave an impact.

Continue praying for Zambia as the political atmosphere is heating up considering the ever-nearing day of general elections.

We love you and pray for you regularly.

Your partners,

Kennedy & Cynthia Mukuka