

November Report - 2011

Peace be upon you loved ones and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ sanctify your hearts for His glorious coming. It's just a few days and the year 2011 will be over to usher in another year with its own blessings and opportunities.

My family and I are doing very well and our nation is blessed with a normal rainfall. As you know Zambia's farming is almost exclusively dependant on rains and we only have rains between December and April. So when we have a good rainy season it automatically translates into a bumper harvest and slight boost in the economy. Besides, the weather is very nice during the rainy season.

Recruitment Almost Complete

The months of October and November had been dedicated mostly to recruiting students for the 2012 intake. The last bunch of students left Mapepe on November 11 and that gave us an opportunity to start moving up and down trying to check into the credibility and trainability of our prospective students.

We intend to recruit 20 students in the ministry program (those that want to become fulltime evangelists) and 20 students in the teacher/preacher program. We are almost done with the ministry program students and soon those that will be picked would be informed so that they report for classes on January 9, 2012. As for the teacher/preacher program we have about five that we as Mapepe have enrolled as the bulk of them is supposed to be recruited by the George Benson Christian College staff. These are the students that go to GBCC to be trained as high school teachers after doing one year of Bible at Mapepe Bible College.

If you notice you will see that the number of our 2012 students has been reduced significantly. Partly this is due to the rising cost of training. And largely this is so we can optimize our training process. When you have too many people in class it becomes a big challenge. Moreover, it tends to be hard to really be spiritually helpful to the students

when you have a large student body. We are hoping to be more effective in our training as the number of students comes down.

We are expecting two American families to come and join our teaching staff next year. Greg Swindle and Dixon Settle (and their families) are expected to join us in January 2012 and will be a relief to our teaching staff. Indeed, each year we are fully expended at Mapepe as we are really outnumbered by our students. I am hoping that with the addition of Greg and Dixon to the meager teaching staff we shall be having some needed breathing space and quality time with families.

Church Planted in Chanyanya

Finally, after about three months of relentless hard from our third year students, a small congregation has been established at Chanyanya. Chanyanya is a small but vibrant farming and fishing village about 20 miles south-west of Mapepe. With the establishment of the church in Chanyanya, three of our third year students have finally gone back to their home towns to work with their congregations. The work is left in the hands of two brothers Prize Chingobe and Twaambo Kubomba who are doing ministry shifts.



Twaambo graduating



Prize reflecting

The ministry shifts involve one of the two brothers to go home for two weeks while the other remains with the young Chanyanya congregation for those two weeks. They will keep on rotating until we send another team of students to go and relieve them. Prize and Twaambo accepted to be engaged in the shift program because their home areas are not as far from Chanyanya as their colleagues' homes were. We are praying that their prolonged stay will translate into a strong congregation at Chanyanya.

John Mbulo Partnership

Brother John Mbulo was once an employee of Mapepe Bible College where he worked as a security guard until he was unceremoniously dismissed. Since his dismissal from Mapepe John and his family have moved and settled in Chikoloma about 35 miles west of Lusaka. He is doing some farming at his farm and working with two congregations in the area.

The closest congregation that John is working with is about 10 miles and the other is about 12 miles. For John, that means walking 20 miles to and from the nearest congregation. But he has fallen in love with the Chikoloma church and is regarded as the preacher/evangelist. Apparently he has been doing such a great job that the other congregation (at Shamulumba) has requested that he starts to work with them also. As such John spends two weeks with Chikoloma and the other two with Shamulumba each month.

John is still trying to work with other congregations in the area as most of them are just surviving. “Although I have no means of transport at the moment, I am trying hard to visit other churches in the area since there are about 8 churches of Christ in the area. Although the doctrine is changing in the area, I have had five vacation Bible studies at the two churches. Then we have Nampundwe Township which is growing at a fast rate and has a population of over 5,000 people. We have no church in this township, but I visit the area once every week on evangelism missions, where I also give out pamphlets” writes John Mbulo.

Looking at John’s dedication, we decided to get a bicycle for him to be using as he does evangelism. We also gave him some essential booklets for the work he is doing. We are looking forward to forging a viable and long working relationship with Brother John Mbulo as a family because he is proving to be an asset in the Lord’s vineyard.

Saving Our Marriages

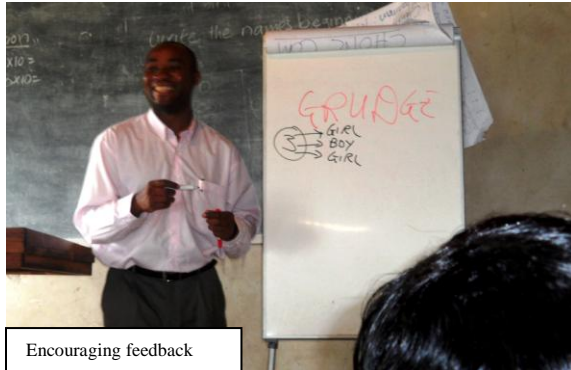
With a continued rise in divorces among Zambian couples, we decided to come up with a way of strengthening marriages in our congregation. It’s abundantly clear that most divorces in Zambia happen between the first 15



Kennedy talking about Communication

years of marriage. Therefore, we decided to have a series of weekend marriage lessons for couples in marriage for twenty years and below; “the under twenty.” These marriage seminars are being held bi-weekly.

In the first session held on November 12 we dealt with the subject of marriage. The biblical definition of marriage, God’s Purpose for Marriage, Husband and Wife Responsibilities, and Putting Excitement into Marriage were some of the subtopics discussed under marriage.



Encouraging feedback

November 26 saw us deal with sensitive issues in Zambian marriages like: Communication in Marriage, Financial Management in Marriage, Role of Parents to their Children, and How to Relate to Extended Family Members. I say that these are sensitive areas because most conflicts in our marriages arise from the way the above facets of marriage are handled or neglected.

Lord willing we shall be concluding the marriage series on December 17 with two other subjects namely Family Planning and HIV/AIDS and its effect on marriage. This meeting was supposed to be held on December 10 but has been pushed a week later due to a meeting that the women had. This time around we shall have all the under twenty couples come to Mapepe campus for the “grand finale.” All the other marriage meetings have been held at Lusaka Central church building. We want the final one to be different and make it memorable.

Women Bid 2011 Farewell



Closing the year with sisters

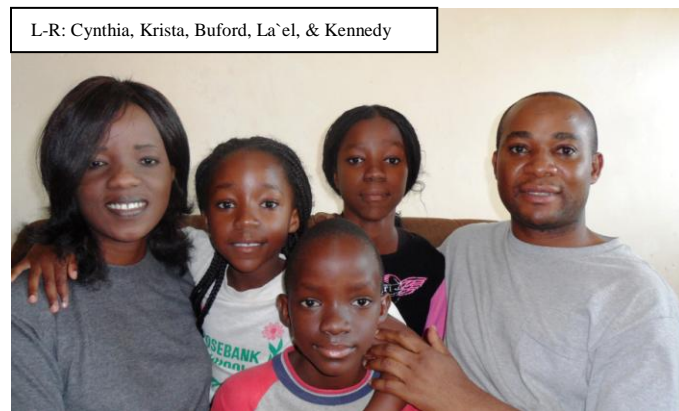
Sometime in January (specifically on January 8) the Lusaka Christian women organized a meeting to welcome the then new year and stated their goal as “possessing our possessions” taken from the book of Obadiah 1: 17. I was privileged to be the one to officially open their gathering with a lesson from Obadiah on that day. Well, I was again asked to close their year with the “you have to finish what you started” statement. I was

excited to again be the only man in attendance (save brother Jonah Siyanga who was my interpreter) as the ladies bid farewell to the year 2011.

The lesson was no longer on “Possessing Our Possessions” but was now a challenge of whether the sisters had accomplished their New Year’s resolution or not. If they were not possessing their possessions what could be the reason and how could they receive the promises that God has made. The sisters were urged to think big, have faith, love God and keep His commandments, and act big (Isaiah 54: 1-3).



Vacation? May Be...



We were hoping to get away from Mapepe for a few weeks just to have a vacation. This is something we have never done since we started work in Zambia in 2005. But it seems we won't be able to have the vacation this December considering that the French family will only be coming back to Zambia December 15 and obviously they have to be kept abreast with what

has been going on at Mapepe since July. Thereafter, school would be reopening in just a few weeks thus making it almost impossible for us to come up with enough time to “run away” from the daily business of Mapepe campus.

In any case we shall keep praying for a vacation; even a short one.

We wish you joy and happiness as we approach the festive season and gear up for the New Year.

To God be the glory.

Your partners,

Kennedy & Cynthia