

Zambian Report – 2011

Hearty greetings to you brothers and sisters in the glorious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ! God has been good to us here in Zambia and is pouring His heavenly blessings upon us. His love overwhelms us so much that even though our two big girls, Cynthia and La`el, are struggling with malaria we know the Lord will see us through.

Leadership Training

The Leadership at Lusaka Central tasked Brother Siyanga and me to conduct a series of lessons in December to prepare the church and current elders for the selection of new elders. Lusaka Central has three elders who feel that there is a need for two or three more elders. We finished our lessons and are hoping that those lessons will be helpful to the church as she prepares to identify some potential elders.

January has come with more involvement for me at Lusaka Central as I have been tasked (together with Siyanga the Preacher) to teach a series of lessons on Preparation for Breakthrough. So far we have taught about Consecration, The Full Armor of God, Rules for Battle, and Bearing Fruits of Repentance. Our emphasis in these lessons has been on preparing our souls for God's operations (deployment) this year.

Ladies' Seminar



Ladies following lesson

The Lusaka Central sisters and their Chilenje counterparts held a Ladies' seminar to usher in the year 2011 on January 8. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: plan women's activities for the year and have biblical lessons that will inspire the womenfolk to do great things for the Lord this year. Unfortunately, the organizer of the seminar Sister Cholwe had a funeral at her home and she could not make

it to the seminar. However, the meeting went on as planned and she was happy that it went on.

I was privileged to be the guest speaker, the only male invited to this gathering, and I took the liberty of inviting Michelo Hakonze (a co-worker) to the seminar. The sisters

wanted me to preach on the subject “Possessing Your Possessions” using Obadiah 1:17 as the text. The sisters blessed us by singing so wonderfully that we realized men cause the bad singing we have been experiencing. God has really endowed the ladies with melodious voices.



Sharing burdens

After the lesson we had eight sisters come up to be prayed for. Most of them wanted to rededicate their lives to God while two of them had health and family issues. I am glad Michelo was with me because he came in handy when it came to interpretation. It’s always a blessing in places like Zambia to be with somebody who is multilingual when on a speaking

engagement.

Men’s Seminar

“Hallelujah!” That’s what one elder at Lusaka Central exclaimed after attending a Men’s seminar held on January 15 at Chris’ Lodge. The reason the exclamation was made is because this was “the first seminar that brothers have held in a donkey’s age.” And lo was it encouraging! We spent the whole day from 9AM to 6PM together at the Lodge just discussing scripture, making plans for the whole church for this year, and a little bit of singing. Our singing could use a little help, but we loved it.

The theme of our seminar was “As iron sharpens Iron” and we had three speakers on that day. Brother Siyanga (preacher at Lusaka Central) preached on “Whose Responsibility is It?”, Brother Mate (a deacon and owner of Zambia Brokers) spoke about “The Challenges and Opportunities of Running



Discussing with men

Your Own Business” – Brother Chris Mwinga (owner of the Lodge) also augmented Mate’s lesson. Finally, I spoke on the lesson “Men Stand Up” which was the last lesson and a challenge to Christian men to get ready for action.



Christian women and youths have been having fellowships for some time in Zambia and men have been lagging behind in almost every area. One of the male leaders even likened church men to a 4x4 Landcruiser that is stuck in the mud and the women and youth to a small car that

drives by and moves on. This was not made as praise to the sisters but a warning that once that Landcruiser is out of the mud it will easily pass them. The men resolved that this year should be the year that the big engine started moving; the year that men took up their rightful position in the church. Men should take up their God-given leadership role.

New Students

Mapepe Bible College reopened on January 10, 2011. It has opened with a bag as all of our 46 new students have arrived. We have been blessed with students from all the nine provinces (regions) of Zambia. We also have one student from neighboring Malawi. Among the 46 students, 35 are males and 11 are females. Some among our new students intend to go to George Benson Christian College as part of the MBC/GBCC program.

The rest of our students just want to study the Bible and then go back to their various homes and work with their congregations. We laud the determination exhibited by our students to work for God regardless of what the future may bring. Occasionally we have students who come and then just after realizing the cost of discipleship, choose to quit and do something else. It seems we are not going to have that experience this year. The interviews and orientation I have been having with the students give me that confidence.

Last week we started teaching our new students better agricultural methods to supplement the Bible knowledge we are offering to them. They all have fallen in love with the idea of learning new ways of farming especially as this new method guarantees better yields than the conventional farming method. We plan to introduce other areas of study so that our students can learn different ways of “tent-making.”

Just so you can associate a student's name with their face and something about them, I will give something brief about some of our first year students.

Jack Simwanza – 33

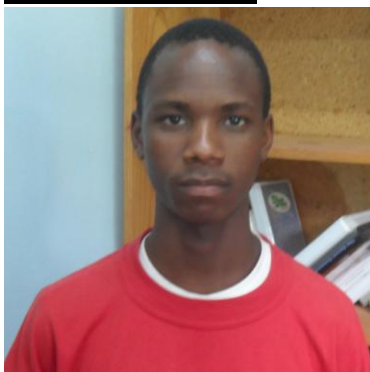


Brother Jack Simwanza comes to Mapepe from the border town of Nakonde in Northern Province. He is the first born in a family of three (one female and two males) and is married with one boy and one girl.

Jack was baptized in 1996 while he lived in Mungwi (also in northern Zambia). It's worthy mentioning that Jack was a member of the church in Mungwi which my friends and I established as teenagers in 1989. Moreover, Jack worked with me and the other Mungwi brothers between 1999 and 2000 when he invited us to his then new home in the village of Makasa. We established a congregation in that area which he started working with. His coming to Mapepe is in a way a reunion for us as we have worked together before in the vineyard of God.

Jack intends to go back to Nakonde and work with his new local congregation. The church in Nakonde needs help when it comes to leadership. Jack shares that for a long time Nakonde Christians have been going to neighboring Tanzania for worship. But now Jack and other brothers have established a church in Nakonde. He decided to come to Bible school so that he could be equipped to nurture the church in that part of Zambia.

Mukonda Makai – 19



A gregarious young man, Mukonda comes to us from the town of Kalabo in Western Province. He is the firstborn in the family of two boys and just completed high school in 2010.

While in school, Mukonda had his hands full as he participated competitively in athletics and was best in the sport of high jump at school. He was so good at high jump that he used represent his district at provincial tournaments.

In addition, Mukonda was the President for Red Cross at school and was 2nd Lieutenant in the Zambia Combined Cadet Force. As if that was not enough, the brother was also made general school prefect.

Brother Mukonda is an active member of the Kalabo High School church of Christ where he was made to serve as secretary (actually, record keeper). He intends to continue serving God as an evangelist/Bible teacher especially in Western Province. He would also love to become a lawyer hoping to be the voice of the voiceless. One thing I have learned about Mukonda is that he loves doing whatever he feels will honor God and keep him away from temptation.

Enala Mumba – 23



The second born in a family of five (three boys and two girls), Enala comes to Mapepe from the town of Siavonga in Southern Province. She was baptized in 2002 and has been an active member serving in different leadership roles in the youth group at her Siavonga congregation.

Enala loves singing (with her voice, who wouldn't love singing?). She also enjoys studying and watching nature as shown on National Geographic. Enala is not a stranger to Mapepe Bible College as she has visited the institution on many occasions for the past three years. She has been studying the institution and now she has decided to be a part of it mostly to learn more about Jesus.

While Enala plans to continue working actively for the Lord and be involved in youth ministry, she also intends to study midwifery or nursing. Therefore, when she completes her studies at MBC she will enter college to pursue either nursing or midwifery. She just wants to get rooted in the faith as she believes Christ is her first priority.

Special Request

Most of our students come from rural areas and have no access to any kind of library. The only library for most of our students is a Gideon Bible and some tracts. My request to you brethren is to donate study Bibles (especially NIV Study Bibles) that you no longer use. We would not mind receiving new ones if you are compelled to give a new Study Bible. Study Bibles can be a very helpful tool in the hands of a Bible student in the remote parts of Zambia – it's a library. If the Lord prompts you to help our students with a Study Bible please send them to: **Bibles for Zambia, C/O Steve Booker, 407 N**

Rockwall, Terrell, TX 75160. There is no telling to how your gift will stimulate the spreading of God's word in this part of the world.

Prayer Request

Fellow soldiers of the Cross let us not grow weary of praying for the new students at Mapepe as they are entering an arena of spiritual warfare. Every time somebody decides to work for God, he declares hot war against the rulers and principalities of the universe; the Devil is not happy. Pray also for those that just graduated as they shall be pushed left, right, and center by the adversary to discourage them. Prayer scares Satan.

To God be the glory.

Your partners,

Kennedy & Cynthia