

June Report – 2010

Happy July 4, 2010 brothers and sisters!

It has been over 200 years since your nation gained its freedom from British rule. Coincidentally this day in 2010 falls on the Lord's Day on which we commemorate the day when humanity was set free from the bondage of sin and death over 2000 years ago! What a glorious coincidence!

Tanzania Trip

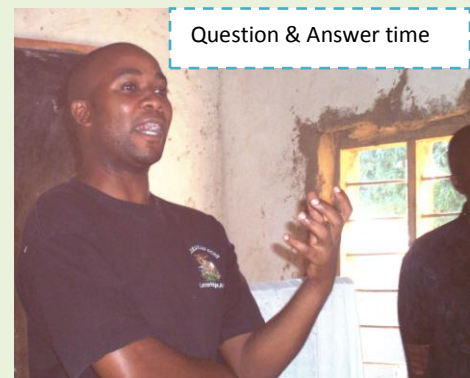
I received an invitation from Brother Samuel Mwakasungula of the Iyunga Church of Christ in Mbeya, Tanzania to participate in a week-long church planting/leadership seminar with great delight. I was one of the three speakers that were invited to speak. The others were Brother Barry Phiri (who came from Zambia with his son Ephraim) and Brother Lynn White from Kentucky, USA.



Teaching with interpreter

The seminar, which began on June 27 and went on up to July 3, 2010, was consistently attended by 15 brothers and 3 sisters from five different areas and congregations within and around Mbeya region. The men who attended the seminar were the leading figures (preachers) in their local congregations. All three sisters are members of the Iyunga congregation and played a vital role in preparing food for all of us.

Tanzania, located in East Africa, is a dazzling land of contrasts. In the east, are the famous coasts Zanzibar. To the north, stands Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa's tallest mountain). Lake Victoria (the world's second-largest freshwater lake) borders Uganda in the north, and Lake Tanganyika (the world's second deepest) borders the Congo and Zambia. Some of Africa's best game parks are in Tanzania including the Ngorongoro Crater and the vast Serengeti Plain. Tanzania's population of over 40 million is approximately 1/3 Muslim, 1/3 indigenous beliefs and 1/3 Christian. Great opportunities exist for sharing the gospel in Tanzania and Bible-based disciple making remains a great need in Tanzanian churches.



Tanzania has a large Arabic influence as is evidenced by housing architecture and language – Swahili. Swahili has been the official language of Tanzania since independence in the early 1960s until recently when English became the de facto official language.

Swahili is however, still the most spoken language in the country and much of East Africa. Even highly educated people in Tanzania are usually at pains when it comes to expressing themselves in English. Therefore, all the lessons we taught had to be interpreted into Swahili.



Bros. Samuel & Lynn giving certificates

Brother Samuel and his co-workers have taken the initiative of teaching people English using World English Institute (WEI) materials. Some of their students were awarded certificates during the seminar we had. Those who received the certificates had nothing but good things to say about the Iyunga congregation. One such person in particular is studying electrical engineering and a local university and urged the church to continue working

with him so that he can offer whatever service he could to the church for what “you have done for me and many others.”

During the seminar, we found some time between lessons to visit people so as to share God’s message with them. On one such visit we ministered to a TB patient who was kept in a house without windows with firewood burning from within the house. Sitting in that house for about five minutes felt like being under water for two hours. We had to force the relatives of the old lady to immediately take her outside where there was enough ventilation and gave them a short “lesson” on how to handle TB patients.



With Mbeya future leaders

On the same visit we ran into an old lady who was not willing to discuss the Gospel with us because she was a Moslem. The moment we mentioned that we were Christians she became “busy” and told us that she does not believe whatever Christians teach about Jesus. The moment we appeared to agree with her about some teachings, she gave us mats to sit on and we had some Bible/Koran study. Her Swahili

Koran has a section which reads “***Isa bin Miriam ninji a yakweli mfuateni huyo***” (Jesus son of Mary is the way to heaven, listen to [or follow] him). This part of the Koran left the door open for further discussion with the formerly adamant Moslem woman and we urged our Tanzanian brothers to make follow-ups.

Apart from teaching on Christian leadership, I also took the opportunity to talk about Mapepe Bible



My Leadership role models in Mbeya

College. I did this in a bid to encourage some of the men (or the people these men work with) to come and study the Bible at our college; especially those that can read, write and speak in English.

Looking at how wonderfully the seminar went and the great need for biblical lessons among churches in Tanzania, I was urged to consider holding regular seminars in the Mbeya region. I know the need is great but 18 hours on the bus is something to seriously consider. In any case, the will of God must be done.

Getting to Know our First-Year Students

Andrew Mumba Chama – 23



Andrew comes to Mapepe from the mining town of Luanshya on the Copper-belt Province. The third born in a family of 4 boys, Andrew attended Mpatamatu High school where he served as chairman for the Scripture Union, president of the school Press Club, and was a prefect. He was also an ardent competitor in the sport of Javelin.

At his local congregation in Mpatamatu, Andrew, an electric speaker, is a very active Christian who serves as a youth minister, supervisor of children's ministry as trainer of teachers (he has done a one year course in children's ministry at a Christian college on the Copper-belt), and is instrumental in conducting prayer meetings.

Andrew spends his spare time surfing the internet, watching English Premier League (soccer), and reading books on health matters. While Andrew's intentions are to serve God in the ministry of evangelism he also wants to pursue further studies in theology "so that I could better serve in the kingdom." I just love his desires to learn.

Mohammed Chondonda – 26



Born in Kalomo 26 years ago, Mohammed comes to Mapepe from Kalomo district in Southern Province of Zambia. He is the second born in a family of 3 boys and two girls. He attended Zimba high school in Southern Province where he was an active participant in the church at the same school. He participated in preaching and song leading.

A reflective student, Mohammed believes the church's boundaries can be expanded exponentially if members would just do what they are required to do (make disciples of all nations) regards of what profession they are in. He does not believe that church growth is dependant on the efforts of a preacher alone but on a total willingness to obey Christ by the whole church. "God blesses the united efforts of those He has sent." Muhammad intends to do God's work in another province in Zambia

away from the Southern Province which he rightly considers to be Zambia's church of Christ stronghold.

Gilbert Nyamanga – 22



Gilbert comes to us from the Eastern Province town of Chipata where he attended high school at Katopola High and was in the School Cadet Force where he attained the rank of lieutenant (the highest a Zambia Cadet can reach). He worked for Zambia Wildlife Association for a brief moment before joining Mapepe Bible College.

While staying in Chipata, Gilbert attended the Mupezeni Park church of Christ where he did not play a “noticeable” role other than being an usher. He however believes that with the education he is going to acquire at Mapepe he will no longer be an ignored member of the church but a great tool in the hands of the Lord. “I know that nobody should look down on me because of my youth” he adds quoting from 1 Timothy 4: 12. I hope he will remember to put the rest of the verse into practice, **“but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”** This is something we as a Bible College should help him to develop and nurture.

Frazier Phiri – 21



Frazier was recommended to Mapepe by the Lusaka Central congregation. He is a member of a newly established church on the outskirts of Lusaka city. The Lusaka Central leadership envisions Frazier as a prime mover for the newly established congregation. Currently, Lusaka Central does most of the work at Frazier's congregation and they want to work themselves out.

It is a good idea that they chose to send a young man indigenous to their (Lusaka Central) outreach location to Bible college so he could take up some of the responsibilities they are currently having. Frazier seems to be the right man for the job; he is committed to the Lord, willing to learn, and has a strong passion for God's work.

He is the fifth born in a family of four boys and three girls. He completed his high school and Moombo High school located 15 miles north of Lusaka. While at school he was involved in playing soccer and chess. Frazier still enjoys watching and playing soccer.

My persistent request to you brethren is to continuously remember our students in your daily prayers. If possible you can pray for them by name since you know where they are coming from and what they intend to do from my brief sharing about them.

May God continue to pour His blessings upon each and every one of you.

Your partners in Christ,
Kennedy & Cynthia Mukuka – Zambia